

TO: MULTISPECIES CAPACITY REDUCTION COMMITTEE  
FROM: CHRIS MEANEY  
SUBJECT: MONTAUK NEW YORK PUBLIC MEETING  
DATE: JULY 11, 2006

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This is a brief overview of the public meeting held at the Montauk Playhouse Community Center Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

Staff members present were David Borden and Chris Meaney. Phil Ruhle and Greg DiDominico represented the Capacity Reduction Committee. There were twenty-one individuals in attendance consisting of commercial fishermen, charter fishermen, and shoreside business owners.

The meeting began with a welcome and overview of the Capacity Reduction Program. A power point presentation highlighted the details of the proposed Buyout and afterwards there was an hour long discussion period.

Many of the participants indicated that they were against any level of effort shift that may occur as a result of a Buyout. When asked which proposed Alternative people would most likely vote for, one person supported Alternative one, twelve individuals supported Alternative two, and the remainder did not express an opinion. It was indicated by one charter boat captain and supported by five others in the audience that due to past groundfish regulations that have reduced their DAS and left them without any catch history, they feel disadvantaged in this proposed Buyout. There was also concern surrounding the proposed referenda. Below is a synthesis of participant suggestions, concerns, and support regarding the Buyout proposal.

- A participant asked if the committee has considered the future of Bluefin Tuna permits with the Buyout.
- One individual was concerned with the proposed voting process, and questioned how much sway A and B permit holders will have in the vote. The opinion was also expressed that C-DAS should not be allocated votes because those permits are not currently active.
- A member of the audience indicated to the committee that not only small boats have been disenfranchised by fishery regulations. It was suggested that the committee look deeper into the past at the number of DAS held by permit holders in order to estimate capacity.
- It was suggested that the formula utilized by the capacity reduction committee to determine a buyout score is tainted due to past regulations. The audience member felt as though the buyout score will not accurately reflect a lifetime involvement in the fishery.
- Concerned with the referenda, a participant asked the committee what would constitute a binding vote. It was suggested that the committee chose a percentage of A, B, and C

permit holders required for the vote in order to secure its legitimacy. Questions regarding who would implement the vote and who would process the numbers were also posed.

- Dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the proposed catch history multiplier in the buyout score equation. The participant indicated that the range of 1 to 1.3 does not give enough weight to those with high catch history. It was suggested that the committee consider giving more weight to those with greater history.
- A participant asked if a minimum amount of participation will be required for the two votes and if a minimum return will be required? The participant suggested the committee decide upon a minimum number of ballots to be returned.
- An audience member expressed concern that the databases used by the NMFS are flawed, which may challenge the implementation of the bidding process.
- A participant asked the committee how whiting will figure into the proposed Buyout.
- One member of the audience asked what will guarantee that the government will provide the additional funding necessary to reduce capacity in other federal fisheries.
- A member of the audience indicated that he supports the Buyout, but is concerned that A DAS permit holders will drive the process. It was also added that the committee consider a way to allow permit holders to pick a capacity reduction alternative that would best fit each individual fisherman.
- The sentiment was expressed by many in the room that no redirection of effort would be acceptable.
- What happens if the industry defaults before the 30 year period is over?
- A handful of people in the audience indicated that the \$500,000 payout cap for non-groundfish permits is too low. The comment was made that there are many fishermen heavily vested in many of these other fisheries, and in order for them to participate, the number should be increased.
- A member in the audience asked the committee to explain how the \$500,000 cap was selected. It was indicated that more than 5 boats in the regional fleet making more than that amount, and that the number should be reconsidered.
- A participant asked the committee to explore ways to prevent the payout from being subjected to taxes. The individual was in favor of having the payment placed in an IRA, and indicated that many people would support the Buyout if this were a possibility. Others asked if the committee had addressed capital construction funds.

- One person suggested the committee consider a means to involve the NEFMC. It was speculated that an informed Council would prevent future challenges to decision making and implementation of the Buyout.

Thank you to the Montauk Playhouse Community Center for the use of their facilities.  
Questions or comments can be directed to [www.nebuyout.org](http://www.nebuyout.org).