

February 27, 2006

NOTES

Attendees: Peter Kendall, Geoffrey Smith, Bobby Lane, Vito Giacalone, Jackie Odell, Chad Demarest, Carlos Raphael, Barbara Stevenson, Maggie Raymond, Phil Ruhle, and observer Carl Bucchard.

General Comments:

- The committee noted that they needed the data and technical assistance from the Council / NMFS in order to proceed with any strawman. The group commented it was data starved. i.e. in addition to DAS information, it was recommended that fleet information was needed as well.
- A committee member expressed concern over the complexity around Vito's formula. Other concerns were raised over catch history and associated B DAS, leasing, gross revenue, gross landings, as well as other fisheries.
- The reverse auction/ bid was discussed, a participant noted their interest to have a number (monetary amount) to give to people.
- Once again the committee reviewed active v. inactive permits, and discussed the need to review these permits / DAS in relation to the goal.
- It was noted that just buying out the highliners was not going to address associated capacity issues. This concern was related to these fishermen who would just re-enter the fishery. One committee member recommended just removing the inactive/ latent permits, while others recommended a middle ground. Some committee members commented that real capacity needs to be removed and that removing only latent/ inactive DAS was not going to reduce capacity.
- A committee member noted their concern that DAS / permits that are currently on skiffs would be reactivated into the fishery.
- The committee discussed long-term benefits v. short-term problems that could be generated from a buyout.
- A committee member noted that it was not appropriate to believe that a buyout was not an appropriate method for getting into biological compliance with the law.
- A participant noted that high producers, most productive, need to have an option to get out. It was noted that the buyout may be the only opportunity for people who are interested in removing themselves from the fishery to do so.
- It was noted that Vito's formula (baseline points) + catch bonus could be used to determine the maximum amount any one permit holder could receive.
- It was recommended that revenues not landings be used and that pre-Amendment 13 years be considered. 4 years, 2000 – 2003, take the best 3 out of 4 years.
- The committee discussed at length endorsement from other fisheries. It was noted that the groundfish fishery should not buyout any other endorsements from other fisheries. However, perhaps there should be some considerations made, such

as freezing of these permits until they can be addresses by other committees / Councils. At the least, the Mid-Atlantic Council needs to notify and they need to act accordingly. It was recommended that Phil Ruhle notify the Mid-Atlantic of this groups activities and that Chad provide the group with a list of the endorsements associated with groundfish. A participant questioned how Congress would react if there wasn't a plan associated with these endorsements.

- The committee reviewed a proposal submitted by Carl Bucchard, NH fisherman.
- The committee discussed the previous groundfish buyout at length and discussed the formula that was used by NMFS to evaluate the bids.
- The committee discussed the message that would be delivered for the first public appearance, the Maine Fishermen's Forum.

Review of Goals:

- 1) Capacity Reduction. The type of DAS removed was discussed at length. It was noted that inactive / C DAS to remain in the fishery should have to participate in the paying back the loan. One idea noted was a yearly tax. A participant noted that C DAS information, in fact all DAS information was needed.
The committee agreed that there should be two formulas: 1) $A \& B + \text{bonus} = \text{one formula}$ 2) C DAS another formula.
- 2) Remove the biological compliance goal.
- 3) Leave Goal (3) because the purpose of the buyout is not to focus on one specific sector of the groundfish fleet. One participant mentioned the monies needed to be allocated toward the classification / categories of the fleet. Need to determine these percentages.