

Summary of Inshore Scallop Workshop

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**Scallop Advisory Panel and
Committee Meeting
March 22/23, 2015**



Background

- Council hosted a workshop on Feb 22/23, 2016 to discuss concerns raised about the consequences of inshore scallop fishing pressure.
- The Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum was hired to facilitate discussions.
- Steering Cmte worked with the Fisheries Forum to recommend meeting logistics and agenda.



Workshop Objectives

1. **Share concerns and perspectives** related to inshore fishing pressure and resulting impacts on the resource and the different segments of the fishery;
2. **Understand, define and frame the issue(s)**; including scope, scale, consequences, and influencing factors;
3. **Generate and discuss ideas that may alleviate the concerns and issue(s)** identified;
4. **Understand each fleet's operational realities**, incentives and expectations, and consider how each fleet's vision for the fishery aligns; and
5. **Foster collaboration and communication** among user groups, scientists, fishery managers, and the general public.



Attendance

- Registration required – About 120 individuals
- PDT, AP, and Council specifically invited and travel compensated
- Several outreach efforts
- Handful that did not register, and over 30 “no-shows”
- About 90 participants
- From pre-registrants
 - LA (30%); LAGC (25%); Both (10%); Council/PDT (25%); and Other (10%)
 - About 55% from Mass, another 15-20% from other New England states, and remaining 25-30% from Mid-Atlantic



Agenda

- 1.5 days in length
- 4 presentations: management background, fishery trends, two presentations on experiences in other regions
- 3 break-out group topics:
 1. General fishery goals and expectations
 2. Identifying the issues and concerns
 3. Discussing ideas or opportunities to address concerns



Overarching Themes (I)

- Everyone wants a successful fishery.
- Lots of commonalities in goals and expectations; however, there was not general agreement on the problem that is trying to be addressed.
- Both segments want fishery to be “fair and equitable”.
- Speakers expressed a desire/need to work together.
- When available biomass is reduced, both segments feel the pinch
- Improving management of open areas would benefit both segments.
- There is a sense of frustration:
 - LAGC fishermen feel that their concerns aren't being acknowledged and that they are at a disadvantage;
 - LA fishermen feel like there is not a clear problem and don't want to see something being taken away from one fleet and given to the other.

Overarching Themes (2)

- What does “inshore” mean? Lacks clarity.
- The characteristics, needs and constraints of the LAGC segment vary geographically and have changed over time.
- LAGC fishery allocation is not spatially based.
- Background concern - potential for highgrading.
- Fishery management measures should not only be implemented for social engineering objectives.
- Reconcile problems with appropriate tools.
 - If concerns stem from business planning challenges, a management response may not be appropriate.
 - A widespread solution may not be appropriate for a geographically isolated/defined problem.



Final Take-Homes

No consensus on recommendations for next steps

4 Potential Pathways:

1. Directly address concerns – consider measures
2. Acknowledge concerns – but do not respond with specific measures
3. Indirectly address concerns – across the board improvements (recruitment, LPUE, etc)
4. Bigger picture – other ways to support the goals and expectations raised – more general about success of the fishery overall

Group agreed there is value to these workshops – these conversations are important to have.

Strong commitment to work together to keep this fishery a success.



Attachment I – specific input

- Staff kept notes in each break-out session.
- Bullets summarized by sub-topic for each session (pages 4-12).
- All comments may not have been captured, but hopefully provides a more detailed picture of the simultaneous conversations.
- For example:
 - what does a successful fishery look like;
 - what are the needs and constraints of your business;
 - what are your concerns;
 - what options should and should not be explored; and
 - additional thoughts.



So Now What?

