

TO: MULTISPECIES CAPACITY REDUCTION COMMITTEE  
FROM: CHRIS MEANEY  
SUBJECT: PORTLAND MAINE PUBLIC MEETING  
DATE: JUNE 16, 2006

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This is a brief overview of the public meeting held in Portland Maine at the Fish Exchange Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Staff members present were David Borden and Chris Meaney. Barbara Stevenson and Peter Kendall represented the Capacity Reduction Committee. There were approximately 20 individuals in attendance, consisting of area fisherman, seafood dealers, processors, a representative of the City of Portland and Senator Olympia Snowe's office as well as members of the media.

David provided a welcome and overview of the Capacity Reduction Program. A brief power point presentation given by Chris highlighted the details of proposed Buyout. Following the presentation Barbara, Peter, David and Chris fielded questions and recorded suggestions, support and concerns.

Below is a synthesis of participant suggestions, concerns, and support regarding the Buyout proposal. Of note, there were numerous comments regarding current management not directly related to the Buyout proposal and have not been included.

- Realizing that the buyout will have an impact for years to come, one participant expressed concern regarding how capacity has been estimated by the Committee. It was suggested that decisions should be made on what the industry can make, not what it can afford. Similarly, a participant was interested in knowing what would a 30% capacity reduction equal in DAS?
- The buyers/processors who attended the meeting expressed concern that the proposed level of capacity reduction may reduce a number of boats and may disrupt supply causing a collapse of the shore side infrastructure.
- It was suggested that instead of using the proposed vote allotment method another means be utilized. An alternative idea provided was that the number of votes should correspond to the capacity estimation number (the numerator in the bid-score formula as presented), or a means that weighs bids more closely to catch history.
- A participant questioned the objective related to preserving the character of the groundfish fleet. The concern expressed was that those remaining after the buyout may be responsible for some of the problems facing the industry today, and the committee needs to think about how the problem may shift due to the potential lasting effect of the buyout. The participant suggested a more "surgical approach" to removing capacity.

- A question regarding General Category Scallop permits was asked. The individual asked if the permit would have to be surrendered in Alternative 2 and 3 and does one get the 1.5 to 1 on those landings as well?
- One participant indicated that the Committee should consider placing a maximum amount of capacity to be reduced along with the minimum presented in the prospectus.
- Some members questioned why the dates used for the surrender of the non-groundfish permits (2003-2005) differ from those used for the capacity estimation number (1997-2001). Also, audience members questioned why revenues on groundfish landings from 1996 are not considered in the prospectus.

Thank you to the Fish Exchange for hosting this meeting. There will be two Buyout public meetings held on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup>. One will be held at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth N.H., and the second meeting will be at the United Fishermans Club in New Bedford, M.A.