

## Meeting Minutes for the RIMFC Groundfish & Federally Managed Species Advisory Panel Meeting

September 2, 2014 at 6:00pm

URI/GSO Narragansett Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Building, Hazard Room

The following people attended this meeting, including 1 AP member (\*).

1. <i>Ken Booth (Chair)</i> 2. <i>Ted Platz*</i> 3. <i>Jerry Carvalho (Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Schneider, RI F&amp;W</li><li>• Dave Borden (ASMFC Commissioner, RI)</li></ul>
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*Groundfish Members Absent: Jerry Tremblay, Douglas Kissick, Paul Westcott, Richard Fuka, Luke Wheeler, Aaron Gewirtz, Al Conti, Michael Marchetti, John Troiano III, Frank Blount, Jr., Jim White.*

Handouts: Agenda

Presentation: (see attached presentation)

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K. Booth (Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10pm. He noted that he E. Schneider (RI F&W) had a presentation prepared and would lead a discussion on each of the agenda items. He then turned the meeting over to E. Schneider.

E. Schneider welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He said the purpose of tonight's meeting was to discuss the *potential* Div. of Fish & Wildlife spiny dogfish conservation equivalency (CE) proposal for the state-water fishery. Specifically, the Division requested this meeting in to get feedback from the AP regarding whether the Division should develop and submit said proposal to ASMFC for consideration at the annual meeting in October 2014.

Eric then began the attached presentation, which provided background on the stock, management, recent ASMFC spiny dogfish board meeting in May 2014, and a general outline the CE proposal. The group decided to go through the outline of the CE proposal, with the goal of defining the particular aspects of each element. The following is a summary of the group's recommendation.

- Goal: is to develop a program that will allow RI participants to improve the efficiency of their spiny dogfish fishing operations without increasing the probability of overharvesting the regional quota and overfishing.
  - The significant changes to current management practices include operating on a weekly possession limit, rather than a daily limit, with provisions that require the state to monitor landings to ensure we do not cause the region to overharvest the quota and prevents RI from substantially changing its status relative to other states within the region.
- Elements of the proposal include:
  - Season: Although there was discussion as to whether a season should be included, the group decided to simply provide the Division the authority to develop seasons as needed.

- Implementation date: If ASMFC approves the CE, then RI would apply to NOAA for a federal consistency. If both are approved the plan would begin in May of 2016.
- Weekly Possession Limit: 80% of a 7-day limit
  - $((5,000 \times 7 \text{ days} = 35,000) \times .8) = 28,000 \text{ lbs/week}$
- Program Cap = The program will end when either 3,000,000 lbs are landed in RI or 80% of the regional quota is harvested. At that point the possession limit reverts to the current 5,000 lbs a day possession limit
  - This is designed to ensure that RI does not unduly impact surrounding states by grabbing a historically-disproportionate chunk of the regional quota.
  - The 3,000,000 lbs figure could also allow each state to operate in a similar mode if the recent under harvest rate continues.
- Reporting: RI will have to monitor landings using SAFIS.
  - Thus, all participants must land at federal or state dealer who reports landings electronically.
  - The Division will monitor landings to ensure compliance of the program.
  - Each participant must have an active RI fishing license and report their activity must be captured in a logbook or VTR

The group discussed that, at some point, NOAA will require a letter of authorization or some mechanism to recognize federal fishers who are participating in this program. This will be evaluated after ASMFC consideration. That concluded the Spiny dogfish discussion

J. Carvalho requested the group discuss winter flounder management.

E. Schneider said that J. Carvalho may proceed with his winter flounder comment, but noted that this will also need to go the RIMFC so that they can either have the discussion at the council level or request a Winter Flounder AP to convene.

In short, J. Carvalho stated that the inequity in harvest and possession limit between the Commission and Federal plan is unacceptable and unfair to state-water participants. He requested that the RI Commissioners address this at the next ASMFC meeting. As noted earlier, J. Carvalho agreed to make this comment at the next RIMFI meeting.

K. Booth said if there is no further business that the meeting is adjourned (~8:15pm).