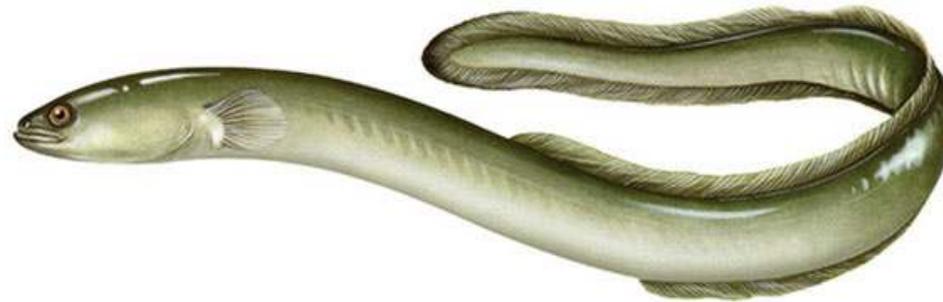


# American Eel Workgroup Meeting



December 6, 2016

Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, MD

# Agenda



- *Welcome/Introduction*
- *Guidelines and Ground Rules*
- *Finalize Fishery Goals and Objectives*
- *Discuss Open Access and Limited Entry options*



# Ground Rules



## **Guidelines / Ground Rules**

- One workgroup member will speak at a time. Please turn your tent cards on their side, and we will ensure each member has an opportunity to talk.
- For topics not on the agenda, there will be time under “other business” to bring items to our attention.
- On discussion outside of the meeting: we encourage you to talk with other fishermen in your area and to seek other vies of the industry. However, recommendations made to the department outside of the workgroup meeting will not be considered.



# Guidelines



## Fishing and Boating Services Guidelines

- Proposed rules should provide for long-term availability of the fisheries resource
- Harvest reporting and department accounting are transparent
- The cost of managing the fishery (permits, quota monitoring, etc) does not incur any additional cost to the state
- The laws and regulations are easily understood and compliance is easily verified

# Industry Goals and Objectives



What do you want for the American eel fishery, things to think about:

1. How many people: few people harvesting a consistent amount or many people harvesting a little each year?
2. Prolong harvest across multiple seasons or just as long as the quota lasts?
3. Is it important to maintain harvest per gear or fishery (bait vs commercial)?
4. Is market stability important?
5. New entrants?

# Industry Goals and Objectives



## Discussed Goals and Objectives:

- Protect the highliners and dedicated seasonal eel fishers (don't lose summer)
- Some protection for bait dealers
- Allow new entrants
- Fair and equitable; equitable may not mean everyone is equal
- Prolong harvest and the market through the year
- Consider the needs of the buyers
- Protect historic harvesters
- Reported harvest should be accountable/verifiable
  - Fear that bad data will lead to bad decisions

# Open Access Fishery Example

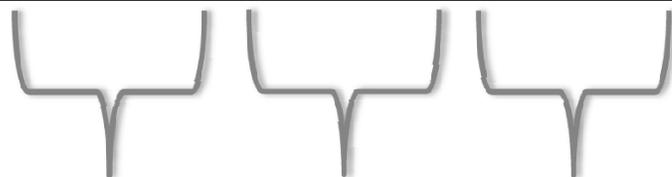
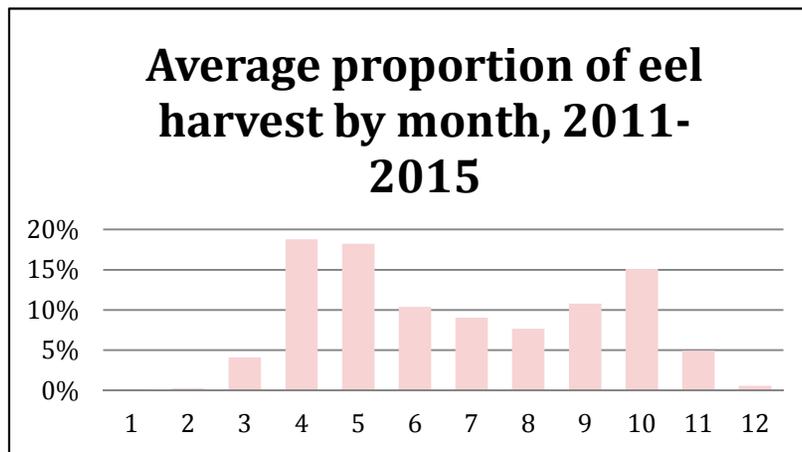
## 465,968 lb Quota



**Who:** Anyone with a license and an eel permit

**Where:** No access limits to where eels caught during any “season”

**When:** Quota managed by trimester; could establish different catch limits for each trimester, or as nearing quota limit



• January 1 – April 30: 116,492 lbs  
quota open until projected to be caught

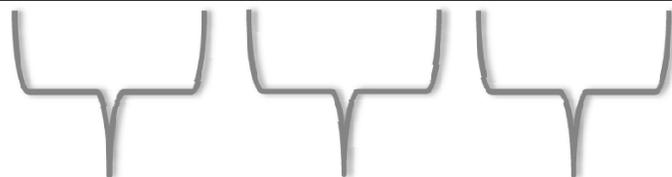
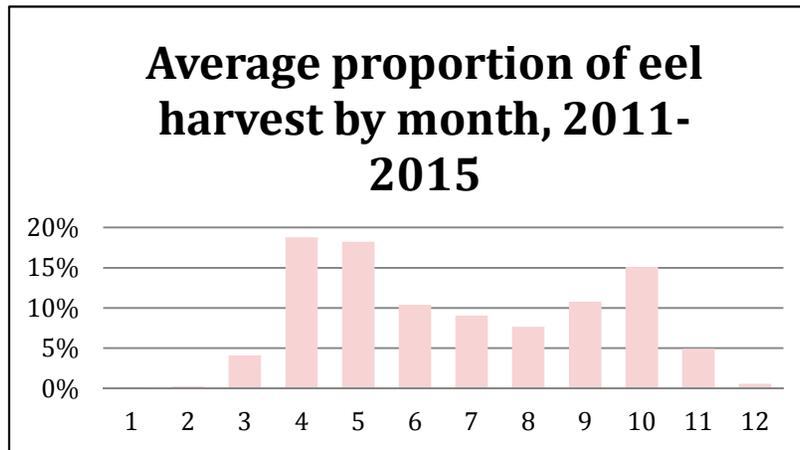
• May 1 – August 31: 209,685 lbs  
quota open until projected to be caught

• September 1 – December 31: 139,791 lbs  
quota open until projected to be caught

# Open Access Fishery Example 465,968 lb Quota



How: Quota would be monitored on a more timely basis (monthly reports not enough) and the fishery would be closed once the trimester's quota was projected to be caught.



**Benefits:** Prolongs harvest through the year. May not require any regulatory changes, biggest difference would be in reporting requirements.

**Concerns:** Potential for three closings during the year; one (or more) closings could impact certain sectors more than others; potential to impact the highliners the most.

# Limited Entry Fishery Example

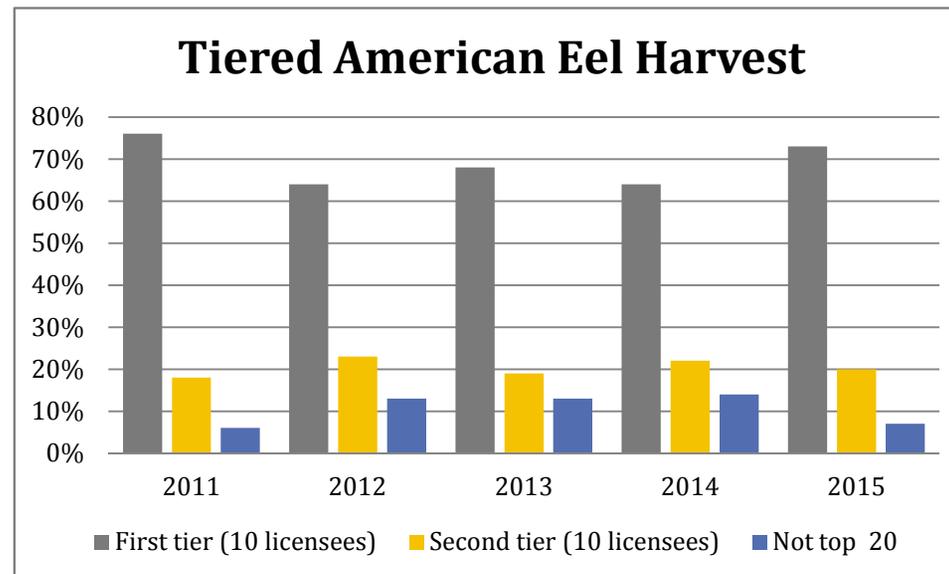
## 465,968 lb Quota



**Who:** Anyone that has reported harvest during 2010-2013. (Time period used to allocate quota). Permits would be tiered based on reported harvest levels.

**Where:** No change in access to where eels caught.

**When:** January 1 – December 31, or until tiered quota is projected to be caught.



# Limited Entry Fishery Example

## 465,968 lb Quota

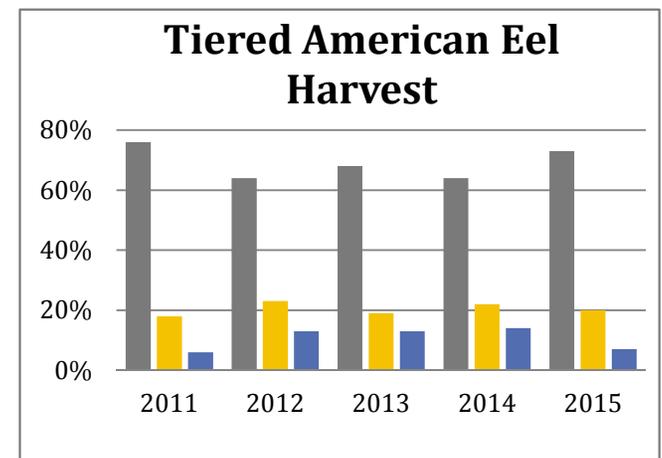


**How:** Quota would be monitored on a more timely basis (monthly reports not enough) and the fishery would be closed once a tiered quota was projected to be caught. Permits would be issued and then a quota would be associated with each tier. For example:

**Benefits:** Prolongs harvest through the year. Should protect the makeup of the existing fishery.

**Concerns:** Must implement regulations to make these changes. A number of people may be restricted from access; and a number of other people may be limited in availability of quota. Complexity in allowing for new entrants/transfers/quota monitoring.

	# Permits	Avg % Harvest	Quota (lbs)
Tier 1	10	69%	321,518
Tier 2	10	20%	93,194
Tier 3	~200	11%	51,256



# Work Schedule



## Next meetings

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm

Tentative Topic: Who should be included?

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-6pm

Tentative Topic: Business Processes