New England Recreational Fishing Workshops

Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting
November 12, 2019

Moira Kelly
Sustainable Fisheries Division
Greater Atlantic Region, NOAA Fisheries

Jessica Joyce, Tidal Bay Consulting, LLC
Workshops were held in October

- October 19: Plymouth, MA
  - 21 attendees
- October 22: Portsmouth, NH
  - 26 attendees
- October 24: Narragansett, RI
  - 28 attendees

Total registered= 100
Total attendees= 75
Stakeholder Affiliation

Stakeholder Affiliation - All Workshops

- For-hire captain and/or business owner: 17%
- Recreational angler: 11%
- Director of a recreational fishing association: 24%
- Fisheries researcher or manager (Federal or state): 7%
- Other: 41%
Workshop 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.
Workshop 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 working toward 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.
Agenda at-a-glance

9:15 – Status of the Recreational Fishery – Panel
10:45 – Break
11:00 – Recent Recreational Fisheries Research – Panel
12:00 – Lunch
12:45 – Long-term Management Approaches – Small groups & discussion
2:15 – Short-term Management Approaches – Small groups
3:30 – Break
3:45 – Short-term Management Approaches – Group discussion
4:45 – Next Steps
Research Presentations
Research Presentations

- Deriving release survival estimates and best practices for promoting survival in the Gulf of Maine recreational groundfish fishery
  - Matt Ayer, MA DMF (MA)
  - Connor Capizzano, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts Boston & New England Aquarium’s Anderson Cabot Center (NH)

- Gulf of Maine cod bycatch minimization
  - Matt Ayer, MA DMF (MA, NH)

- Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group
  - Richard McBride, NEFSC (MA)

- Cod in Southern New England: are they climate deniers?
  - Brian Gervelis, Inspire Environmental (RI)

- Hook and line survey for spawning Cod near the South Fork Wind Farm
  - Joseph Langan, University of Rhode Island (RI)
Outcomes and Recommendations
Long-Term Management Recommendations -- Regulatory

**Plymouth**

- Mixed bag regulations with full retention of first 10 fish
- Multi-year measures with triggers for change (w/pre-planned changes)
- Finalize regulations early in the year (January/February)
- * Limit season to Spring-Fall to reduce winter pressure
- * Consistency between state and federal regulations
- * Increase haddock minimum fish size
- * Require for-hire fleet to use descending devices

**Portsmouth**

- Change fishing year start to January 1
- * Consider more specific season dates—e.g., every other Saturday
- * Cumulative length fish limit (reduce discard mortality)
- * Increase ecosystem-based fisheries management concepts in decision-making

**Narragansett**

- * Analyze separate measures by mode (mixed support)
- * Allocate quota by mode (and relax management measures)
- * Pilot study – flexibility of management measures – meet customer needs
- * Pilot study – analyze reallocation of GB cod – for-hire and private anglers
Long-Term Management Recommendations – Business Adaptation

Plymouth

Shifting/diversifying target species during a trip

* If a full (or maximized) retention approach is utilized, captains are unsure how it would affect customer satisfaction
* If for-hire fleet had a higher catch limit, it would allow for a longer season and increase business

Portsmouth

* Diversify activities beyond fishing:
  • Wildlife tours
  • Ferry service
  • At-sea burials
  • Haul lobster traps

Narragansett

* Understanding customer’s preference – experience vs. fishing for meat
* Prefer consistency of stable regulations vs. year-to-year changes
* More flexibility (e.g. RI Fluke Sector)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Long-Term Management Recommendations -- Outreach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>Create educational materials about regulations, best practices – handling, and MRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outreach at trade shows, bait and tackle shops, association meetings, and during licensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focus on videos and social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborate with partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Utilize USCG Auxiliary, power squadron and harbor masters to educate – gear selectivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* YouTube videos (2 ½ min) – view at trade shows &amp; tackle shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>* Provide outreach materials at ‘point of sale’ for licenses, both online and at trade shows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Develop a training course that would be mandatory for the initial license purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narragansett</td>
<td>* Video could be similar to shark ID video required for an endorsement to HMS permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Add a quiz after video (optional or required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Short-Term Management Recommendations -- Regulatory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plymouth</th>
<th>Portsmouth</th>
<th>Narragansett</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| * Consider spatial management over blanket closures to open low bycatch areas seasonally  
  * Questions about effectiveness of measures by mode  
  * NEFSC – assess biological impacts of slot limits by species  
  * Gear modifications should start as voluntary then become mandatory  
  * Seasonal retention rates based on release survival rate  | **Consistency with state and federal regs**  
  * “Punch-pass” program to provide tags to private anglers  
  * Pilot study on for-hire full retention with survey of angler experience  
  * Pilot study on combo bag/size limit with a cumulative max length  | * Use 3- to 5-yr avg. of MRIP landings to determine ACLs w/ 25% uncertainty buffer  
  * Recalculate GB cod catch target based on most recent 5-years of data  
  * Increase MRIP sampling and intercepts and/or reallocate effort to private anglers  
  * Incentivize participation in MRIP interviews |

---

* NEFSC: National Marine Fisheries Service  
* MRIP: Mid-Atlantic Research Initiative Program  
* ACLs: Annual Catch Limits
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>Develop educational videos on regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop educational videos on bycatch avoidance/release survival best practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborate with partners (e.g. states, magazines, blogs, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Improve outreach to ESL anglers/cultural differences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Request sponsorships from tackle shops, foundations and the NMMA for funding to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>produce videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Hold clinics on gear modification, bycatch avoidance maps, and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>* Increase MRIP’s reach and understanding to increase response rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Educational toolkits on regs, etc. to give to for-hire companies to educate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Training courses (similar to Maine hunting safety course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narragansett</td>
<td>*Translate videos/materials into different languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Leverage industry partnerships for outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Provide training on fly tying, catch &amp; release, and cooking lesser-known species.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Short-Term Management Recommendations -- Outreach**
Research Recommendations (Narragansett, RI)

• Research climate change impacts on species distribution, overlaps, habitat preference, biological targets and competition.

• Research methods to reduce MRIP uncertainty through 100 percent VTR participation on party and charter boats.
  ● Test EM validation of VTR data.
  ● Possibly include an aerial survey to the census effort through remote sensing or shore-based cameras to count anglers on shore and at boat ramps.
  ● Pilot study - VTR for private anglers using an app.
Next Steps

- November 25 – Presentation at the Groundfish Committee Meeting
- December 4 – Presentation at the Council meeting
- Winter 2019/2020 – Workshop summaries and report
Questions?

Contact Information:

Moira Kelly
Moira.Kelly@noaa.gov
978-281-9218