

Characteristics for comparison to management options

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Below are the characteristics of a successful Fluke Management Program, as discussed at Fluke I event. These characteristics have been drawn directly from the Proceedings of that event. During the workshop on January 14th, groups will have an opportunity to compare these characteristics against the proposed management options as presented by considering if they strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree or strongly disagree that the proposed options.....

1. Recognize, Balance, and Protect the Public's Interests in Marine Fisheries

- Conserves and manages the fishery in accordance with the public's interests.
- From a natural resource perspective, those interests include:
 - Preventing overfishing and achieving sustainable harvests; and
 - Minimizing discards, waste, ecological impacts, and habitat degradation.
- From a commercial perspective, the public interest generally pertains to:
 - Provides those who rely upon the commercial fishing industry as a source of food;
 - Supports those who hold jobs or otherwise benefit economically from being engaged in or affiliated with the commercial fishing industry; and
 - Enables those who wish to enter the industry.
- All interests are well served by the proposed approach/programs because it optimizes yield, achieving full, sustainable, effective, and efficient use of available harvest opportunities.

2. Promote Sound and Sustainable Resource Management

- Uses limits that are based on scientifically valid stock assessments, with buffers to account for uncertainty.
- Reduces the uncertainty associated with catch limits and allow for maximum, sustainable harvests.
- Uses good science and can be monitored and enforced.
- Cover its management costs.

3. Enhance Safety at sea (One group will deal with #2 and #3)

- Supports safe fishing operations.

4. Is Fair and Equitable

- Is particularly fair and equitable with regard to accessing, using, and deriving benefits from the resource.
- Takes into account the principles of fairness and equity evoked by RI constitutional law.
- Is fair and equitable not just to industry participants, but to the general public as well.
- To the maximum extent possible/practicable, management programs provides for the good of the whole, rather than the benefit of a few.

5. *Recognize the Business Interests of Fishermen and the Overall Economic Value of Commercial Fishing*

- Provides the maximum economic value to the State.
- Provides fishermen, as businessmen, maximum flexibility and the ability to minimize costs, enabling them to operate stable, efficient, and profitable businesses and adjust to variations in markets, ecosystems and resource availability. This includes:
 - Putting more decision-making into the hands of fishermen, e.g., when they can fish and how much they can land.
 - Pursues bottom-up, incentive-based approaches in lieu of inefficient and overly constraining top-down approaches.
 - Recognizes and accommodates the multi-species nature of the region's fisheries, and the inevitability of certain levels of bycatch.
 - Allows for and support unique business opportunities, e.g., direct sales.
 - Seeks and support opportunities to increase economic returns without increasing catch, i.e., value-added approaches.
- Maintains sufficient catch limits to support the economic interests of the industry.
- Scales the industry in accordance with resource availability.
- Provides sufficient profits to keep boats safe, via regular investments in maintenance and upkeep.
- Encourages and supports the continued economic viability of shoreside infrastructure and support services, on which the overall economic welfare of the industry depends
- Facilitates the steady flow of fresh, high-quality seafood to the market and offers benefits for all – harvesters, buyers, sellers, and consumers.

6. *Recognizes and Protects the Unique Nature of the RI Commercial Fishing Industry*

- Protects existing jobs.
- Maintains the diversity of the fleet (making it more resilient to changes, including stock fluctuations).
- Avoids consolidation.
- Pursues opportunities to grow and modernize the industry.
- Supports harmony; avoid rifts.
- Provides adequate opportunities for future generations to enter the industry.