

TO: MULTISPECIES CAPACITY REDUCTION COMMITTEE
FROM: CHRIS MEANEY
SUBJECT: SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC MEETING
DATE: JUNE 28, 2006

This is a brief overview of the public meeting held in Scituate, M.A. at the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary offices.

Staff members present were David Borden and Chris Meaney. There were no members of the Capacity Reduction Committee present and there were 3 fishermen in attendance.

The meeting began shortly after 5pm with a welcome and overview of the Capacity Reduction Program. A brief power point presentation highlighted the details of the proposed Buyout and was followed by a discussion period.

There was a considerable amount of discussion which focused on the potential for re-entering effort, effort shifts, and the involvement of states and state permits in the Buyout. When asked, those in attendance indicated the Buyout is worth pursuing. Below is a synthesis of participant suggestions, concerns, and support regarding the Buyout proposal.

- A participant asked what will prevent C-DAS from coming back into the fishery. It was suggested that the committee ask for assurance from the Council that these permits will not be allowed to re-enter the groundfish fishery.
- An audience member inquired what is to prevent the Council from creating additional permit categories such as “handgear A” that may result in newcomers into the fishery.
- It was recommended to the committee that the Buyout not take place in isolation, suggesting that committee efforts be transparent, open, and include all necessary parties. The participant suggested that the Council and NMFS be brought in and included so that everyone knows the potential benefits and consequences of the program.
- An audience member asked whether the Buyout would be subject to capital gains tax. The idea of placing the lump sum payment in an IRA account or similar account was supported by those in attendance and they indicated that they would like to see the committee pursue this avenue.
- A member of the audience would not support effort shift into the squid fishery and recommended the committee prescribe Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.
- It was suggested that the committee incorporate activities in state waters into their calculations and modeling, indicating that what happens in state waters most likely affects fisherman who fish in adjacent federal water. The participant recommended that

the committee review factors such as the number of state permits and landings data and include the information in revenue and capacity estimates.

Thank you to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary for allowing us the use of the venue.