



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Executive Director

## Request for Participants: 2025 Northern Shrimp Winter Sampling Research Pilot Program

### Introduction

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) are seeking one shrimp trawling vessel and captain, and one trapping vessel and captain to participate in a winter sampling research program for Northern shrimp in early 2025. **This program will not receive funding from the ASMFC or participating states, and participation in the program will be entirely self-funded by industry participants.** The selected vessel will be allowed to land and sell Northern shrimp, subject to daily catch limits and a total 26.5 mt region wide research set-aside (RSA) limit.

### Purpose

The purpose of the program is to collect Northern shrimp samples during the winter period when the shrimp are located inshore. Samples will attempt to mimic those that would have been collected if there were a commercial fishery, providing information on fishing location, effort, timing, and overall catch.

### Location

One NH trawl vessel and one NH trapping vessel may be selected to fish in Northern Massachusetts to Boon Island (MA/NH area). Selected vessels are not expected to cover the entire region, and instead should fish on traditional grounds where they would normally fish for shrimp within legal confines of NH's license. Fishing locations within the region will be chosen by the captain.

### Schedule

The selected vessel in the MA/NH region is likely to start in February 2025 and continue into March 2025 for a maximum of six weeks or until the research set-aside limit is reached.

### Vessel and Gear

Trawl vessel captains must have:

- Historic Northern shrimp fishing experience in the MA/NH region
- Documented shrimp landings in New Hampshire between January 1, 2000 and the ASMFC control date of June 7, 2011
- A valid 2025 Commercial Saltwater Fishing license issued by the NH Fish and Game Department
- A current US Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Decal
- Typical, legal (for Northern shrimp) trawl gear with a standard Nordmore grate, compound grate, or standard Nordmore with a size-sorting grate (double grate system)

Trapping vessel captains must have:

- Traps that conform to standard configurations set by ASMFC and to vertical line rules
- A valid 2025 Commercial Saltwater Fishing license issued by the NH Fish and Game Department
- A current US Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Decal
- Prior experience participating in the Northern shrimp fishery preferred

#### REGION 1

629B Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584-3612  
(603) 788-3164  
FAX (603) 788-4823  
email: [reg1@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg1@wildlife.nh.gov)

#### REGION 2

PO Box 417  
New Hampton, NH 03256  
(603) 744-5470  
FAX (603) 744-6302  
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#### REGION 3

225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824-4732  
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#### REGION 4

15 Ash Brook Court  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-9669  
FAX (603) 352-8798  
email: [reg4@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg4@wildlife.nh.gov)

### **Sample Collection**

During each trip, the captain should attempt to fish in locations in which they would normally fish for shrimp. Participants must provide a 1-kg sample per trip from the catch and accompanying data to New Hampshire Fish and Game staff. All other shrimp catch, within the daily limit, may be kept or sold.

### **Special License**

The selected vessel and captain will be operating under a NH Letter of Authorization (LOA) for research. Data from all shrimp tows or traps must be reported to NHFG staff. Any violations of the LOA terms and conditions will result in an immediate revocation of the LOA and ineligibility for any future LOA or RSA projects.

### **Vessel Selection**

To qualify, applicants must supply the information listed below. If there is more than one qualified applicant, one will be picked by random selection. NHFG law enforcement personnel will review applications for any marine resource violations that will disqualify applicants.

Your letter or e-mail should be accompanied with a completed application.

If selected, please plan on conditions stated in your LOA that would address such questions:

- Your plan for avoiding fixed gear if trawling or trapping
- Your understanding of the project's purpose
- Who your buyer(s) might be

### **To Apply**

Anyone interested in applying for this project should send a letter or e-mail and application to:

Matthew Lee

NH Fish and Game

225 Main Street

Durham, NH 03824

or [matthew.t.lee@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:matthew.t.lee@wildlife.nh.gov)

### **Deadline**

Letters or e-mails must be received by **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00 pm.**