

2019 New England Recreational Fishing Workshops

Status update

New England Fishery Management Council
Meeting, January 30, 2019

JESSICA GRIBBON JOYCE
TIDAL BAY CONSULTING, LLC

November 2017 Workshop

- ▶ Day-long workshop in Portsmouth, NH
- ▶ Results summarized for the RAP the next day
- ▶ Major Themes
 - ▶ Stability, Timing, Consistency, and Effectiveness
 - ▶ Data
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Accounting for Differences in User Groups



Impetus for 2018/2019 workshops

- ▶ Recognition that 2017 Workshop was the start of a conversation
- ▶ 2018 Council priority to “Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates”
- ▶ Need to re-evaluate management structure in light of ACL overages and dissatisfaction with the process among the recreational community

Meeting 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.

Meeting 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 achieving 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.

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Stabilize business planning with more predictable regulatory changes, potentially utilizing multi-year measures.
- ▶ Adapt best practices in data management and collection that allow for more appropriate usage of MRIP data, e.g., using an average of 3-5 years of data for analyses and not just looking back on 1 year of data.
- ▶ Optimize opportunities across other fisheries and management plans (state and federal) through improved alignment of regulations. For example, reducing overlap in closures across recreational fisheries and increasing coordination between various recreational management plans.
- ▶ Develop solutions that work across modes (e.g. private angler and for-hire fleet) or that address the nuances within various user groups (recognizing a one-size-fits-all approach isn't ideal in most cases).

Meeting Outcomes



1. A list of ideas and recommendations on how to adapt long-term approaches to better manage groundfish stocks with a recreational catch component.
2. A list of potential management approaches and ideas for pilot studies to address the short-term objective of preventing Gulf of Maine cod and haddock overages.
3. A shared understanding of the new MRIP data collection and assessment processes, and best practices for using this data to inform decisions.
4. A shared awareness around current research and how to best use results, and a list of needs for future research.
5. A list of communication methods to more regularly inform all stakeholders of any new proposals, pilot studies, reporting methods, or potential rulemaking.

Original Schedule

Workshops

- ▶ January 8 – Portsmouth, NH
- ▶ January 10 – Narragansett, RI
- ▶ January 12 – Plymouth, MA

Follow-up

- ▶ January 14 – Smaller meeting, Danvers, MA
- ▶ January 15 – Presentation to the RAP
- ▶ January 30 – Presentation to full Council

Next Steps

- ▶ The agendas may be slightly revised.
- ▶ When rescheduled, the new dates will be posted on the GARFO and Council websites.
- ▶ The Eventbrite registration webpages will be updated.

For More Information

- ▶ Agendas and other meeting materials are available online:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2019-new-england-recreational-fishing-workshops>
- ▶ Moira Kelly, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Moira.Kelly@noaa.gov
- ▶ Jessica Joyce, Tidal Bay Consulting, Jessica@tidalbayconsulting.com