



New England Fishery Management Council

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LISTENING SESSION SUMMARY

Recreational Groundfish Party/Charter Fishery - Limited Access Program

May 9, 2019

Sawyer Free Library

2 Dale Ave

Gloucester, MA

The Council held a series of listening sessions to solicit public comment on whether it should develop a limited access program for the recreational party/charter boat fishery for the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan, under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Meeting Attendance: Mark Godfroy (Head boat owner/NEFMC), Melanie Griffin (MA DMF), Caleb Gilbert (NMFS), Kalil Boghdan, Jeffrey Klein (Charter boat operator/commercial fisherman), and Kevin O'Maley (CB Charters). The following NEFMC members and staff were also in attendance: Terry Stockwell (Groundfish Committee Chair), Jamie Cournane, PhD (Council Staff), and Robin Frede (Council Staff).

The listening session began at approximately 6:00 pm.

Terry Stockwell, Chair of the Groundfish Committee, began the meeting with a brief introduction, explaining the purpose of this listening session and options on how to provide comments. Dr. Jamie Cournane gave a brief presentation reviewing *why* the Council is taking action, *what* action has already been taken (control date of March 19, 2018), *what* comments should address, *how* to submit public comments, and next steps.

One attendee asked a clarifying question about how the control date works, and when the last control date was before the March 2018 refresh.

Comments:

Mr. Klein has been fishing for 35 years, in both the commercial and charter/head boat fisheries, and is against limited access. He commented that limited access presents a financial issue for new entrants, as permits get sold and traded. Younger people (less than 30) can't gain entry into the fishery without a large financial loss. He recommended NMFS address this issue by enforcing illegal charters in Gloucester, Green Harbor and elsewhere.

Limited access eliminates people from the fishery, which already happens naturally when people leave if they can't make money. While Mr. Klein would be grandfathered into a limited access

program, he knows people who worked previously on their father's boat, who would have to give their own permits away if their family permits don't qualify as part of a limited access program. He shared an example of being eliminated from the Alaska halibut and sablefish individual transferable quota (ITQ) because the program did not include captain or crew shares (only owner shares).

Mr. Klein commented that he speaks for a dozen boat owners in Gloucester, and has encouraged them to submit comments. He attends many Council meetings and prefers evening meetings as he can still work during the day, and commented that many others cannot afford the time off or the travel involved with attending meetings. He further commented that there is a difference between those fishing part-time (30 days on the water) vs. those fishing full time (200-250 days on the water), yet everyone could potentially get the same limited access permit. Mr. Klein mentioned he would take his comments up with the Recreational Advisory Panel.

The listening session adjourned at approximately 6:20 PM