

Fis 607.01 Northern Shrimp.

(a) Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) shall only be taken with a finfish excluder trawl equipped with a Nordmore grate system as specified in Fis 607.01(e) or shrimp trap as specified in Fis 607.01(f).

(b) Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) shall only be taken by a finfish excluder trawl equipped with a Nordmore grate system as specified in Fis 607.01(e) as follows:

(1) On Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from January 2, 2012 until landings are projected to reach 95 percent of the 2,000 mt total allowable catch (TAC);

(2) During the open season, a trawl vessel may land once per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and

(3) On non landing days or during any designated closed season, it is unlawful for any person aboard any vessel to fish for, take, land, transport, or have in possession any northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in state waters from 0001 hours to 2400 hours.

(c) Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) shall only be taken by a shrimp trap as specified in Fis 607.01(f) as follows:

(1) From February 1, 2012 until landings are projected to reach 95 percent of the 2,000 mt TAC;

(2) It shall be unlawful for any vessel or person operating trap gear to exceed a 1,000 pound trip limit per day;

(3) During any designated closed season, it shall be unlawful for any person aboard any vessel fishing with traps to fish for, take, land, transport, or have in possession any northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*).

(d) The executive director shall make modifications to the number and timing of allowable landing days each week, daily trip limits, or duration of the season following determination that modifications are necessary by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's northern shrimp section commissioners from New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts at a public meeting.

(e) Taking shrimp with a finfish excluder trawl equipped with a Nordmore grate shall be subject to the following:

(1) No person shall fish for, take, transport or have in possession any shrimp (Pandalidae) on board any boat with any net with a mesh opening of less than 1-3/4 inches stretched mesh opening between knots, or to have on board any net, netting, or portions thereof, with any opening less than 1-3/4 inches stretched mesh opening between knots, except for the optional webbing funnel which shall be constructed with a mesh size not less than 1 3/8 inches and the 1 inch deflector panel used on conjunction with the double Nordmore grate system.

(2) Due to the difference of net manufacturer mesh measurements and the mesh measurements used for enforcement of this rule, and other inherent variables, a tolerance of 1/8 inch shall be applied to the average mesh size in the body and wings. All netting used to take shrimp shall be of one layer only, with no liners of any kind attached. Except that an optional cod end strengthener may be used. Such strengthener shall be constructed with an outer mesh size at least three times larger than the size of the inner mesh but no less than 6 inches. The mesh shall be of diamond or square in configuration and constructed of single or double twine. The hanging ratio shall be identical to the mesh size ratio. Hanging ratio shall mean the number of meshes in the circumference of the cod end to the number of meshes in the circumference of the strengthener and the mesh size ratio shall mean the number of inner meshes to the number of outer meshes. The outer mesh shall only cover the cod end. It shall be permissible to attach chaffing gear to the lower half of the circumference of the cod end. Except that no chaffing gear shall be used with a cod end strengthener. "Cod end" means the terminal portion of an otter trawl, pair trawl, beam trawl, scottish seine or mid-water trawl in which the catch is normally retained. The maximum length of the bottom legs of the bridle of any shrimp trawl net shall not exceed 15 fathoms of uncovered or bare wire.

(3) Mesh sizes shall be measured by a flat wedge-shaped gauge having a taper of 4 cm in 20 cm and a thickness of 2.3 mm, inserted into the meshes under a pressure or pull of 1.90 kg. The mesh size of a net shall be taken to be the average of the measurements of a series of any 20 consecutive meshes, at least 10 meshes from the lacings, and when measured in the cod end of the net beginning at the after end and running parallel to the long axis, except in the case of the large mesh separator panel where the average of the measurement of any 5 consecutive meshes shall be used.

(4) The Nordmore grate system shall consist of the following:

a. The single Nordmore grate system shall consist of the following:

1. The grate which shall have a rigid or semi-rigid planar device consisting of parallel bars attached to a frame with spacing between bars of not more than one inch. The parallel bars of the grate shall be oriented up and down and the grate itself shall be tilted at approximately a forty-five degree angle from the vertical plane. The frame of the grate shall be secured to the extension piece of the trawl net in such a manner that prevents the passage of fish between the frame of the grate and the webbing of the extension into the cod end.

2. The fish outlet which shall be a triangular opening in the webbing of the extension of the trawl which allows the escape of fish too large to pass between the bars of the grate. The triangular base of the fish outlet shall be aligned with the apex of the opening forward and attached to the portion of the tilted grate closest to the cod end so that no lip or protruding edge of webbing is present to impede the escape of finfish. The base of the triangular opening shall not be less than 19 inches in length. The sides of the triangular outlet shall taper to a forward apex toward the mouth of the trawl and shall be cut on the bars to achieve the triangular shaped opening; and

3. The optional webbing funnel which shall be constructed of webbing or mesh not less than 1 3/8 inches and shall be located in the extension in front of the grate. The circumference of the extension and the outlet of the funnel shall be of sufficient diameter to allow the passage of fish captured by the trawl. The funnel shall be secured in the extension in such a manner that the funnel mouth shall be directed to the part of the grate furthest from the fish outlet to maximize the separation characteristics of the grate.

b. In addition to the single grate specified in 4.a., a second grate may be used for the purpose of releasing small shrimp and retaining larger shrimp and this double Nordmore grate system shall consist of the following:

1. The second grate, which shall have a rigid or semi-rigid planar devise consisting of parallel bars attached to a frame with spacing between bars of 7/16 of an inch, shall be placed 8 feet behind the first grate allowing a tolerance of greater than 6 feet but less than 10 feet. The second grate shall be oriented the same as the first grate, up and down, and be tilted at approximately a 45° angle from the vertical plane. The exit hole to the cod end shall be at the top of the second grate and it shall consist of a size of no more than 10% of the surface area of the second grate;

2. The second Nordmore grate shall have a 1 inch mesh deflector panel, so constructed as to be oriented 45° down from the top of the bars extending to the bottom of the cod end, with an escape hole in the cod end positioned in front of the 1 inch mesh deflector panel; and

3. A funnel, designated to direct shrimp toward the second grate to maximize retention of the shrimp, may be used. However, it shall not have a mesh size less than 1 3/8 inch stretch mesh.

(f) Taking northern shrimp with shrimp traps shall be subject to the following:

(1) The maximum size of the trap shall be 48" X 24" X 16";

(2) The mesh size shall be no larger than 1/2" X 1";

(3) The V-trough top entrance into the trap shall be no wider than 1 1/4";

(4) Each trap shall have an opening of at least 3 3/4" X 3 3/4" on top or on one side of the trap which is covered with a panel tied with untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp or jute 3/16" in diameter before immersion in seawater or a piece of non-stainless uncoated ferrous metal wire not exceeding 3/32" in diameter:

(5) No person shall set any trap for taking northern shrimp without having the trap and buoy attached, plainly carved or branded with the persons last name and initials;

(6) Traps shall be fished as pairs with a single buoy attached unless traps are attached to one's own trawl; and

(7) Tending of traps shall be restricted to the period 1 hour before sunrise to sunset.

(g) The executive director shall exempt, during the months of January, February, March and April, specific trap designs or escape panel requirements of this section if the specific trap design is incapable of taking lobsters or crabs. Any such design shall be approved by the executive director in writing after inspection by his agent. Northern shrimp harvested under this paragraph may be retained, transported, possessed and sold.

(h) No person shall take, transport or possess any cod, haddock, pollock, white hake, redfish, American plaice, windowpane, witch, winter and yellowtail flounders on board any boat rigged with or possessing a finfish excluder trawl equipped with a nordmore grate system or shrimp traps.

(i) No person shall process shrimp (Pandalidae) in New Hampshire except between the dates of January 2, 2012 and seven days after landings are projected to reach 95 percent of the 2,000 mt TAC without a permit. In addition:

(1) Permits to process shrimp in New Hampshire shall be issued in accordance with Fis 609.02; and

(2) Permittees shall present documented proof, showing the country or state or origin of the shrimp (Pandalidae) to be processed.

(j) "Primary dealer" means any person who purchases shrimp in excess of 100 lbs in one calendar day as a first purchase from a vessel engaged in the taking of shrimp. Any person engaged as a primary dealer or processor of shrimp (Pandalidae) shall file with the New Hampshire fish and game department a weekly report of all shrimp purchased during the preceding week as specified in Fis 607.01 (l) and (m).

(k) A properly licensed person may sell shrimp as a first transaction from a vessel to persons other than primary dealers so long as the licensed individual files with the New Hampshire fish and game a weekly report of all shrimp sold to persons other than primary dealers during the preceding week as specified in Fis 607.01 (l) and (m).

(l) The report shall include the following information consistent with the minimum data requirements of the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS):

(1) Name of processor, primary dealer, or properly licensed person;

(2) The dealer's or processor's wholesale marine species or commercial saltwater license number;

(3) Week of reporting period;

(4) Commercial harvester's trip start date;

(5) Vessel name;

(6) State of vessel registration and number or coast guard number;

(7) Commercial harvester's first name, last name, date of birth, and license number;

- (8) Number of trips for commercial harvester per day;
- (9) Species purchased;
- (10) Number or pounds of species purchased;
- (11) Disposition of species purchased;
- (12) Ex-vessel value or price of purchased species;
- (13) Port, county and state where species were landed;
- (14) Date species unloaded from commercial harvester's vessel;
- (15) Grade and market size of purchased species;
- (16) Gear used to harvest species; and
- (17) Dated signature of dealer or processor, signed subject to the penalties for unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

(m) The reporting week shall be Sunday through Saturday. Reports shall be received by Tuesday of the following week.

(n) On northern shrimp non landing days or during the northern shrimp closed season, no person shall possess shrimp aboard any vessel. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the possession of shrimp for use as bait on vessels not equipped with an otter trawl.

(o) No person shall cull, grade, separate or shake shrimp, aboard any vessel, except by implements operated solely by hand.

(p) No person shall possess, aboard any vessel, any powered mechanical device used to cull, grade, separate or shake shrimp.