



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

New England Recreational Fishing Workshops

NEFMC Meeting
December 4, 2019

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Workshops were held in October

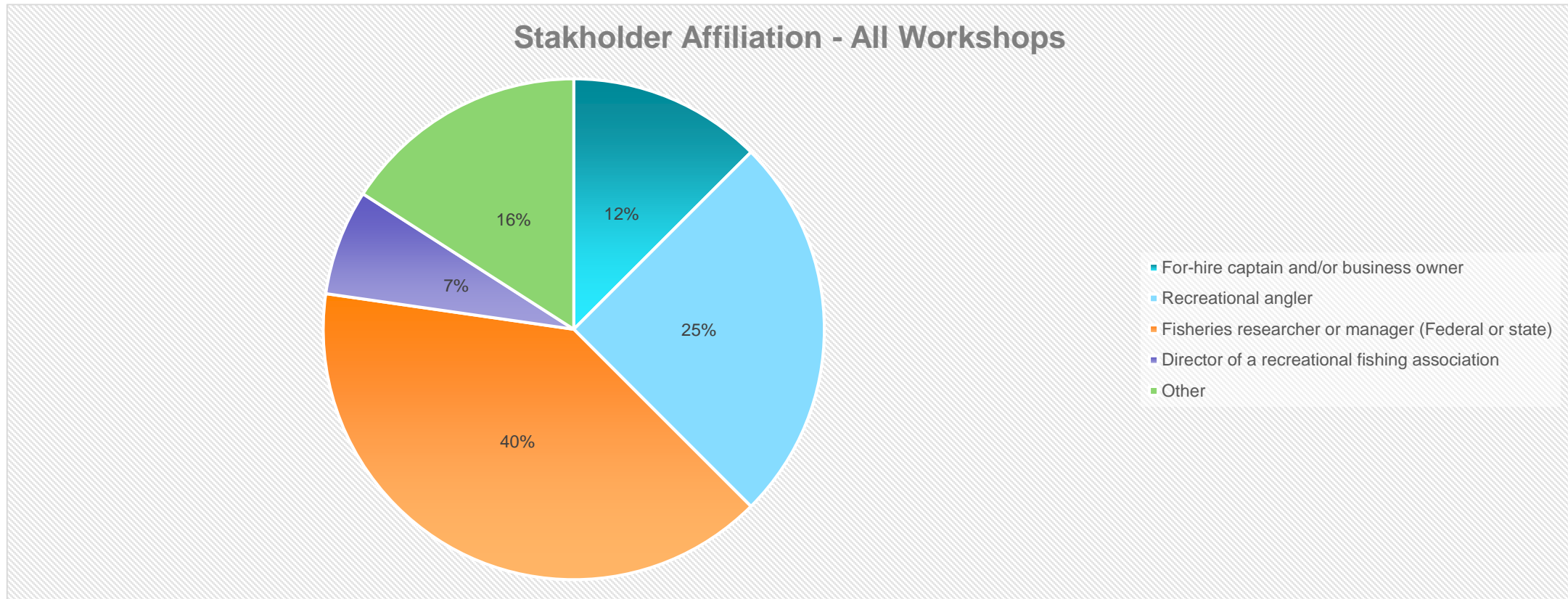


- October 19: Plymouth, MA
 - 21 attendees
- October 22: Portsmouth, NH
 - 26 attendees
- October 24: Narragansett, RI
 - 28 attendees

Total registered= 100

Total attendees= 75

Stakeholder Affiliation



Workshop Goal

A collaborative process for developing potential management approaches for the recreational groundfish fishery that balance the need to prevent overfishing with enabling profitability in the for-hire fleet and providing worthwhile fishing opportunities for anglers.



Workshop Objectives

1. Long-term: Think creatively about how the recreational groundfish fishery could be managed to improve alignment with angler and for-hire captain needs, including how to meaningfully utilize the new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.
2. Short-term: Develop short-term steps for working toward potential long-term management approaches that achieve, but not exceed, recreational catch limits, including Gulf of Maine cod and haddock.
3. Assess and evaluate available research around: methods for avoidance and reduction of bycatch mortality; calculation methods for dead discards; as well as release methods. We will also identify any gaps for future research.
4. Develop methods to regularly engage with captains and anglers throughout the season to get feedback on catch and trends, and develop ideas on how to enhance coordination between NOAA Fisheries, state partners, scientists, and the recreational fishing community.



Agenda at-a-glance

9:15 – Status of the Recreational Fishery – Panel

10:45 – Break

11:00 – Recent Recreational Fisheries Research – Panel

12:00 – Lunch

12:45 – Long-term Management Approaches – Small groups & discussion

2:15 – Short-term Management Approaches – Small groups

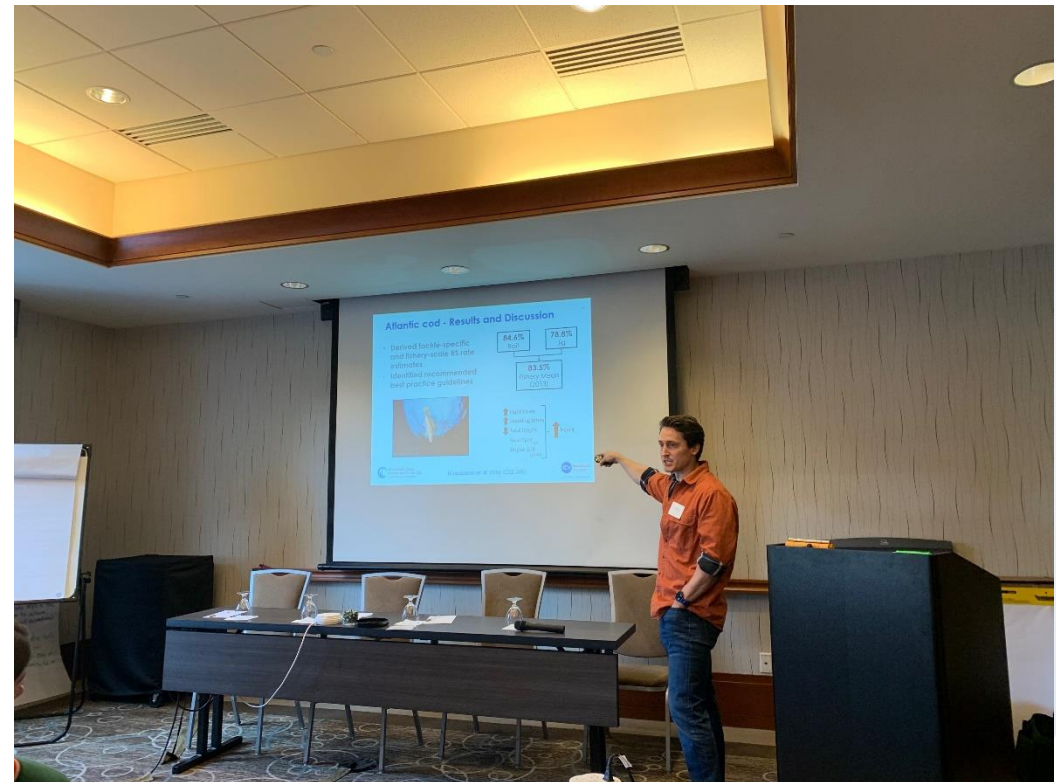
3:30 – Break

3:45 – Short-term Management Approaches – Group discussion

4:45- Next Steps



Research Presentations



Research Presentations

- Deriving release survival estimates and best practices for promoting survival in the Gulf of Maine recreational groundfish fishery
 - Matt Ayer, MA DMF (MA)
 - Connor Capizzano, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts Boston & New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center (NH)
- Gulf of Maine cod bycatch minimization
 - Matt Ayer, MA DMF (MA, NH)
- Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group
 - Richard McBride, NEFSC (MA)
- Cod in Southern New England: are they climate deniers?
 - Brian Gervelis, Inspire Environmental (RI)
- Hook and line survey for spawning Cod near the South Fork Wind Farm
 - Joseph Langan, University of Rhode Island (RI)



Outcomes and Recommendations



Key Outcomes - Regulatory

Recommendation <i>Overall – importance of consistency between state and federal regulations – publishing final management measures in January/February</i>	Short-term (S) or Long-term (L)
Develop multi-year measures with pre-planned triggers for ratcheting up or down based on stock status/landings.*	S
Allow fishermen a cumulative size limit to convert discard mortality to harvest (e.g., 150 inches of haddock and 50 inches of cod, from multiple fish).	S
Increase oversight of anglers through incentivizing participation in MRIP (through outreach or other methods); considering mandatory participation in MRIP; increasing enforcement; developing an app for private angler VTR; multi-tiered licensing.	S/L
Protect the long-term health of a fishery through increasing minimum fish size and incorporating ecosystem-level assessments.	S/L
Reduce discards with a mixed bag where anglers keep the first 10 fish caught.*	S
Separate management measures by mode (for-hire fleet vs. private anglers).	S
Use a 3- or 5-year running avg. of MRIP catch to evaluate management performance relative to the sub-ACL, and determine if AMs should be triggered. This avg. catch data could also be used as basis for determining new measures (rather than the most recent year of data).	S
Utilize short-term (e.g., monthly/seasonal) spatial openings for areas with low cod bycatch (based on MA DMF maps) rather than blanket closures in an area.	S

Key Outcomes – Regulatory

Recommendation	Short-term (S) or Long-term (L)
Analyze the biological impacts of slot limits , and consider implementing if there are clear benefits to the population(s).	S
Implement a tag or ‘punch pass’ program during shorter fishing seasons for low allocation species to improve accountability (although it may require additional reporting/enforcement).	S
In the short-term, recommend voluntary gear modifications (e.g. baited hooks vs. jigs) to reduce bycatch/mortality, and in long-term transition to mandatory w/ consideration of enforcement penalties in an effort to reduce mortality.	S/L
Increase MRIP intercept sampling by reallocating surveys from for-hire trips to private anglers, and rely on validated catch and effort data from for-hire VTRs.	S/L
Transition MRIP from sample to census effort , with for-hire captains and private anglers submitting VTRs on a trip level.	L
Evaluate how seasons are used through shortening seasons for some stocks with year-round or 10-month seasons to a spring/early summer season or 6-8 month season. Consider retention rules that change seasonally based on different fall vs. spring mortality (haddock).	S/L
Require the use of descending devices (for certain species) on for-hire boats, both reducing discard mortality and educating anglers about these cost-effective tools.	S

Key Outcomes – Pilot Studies

Recommendation	Short-term (S) or Long-term (L)
Analyzing several alternatives for split management measures by mode .*	S
Test the tag/punch pass program for low allocation species over a short open season.	S
Cumulative size bag limit (e.g., overall size limit for a species that could be made up of multiple fish). At end of trip, survey anglers' satisfaction with this approach.	S/L
Evaluate methods for developing allocations by mode , reviewing and comparing historical catch and VTR data, e.g., analyze allocation of GB cod to for-hire and private anglers.	S/L
Full retention study where anglers keep the first 10 fish (mixed species), and then survey angler experience relative to fishing trips where they target specific species.*	S/L
Determine the feasibility of a management pilot study through an EFP that would apply to multiple FMPs (state and federal). If feasible, the study would assess the ability of the for-hire fleet to adapt to customer's preferences of species/experience on a day-to-day basis. For example, in SNE, fluke, tautog, cod, striped bass, tuna, BSB, and scup.	L

Key Outcomes – Outreach and Education

Recommendation	Short-term (S) or Long-term (L)
Overall – <i>collaboration with partners is key</i> – <i>outreach should be multilingual</i>	
Publish annual regulations by January/February in order to allow for outreach of new measures at winter trades shows and for business planning/marketing in the for-fire fleet.*	S/L
Improve angler education at ‘point of sale’ for licenses; at trade shows, online, or in-person. Could also partner with states, USCG auxiliary, harbor masters, bait and tackle shops, etc. These can be printed materials (e.g. toolkit) for distribution at these outlets or by captains, available online, and should be translated into several languages.*	S
Develop outreach videos on: regulations, best practices – handling, gear modifications, and importance of participating in MRIP. These can be shared by fishing associations, fishing websites/blogs, and considered during licensing process (on a voluntary or mandatory basis, similar to the shark ID video, which is mandatory for an HMS endorsement).*	S
Create a one-time mandatory training course for anglers (similar to a hunter safety training course) that is in person or online and required to get your initial saltwater angler’s license. Optional training clinics can also be held on: gear modification, bycatch avoidance, handling practices, and cooking lesser-known species.	L
Specifically assist MA DMF in their outreach efforts for the GOM cod bycatch avoidance maps and use of the app.	S

Research Recommendations (Narragansett, RI)

- Research climate change impacts on species distribution, competition, habitat preference, and biological targets (reference point).
 - Use data to inform future allocations and regulations.
- Validation of VTR/eVTR data for catch (vs. effort only) on party and charter boats.
 - Pilot study - test EM validation of VTR data.
 - Can be used to ground-truth MRIP data, or replace MRIP sampling of for-hire vessels (shifting this effort to private anglers).
- Increase collection of effort data through aerial surveys, remote sensing or shore-based cameras to count anglers on shore and at boat ramps.
- Pilot study – “eVTR” for private anglers using an app.



Next Steps

- December 4 – Presentation at the Council meeting
- Workshop summaries
- Winter 2019/2020 – Workshop report
- NOAA Technical Memos





Questions?

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