

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

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This is a brief overview of the public meeting held in Rockland Maine at the Navigator Motor Inn, Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Staff members present were David Borden and Chris Meaney, with Barbara Stevenson representing the Capacity Reduction Committee. There were approximately 10 individuals in attendance, mainly fishermen. A Maine DMR employee and a member of the press were also present.

David provided a welcome and overview of the Capacity Reduction Program. A brief power point presentation given by Chris highlighted the details of the proposed Buyout. Following the presentation David, Barbara, and Chris fielded questions and assisted those interested in inputting their information into the buyout score calculator. A healthy discussion followed the closing of the meeting during which more than half of the attendees spoke openly about the buyout strategy, proposing alternatives and making suggestions. Overall, participants expressed an interest in the buyout and indicated that they would like to see the Committee continue to work out the details.

Below is a synthesis of participant suggestions, concerns, and support regarding the Buyout proposal.

- A participant indicated that the Committee considers a method to included monkfish permits as part of the groundfish multispecies permit. The attendee indicated that these two permits should be “tied together”.
- The sentiment was expressed that the buyout program will not be successful because too many people will place lofty bids and the 30% capacity reduction target will not be achieved.
- There was a concern that the proposed 100 million dollars sought by the committee is too much money. The reasoning provided was that that the Committee could buyout the 30% capacity with less money, and having such a high loan would result in higher costs to those that remain in the fishery.
- A member of the audience asked: What does a 30% capacity reduction amount to in DAS?
- Part of the discussion at the meeting surrounded Alternative 2, the surrender of all permits. An individual asked if this included state permits, and the discussion evolved into addressing other permits like an open access shrimp permit. Many

participants indicated that the Committee should consider how to incorporate shrimp permits into the program. It was suggested that a strategy be created so fisherman do not have to give up both their boats and their shrimp permit or history. It was indicated by some that it is not the dollar value of the shrimp harvested that is important (getting to the 25% in Alternative 3); rather it is that there is nothing else to do during the winter. It was indicated that for some there is work in the summer in Mid Coast or Downeast Maine, but in the winter there is nothing but shrimp. Finally, fisherman indicated that the shrimp permit is a state permit which is issued to an individual, the captain usually holds the permit in his name. The permit is not the boat owner's to give up.

- The suggestion was made that the program should allow a fisherman to surrender their groundfish permit and be allowed to select one other permit that they could hold on to instead of surrendering everything.
- The question was asked if the loan to the industry would be interest free. The participant suggested that the Committee do everything possible so no interest is added to the loan.
- A participant noted that C-DAS would be taken away from fisherman for a period of 30 years which is a long time for those looking to increase days. It was suggested that the Committee build into the program a mechanism that would allow C-DAS to be reintroduced into the fishery at some point in time.
- A fisherman indicated that his engine was down during the years selected (2003-2005) by the Committee to determine the 1.5 repayment rate for non-groundfish permits. The individual did not object to the idea behind this aspect of the program, but did request that the Committee consider extending these years so that such a small time frame would not prevent some fisherman from participating.

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.