

Rhode Island Commercial Fluke Symposium

January 27, 2012

Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI

Welcome and introductions

- Goals and Objectives
- Purpose and approach of Symposium
- Agenda and flow

Our goal is to have a transparent, objective and focused discussion that:

- Characterizes the key aspects fundamental to a successful commercial fluke management program for Rhode Island;
- Shares and discusses what is known, based on recent research and available information, and the experiences of participants, regarding the nature and management of Rhode Island's commercial fluke fishery;
- Shares and discusses issues and perspectives regarding other fisheries outside of RI that are subject to various quota-based management programs; and,
- Identifies and evaluates options for managing the Rhode Island commercial fluke fishery in 2012 and beyond.

By the end of this Symposium we hope
to have achieved a:

shared understanding of the issues and
opportunities related to the commercial
fluke fishery we collectively face in the
Rhode Island community
to inform decision making

Draft Agenda

- ☐ Director's Opening Remarks
- ☐ Fluke 101: Profile of the RI Commercial Fluke Fishery
- ☐ What we have learned in RI
- ☐ Experience outside of RI
- ☐ Key questions: what is success and what are the options for RI?
- ☐ Facilitated Group Discussion
- ☐ Final report out and reaction
- ☐ Thank you & next steps
- ☐ Adjourn

What we are not doing

- Not a decision making forum, but a forum to hear and document what is known at this moment in time.*
- Not consensus building on how those issues should be balanced or resolved*

Ground rules/norms

- *Panels: each panelist speaks for assigned time and the remainder of the time is to entertain questions*
- *Participants:*
 - *Focus on defining issues; not prescribing or advocating solutions*
 - *facilitator reserves the right to curtail questions that become presentations*
 - *Questions and answers should be brief in order to allow the greatest number of participants;*
 - *You will be asked to write questions/comments on cards*
 - *One idea/questions per card*

Who is paying

- *All costs paid for by the URI's Coastal Institute*
- *CI funds come from overhead dollars that are committed to serving adaptive management of coastal ecosystems and to serve as a neutral forum for matters related to the mission.*
- *Facilitator paid for through a NMFS BAA grant received by Dr. Hiro Uchida.*
 - *Part of the proposal's commitment to disseminate results to stakeholders.*
 - *I will demonstrate my neutrality*

What happens to the outputs

- Team here collecting notes and summarizing main points
- These will be converted to a proceedings that will be posted on the Coastal Institute Web Site and available to the public
- This should be available within three weeks

Symposium Design

- Collaborative effort by the fishing community, the University of Rhode Island and the Department of Environmental Management
- Three weeks of Tuesday Meetings to design agenda and pick speakers
- Thank you to those in the fishing community who contributed
 - Rich Fuka, Joel Hovanesian, Dick Gracher, Jerry Carvalho, Todd Sutton, David Monti, Harold and Brian Loftes, Jeff Taylor, Richard Allen & Ken Booth

Director's Opening Remarks

J. Coit, Director, RI Department of
Environmental Management

Fluke 101: Profile of the RI Commercial Fluke Fishery

J. McNamee, Department of
Environmental Management

What we have learned in RI

Resource panel to present studies and analyses of RI Commercial Fluke Fishery, based on recent research and available information

Instructions

- *Each speaker will have 15 minutes for their presentation.*
- *All speakers will go before 15 minute Q/A period.*
- *Q/A period:*
 - *Before you ask your question, please write it down on sticky notes*
 - *I will collect sticky notes; even if you don't speak*
 - *Please wait to speak until you have the microphone.*
- *If there are other studies that should be collected to inform the discussion we can post them on web site.*

Panelists

Resource Issues, J. McNamee, Department of
Environmental Management

Social Perceptions, R. Pollnac, University of Rhode Island

Economic Issues, H. Uchida, University of Rhode Island
& C. Anderson, University of Washington

Instructions

Q/A period:

- Before you ask your question, please write it down on sticky notes*
- I will collect sticky notes; even if you don't speak*
- Please wait to speak until you have the microphone.*
- If there are other studies that should be collected to inform the discussion we can post them on web site.*

Experience outside of RI

Panel to present and discuss studies and analyses of other fisheries that are subject to quota-based management programs

Questions...

- (a) What questions can be drawn from experience in other jurisdictions that might be constructively posed in designing and implementing a fluke management program for RI?--Please give two or three questions and describe why these questions are important to address.
- (b) Looking at the experience, positive and negative, in another jurisdiction, what lessons can RI learn from that experience?--Please give the experience from one jurisdiction and at least one experience that was either wonderful or horrible (something to aspire to replicate or to seek to avoid if at all possible).

We recognize that the...

success of programs is a function of the socio-economic and political conditions of the jurisdictions in which the program is administered

... & that...

it is not prudent to believe that one can simply copy what was successful in one place and have it be equally successful in another place,

Instructions

- *Each speaker will have 20 minutes for their presentation.*
- *All speakers will go before a Q/A period.*
- *Q/A period:*
 - *Before you ask your question, please write it down on sticky notes.*
 - *I will collect sticky notes.*
 - *Please wait to speak until you have the microphone.*
- *If there are other studies that should be collected to inform the discussion we can post them on website.*

Panelists

John Henderschedt, Executive Director of the Fisheries
Leadership and Sustainability Forum

Dr. Seth Macinko, University of Rhode Island

Kevin Stokesbury, School for Marine Science and
Technology

Instructions

- *Q/A period:*
 - *Before you ask your question, please write it down on sticky notes.*
 - *I will collect sticky notes.*
 - *Please wait to speak until you have the microphone.*
- *If there are other studies that should be collected to inform the discussion we can post them on web site.*

Key questions

what is success and what are the
options for RI?

Purpose...

the purpose of this panel is not for the participants to argue their perspectives, but to share their perceptions of key issues that need to be addressed

&

to stimulate ideas and thoughts that will be discussed in our facilitated table discussions

Instructions

- *Panel discussion representing a diverse set of viewpoints. The panelists will answer a series of pre-prepared questions.*
- *Each panelist has been asked to limit their remarks to 5-8 minutes so that there is enough time to hear from you.*
- *Panelists introduce themselves and their affiliation.*
- *Immediately after the panel we are going to have a facilitated group discussion where you will be asked to answer the same question and share your answers.*

Questions....

(a) What do you believe are the three key issues or opportunities that should be addressed squarely in designing and implementing a fluke management program?

(b) What do you believe would be the immediate consequences of failing to address these issues?

(c) What do you foresee as the long term effects of failing to address these issues?

Panelists

- Jerry Carvalho
- Mark Gibson
- Aaron Gewirtz
- Al Conti
- James Haitz
- David Beutel

Jerry Carvalho

- Will the management program be in compliance with the constitutional mandates of RI law?
- How will the plan program provide the greatest benefit to the RI public?
- Will the plan insure common access to the resource or result in loss of jobs?

Mark Gibson

- Sustainability- Scientifically valid catch limit with buffers for uncertainty. Capable governance structure to administer catch limit and enforce supporting regulations. Engaging industry participating in cooperative research to selective design gear and responsible fishing practices to minimize discards and habitat damage.
- Profitability- Devolve responsibility and authority to industry and challenge them to “right size” their industry to catch limit. Statutory authority to implement and support incentives programs such as catch shares. Appropriate limits on share accumulation and relief with permit banking programs.
- Safety at Sea- Management systems that provide maximum authority and flexibility to individual businesses such as individual fishing quotas (IFQ). USCG/DEM programs for inspection and safety training. Revolving loan funds to allow for vessel maintenance and upgrading.

Aaron Gerwitz

- **Account for discarded fish.** It is simply not enough to allocate daily possession limits of Fluke based solely on an overall quota that takes only into account the fish that are caught, sold, and recorded. There are always going to be some discards no matter how carefully and responsibly we all try to fish.
- **Maintain a strong common pool.** Catch share management regimes are a proven way to manage a resource while taking into account, discarded fish. However, this management strategy (like all others) has its own potential flaws and specific challenges that make it unacceptable for some stakeholders in the community. Given the context of this discussion (the establishment of a *voluntary* catch share program for Fluke in Rhode Island), it is vital to take these concerns into account.
- **Allow for the unique business opportunities that alternative management techniques can present.** Daily possession limits have long been the standard for Fluke management in the state of Rhode Island. However, these daily limits have frequently led to erratic and undependable supplies of various fish species to markets.

James Haitz

- That all the states fluke allocation is harvested to the closest amount possible with nothing left on the table at the years end. A full harvest of the states fluke allocation each year.
- That the management of the fluke allocation is set up in such a way that gives all the stakeholders the best chance at the harvest of the states fluke allocation.
- And that you steer away from management programs that privatize the fluke allocation based on a set of past years of history of an individual's participation. This will only lead to a windfall for some and a severe handicap for the majority of the stakeholders. This management tool leads to a rapid consolidation and overcapitalization of the states resource meant for all stakeholders to have a fair and equal access to.

David Beutel

- There is the opportunity to manage the resource for increased economic return to RI
- There is an opportunity to provide the fishing industry with more flexibility
- There is an opportunity for fairness for all fishermen

Facilitated Group Discussion

table discussion to consider
questions that the panelists were
asked to address

Instructions for each table..

1. **Select** someone to take notes & someone to report answers to full group
2. **complete** participant list
3. **Answer** the first question the panel answered ...
4. Capture all of the group's answers on the Answer Sheet. The list will be collected so we don't lose any information. (Yellow)
5. **Agree** to the table's top two issues/opportunities. Write this on Priority Sheet. (Green)
6. **Present** the top issue/opportunity to the group. If your top one has already been noted, say so and offer your second priority.

Question for each table to answer

What do you believe are the issues or opportunities that should be addressed squarely in designing and implementing a fluke management program?

Report-out

- ***Agree*** to the table's top two issues/opportunities. Write this on Priority Sheet.(Color)
- ***Present*** the top issue/opportunity to the group.
- *If your top one has already been noted, say so and offer your second priority.*

Final report out and reaction

- Major themes we've heard through the day:
 - Benefit to RI public/ economic return to state
 - Ownership of the resources/ Privatization/ Constitutional compliance
 - Jobs
 - Split the industry/benefit few rather than whole/ Access by all stakeholders/ Fairness for all the fisherman
 - Resources sustainability/reach full harvest
 - Safety at sea
 - Better business/better product/ more flexibility
 - Discards
 - Maintain a common pool

Thank you and next steps

- *Next steps for symposium outputs...*
 - *set of proceedings prepared and posted*
 - *If there are other studies that should be collected to inform the discussion we can post them on web site. Send to Deb Coty at **debim@gso.uri.edu***
- *Please complete an evaluation*