

TO: MULTISPECIES CAPACITY REDUCTION COMMITTEE  
FROM: CHRIS MEANEY  
SUBJECT: PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC MEETING  
DATE: JUNE 21, 2006

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This is a brief overview of the public meeting held in Portsmouth New Hampshire at the Urban Forestry Center, Tuesday June 20, 2006.

The staff member present was Chris Meaney and Maggie Raymond and Peter Kendall were in attendance representing the Capacity Reduction Committee. Approximately 24 individuals, mainly fisherman, were present.

Chris provided a welcome and overview of the Capacity Reduction Program. A brief power point presentation highlighted the details of the proposed Buyout. Following the presentation Maggie, Peter, and Chris facilitated discussion and answered questions. After the discussion ended Chris assisted interested fisherman with inputting their information into the buyout score calculator.

The meeting began shortly after 5pm. The welcome and information session lasted about 35 minutes and was followed by a long question and answer session. After a lengthy discussion the meeting concluded and people were invited to stay and discuss further the proposed Buyout with staff and committee members. The last participants left shortly before 8pm. There was a range of opinion regarding the proposed Buyout varying between uncertainty and support. Many in the audience seemed to think that the proposed Buyout is a potentially good option for those who may be forced out of the fishery by increasing regulations. The active audience asked many questions and provided the committee with diverse opinions and suggestions.

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

- One participant was concerned that the proposed buyout will only remove latent capacity and suggested that the committee explore a way to target active effort before the latent effort.
- Participants commented on the catch history multiplier used for determining the buyout score. The suggestion was put forth that the catch history multiplier be removed from the equation. It was made clear by the audience member that it appeared as though the catch history multiplier is a reward to those who harvest the most fish, and is not related to capacity reduction. The audience member further indicated that if the committee truly wants to buyout capacity they should focus on vessel horse power, length, and permits.
- Others in the audience suggested that the years for the catch history multiplier be extended.

- A question was voiced that the capacity estimation number seemed to be a dollar estimate of what a person should value their capacity at, and wondered why a fisherman should not interpret the number that way.
- A fisherman expressing an interest in the program offered the suggestion that the committee provide fisherman in similar capacity categories a value range depicting what a fair market bid value might look like. They appeared concerned that they might over-bid and not be bought out or under-bid and not receive as large a payment as possible.
- A participant indicated that he read in the Gloucester Times that if the Buyout were to go forward leasing would end. It was his opinion that if leasing were to end it would be difficult to determine the level of support for the Buyout.
- A participant suggested that the committee look into paying Buyout participants with U.S. Savings Bonds.
- An audience member asked the committee if they have considered the future of surrounding infrastructure.
- A suggestion was made to the committee that they ensure that the databases used by the administering agency are accurate and coincide with the data that the committee has been utilizing thus far. The audience member seemed to recall that with previous Buybacks there were discrepancies between information that fisherman possess and that which was recorded in the National Marine Fisheries Service databases.
- There appeared to be a range of support for the different alternatives. An audience member supported a capacity reduction alternative that allowed permit holders to surrender groundfish permits and retain possession of other permits if possible. It was of the opinion that the Buyout would have a large amount of support if fisherman could keep something. Others were concerned that with some alternatives there may be effort shifts that could have serious consequences for the future of the proposed buyout.

The next Buyout public meeting will be held on Thursday June 22 in Narragansett at the Corless Auditorium URI Bay Campus