

Industry Advisory Committee

August 21, 2018; 6:00PM

URI Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Room
218 S Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02874

MEETING SUMMARY

Members in Attendance: R. Mattiucci (RM), J. Carvalho (JC), M. McGivney (MM), S. Anderson (SA), S. Bode (SB), K. Almeida (KA), C. Rein (Chair), J. Lake (DEM staff)

The meeting Commenced at 6PM with a quorum. The timeline of regulatory process was explained. Several members had proposals for consideration and requested an earlier licensing workshop in 2019. The 2018 licensing workshop was held May 23, 2018.

- **Exit:entry ratio for the Restricted Finfish endorsement**

J. Lake explained that 15 eligible licenses for restricted finfish were retired in 2017-2018, and that with the current 1:1 ratio, there would therefore be 15 new license opportunities provided for 2019. **Motion made by KA to maintain the 1:1 ratio; 2nd by MM.**

Discussion initiated by KA was centered around concern that the new management measures for Summer Flounder have potential to reduce the commercial allowance granted to RI, and thus a conservative approach is warranted. **Motion passed 3-1 (KA, SA, MM in support; RM opposed; JC, SB abstained)**

An amended motion was then made by RM to change the ratio to 1:2; 2nd by JC. The amended motion was allowed by the chair. JL explained that the proposal to liberalize the ratio to 1:2 would result in 30 new license opportunities for 2019. Discussion by RM about the amendment was centered around a concern that license issuance should not be used to manage the fishery. JC stated that it is very difficult to get into the fishery as a younger fisherman, participants should not have to buy their way in from another entity. The fishing community is aging, with not enough new participants coming in to keep the industry viable. RM stated that he would be willing to share resource to let more people in to the fishery. Motion passed 3-2 in favor (SB, JC, RM in support; SA, MM opposed; KA abstained.)

- **Exit:entry ratio for the Bay Quahog endorsement**

J. Lake explained that 32 eligible licenses for quahog were retired in 2017-2018, and that with the current 1:1 ratio, there would therefore be 33 new license opportunities provided for 2019 (rules require round up to multiples of 3). **Motion made by RM to liberalize ratio from 1:1 to 1:2; 2nd by JC.** Discussion by RM that younger participants are needed in quahog fishery to keep it viable. **Amended motion then made by MM to maintain the 1:1 ratio; 2nd by KA.** MM discussed efforts and opportunities to enlist younger entrants into the

fishery. He cited that proposed upper bay area opening decision has been delayed and there is still concern like last year that latent effort could be an issue if new area is opened. RM did not think latent effort would increase if new area of upper bay was opened. **The amended motion passed 4-2 (MM, KA, SA, SB in support; JC, RM opposed).**

- **Exit:entry ratio for the Soft-shell Clam endorsement**

J. Lake explained that 27 eligible licenses for soft shell clam were retired in 2017-2018. and that with the current 5:1 ratio, there would therefore be 6 new license opportunities provided for 2019 (rules require round up to multiples of 3). **Motion was made by MM to maintain the 5:1 ratio; 2nd by RM.** MM discussed depleted stock status of soft shell clams and that a cautious management approach is warranted instead citing history of reactionary management of soft shell clam. **Motion passed 4-2 (MM, KA, SA, SB in support; JC, RM opposed).**

- **Whelk endorsement**

J. Lake briefly explained to eligibility requirements for the Whelk endorsement. No discussion or recommendations took place.

- **General shellfish license**

The group discussed whether a general shell fishing license should be created when the commercial licensing legislative initiative restarts in 2019. Motion made by JC to combine all shellfish endorsements into one license; 2nd by MM. Motion passed 4-0-2. Motion was made by BM to reconsider; 2nd by JC. The motion passed 4-0-2. Motion made by JC to combine all shellfish endorsements into one single shellfish endorsement; 2nd by SB. The motion passed 4-0-2.

- **Lobster endorsement**

J. Lake explained that under the current ASMFC FMP guidelines no new lobster licenses are currently being issued. **Motion made by SB to allow for lobster endorsement on CFL to be issued; 2nd by JC.** Several members of the group (JC, RM, SB) recommend that RI issue new lobster licenses. This is based on RI's sovereign status and the states ability to manage its own state water fisheries as it sees fit. Younger participants are needed in the fishery and it is unfair that the only avenue to get in to the lobster fishery is to buy somebody out. **The motion passed 4-1-1.**

- **Other Business**

- The group discussed a new proposal to change the upgrade provisions for the student shellfish license. Motion was made by MM to change the upgrade provision for student shellfish license to a CFL with quahog endorsement; to allow upgrade after 1

year with 40 quahog landings; 2nd by SB. Staff explained that the Division of Marine Fisheries is open to the change but cannot promulgate a regulation for this hearing cycle as the deadline for noticing new proposals had passed. J. Lake explained that the matter would be placed in the Division's regulatory queue to address for 2020. The motion passed 5-0-1.

- The group discussed a new proposal to change scup from a restricted species to a non-restricted species in the summer quota period. Motion made by SB to re-classify scup as a non-restricted species in RI state waters during the summer quota period; 2nd by KA. The motion failed to pass. Motion made by JC to table; 2nd by MM.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15

Prepared by J. Lake