

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

Lobster Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

Coastal Institute, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

November 6, 2013

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries

3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

(401) 423-1920 Fax: (401) 423-1925

Meeting Attendees:

Jeff Grant – RIMFC Member and Panel Chair*

Michael Rice - RIMFC Member

Scott Olszewski – RI Marine Fisheries

Tom Angell – RI Marine Fisheries

John Lake – RI Marine Fisheries

Jeff Mercier - RI Marine Fisheries

Stephen Parente

Lanny Dellinger*

Brian Thibeault*

* Voting Members

John Lake, of RI Marine Fisheries and the staff member assigned to the Trap Transferability Database creation through ACCSP, gave a short presentation on the status of the database and the timeline of its intended operation.

Steve Parente commented on both the Trap Transferability regulatory language and Public Hearing item 9, Licensing Regulations 6-7.4 which will be heard at the upcoming November 19 Public Hearing. His comments revolved around the proposed Lobster Trap Allocation endorsement tied to the Multi-purpose License and the fact that the Trap Transferability program is an avenue by which licenses can be sold. Mr. Parente questioned the reasoning behind the proposed requirement of a multipurpose license holder with a current allocation be required to purchase an additional endorsement.

Steve Parente's second comment was on the upcoming ASMFC LCMA 2 Trap Reduction Plan. He stated that a person like himself with a small allocation of ten traps or less will not be reduced to the extent the plan mandates because of the annual percent reduction and the rounding effect of the reduction plan. He recommends that there be a floor for individuals with a ten trap allocation or less, where the initial trap reductions do not apply
Example:

10 trap allocation reduced by 25% year one becomes an 8 trap allocation

In year two the 8 trap allocation is reduced by 5% which is less than .5 traps so there is and will never be any future reductions.

Lanny Dellinger requested that due to low voting member turnout that the Lobster Advisory Panel be re-scheduled until industry members can be better notified of the meeting and time to absorb the Transferability document however the Panel noted that there was not enough time to reconvene prior to the Public Hearing on November 19.

It was noted that section (xviii) of the Trap Transferability document, which discusses the Lobster Trap Endorsement was confusing and contradictory on which license types need this endorsement.

The Panel looked at the current list of voting members and decided that an update is needed as some of the voting members are no longer involved in the fishery or have not been involved in many years.

Chairman Jeff Grant asked that the Division provide him with the most current up to date list of the Lobster Advisory Panel Members. He will then take it to the full Marine Fisheries Council to potentially send applications for vacated seats.