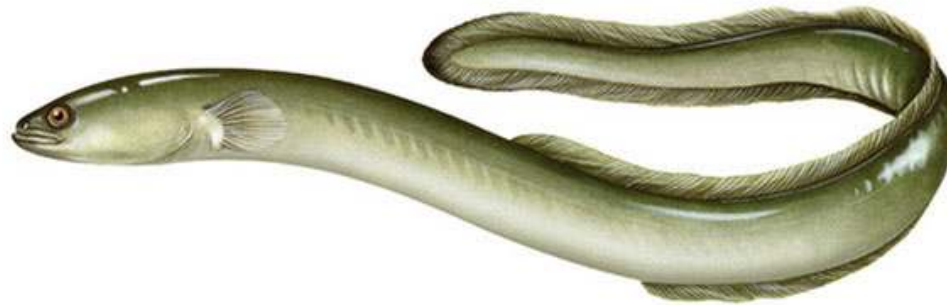


American Eel Workgroup Meeting



January 10, 2016

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, MD

Agenda



- 4:00 Welcome/Introductions/Announcements
- 4:15 Review Fishery Goals and Objectives
- 4:30 Examples of Limited Entry Fisheries and Open Access Fisheries
- 5:50 Public Comment
- 6:00 Adjourn



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 loose summer)
- Some protection for bait dealers
- Allow new entrants
- Fair and equitable; equitable may not mean everyone is equal
- Flexibility
- 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
- Prefer no ITQs

Open Access Fishery Example

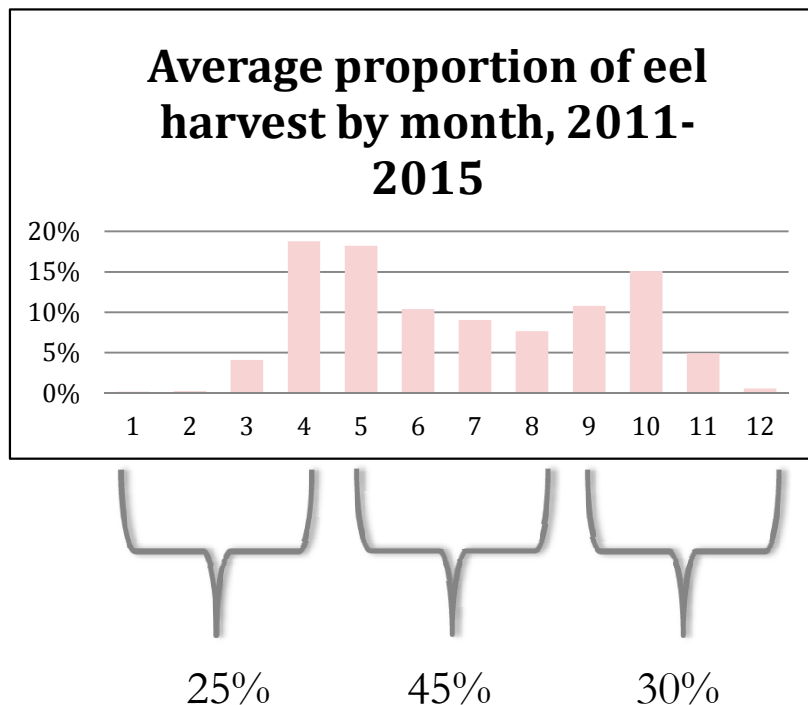
465,968 lb Quota



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

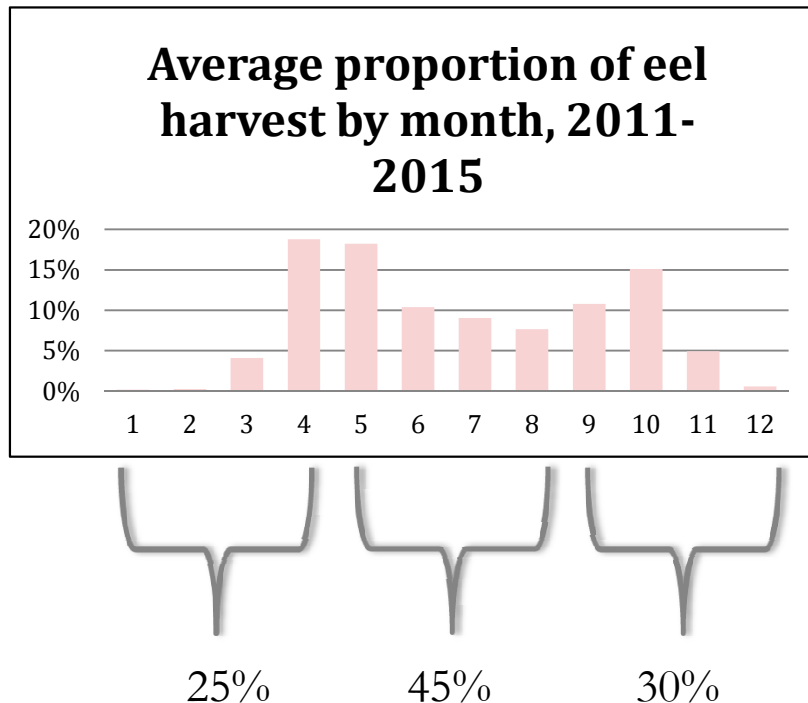
• September 1 – December 31: 139,791 lbs
quota open until projected to be caught

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.

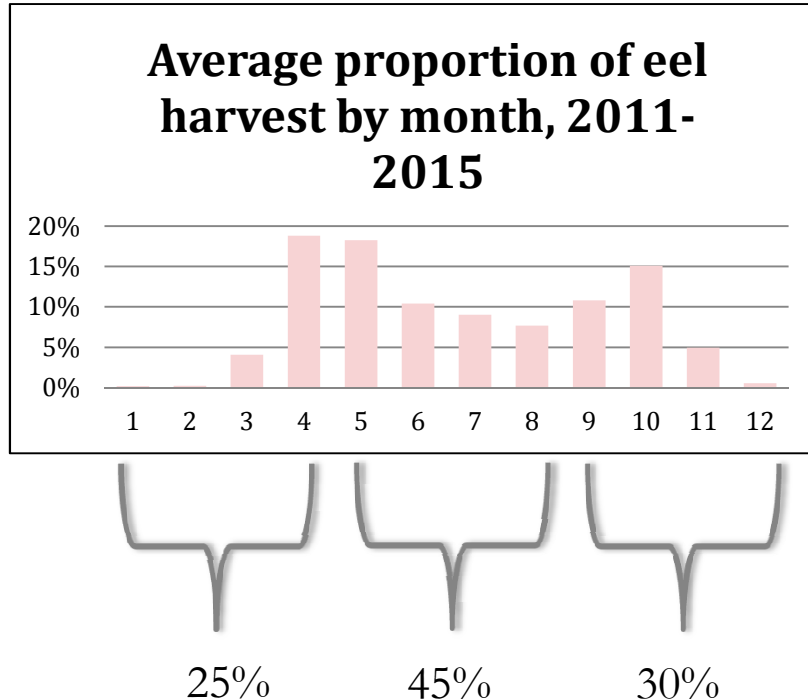
Concerns: Potential for three closings during the year; one (or more) closings could impact certain sectors more than others; potential to impact the highliners the most.

Open Access Fishery Example

465,968 lb Quota



For the years 2011-2015, if quota was managed using this approach, the fishery would have been closed:



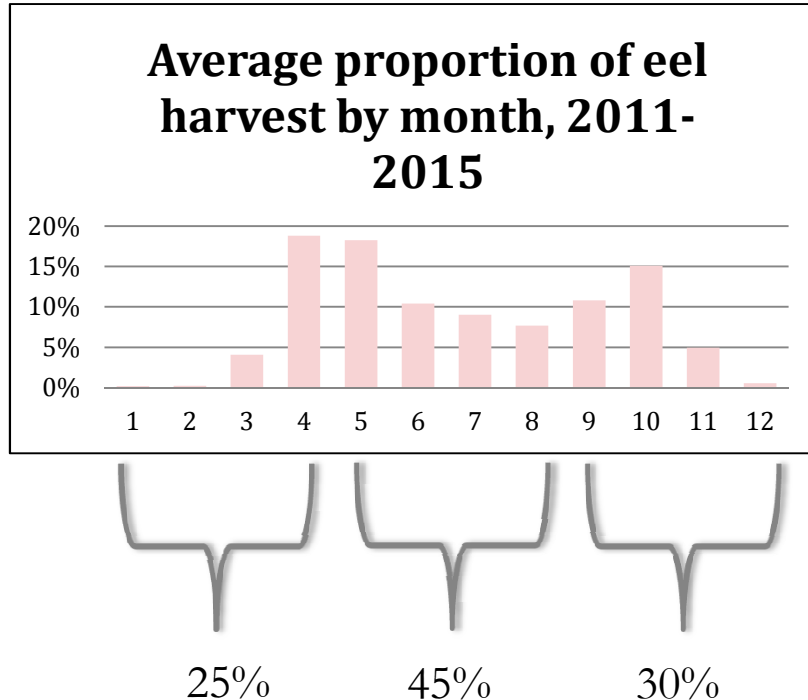
- In first trimester, 3 out of 5 years:
 - Sometime in April
- In second trimester, 4 out of 5 years:
 - One year in June
 - One year in July
 - Two years in August
- In third trimester, 4 out of 5 years:
 - Two years in October
 - Two years in November
- In 2015, only closure would have occurred in August

Open Access Fishery Example

465,968 lb Quota



How do we minimize closures and prolong harvest while managing an open-access quota?



1. Daily vessel or license limits, in April:
153 trips <500lbs
37 trips <750lbs
18 trips <1,000lbs
2. Limited open days/week

Open Access Fishery Example

465,968 lb Quota



Other Open Access Fisheries with Quota in MD:

1. Yellow Perch

- Anyone with appropriate license can get a permit
- Approximately 60 permit holders, half report harvest
- Short season, fishery typically open 2.5 months
- All Yellow Perch tagged for harvest verification

2. Menhaden

- Anyone with appropriate license can harvest menhaden, must complete online form or text in daily harvest
- Typically April – August largest harvests, bycatch fishery after quota caught
- Limited entry to bycatch fishery, must have pound net registration before 2013 date to be eligible for pound net bycatch permit

Limited Entry Fishery Example

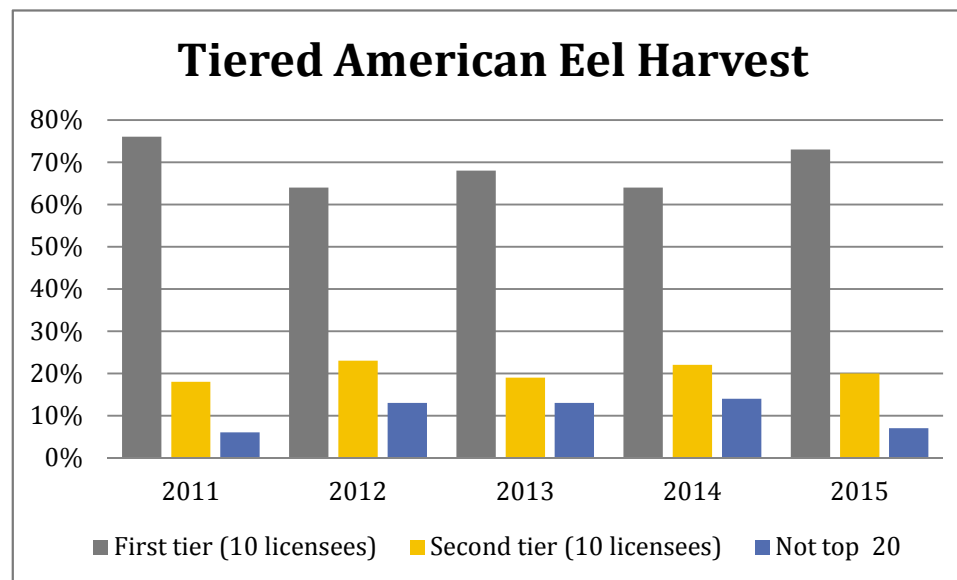
465,968 lb Quota



Who: Anyone that has reported harvest during 2010-2015. 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

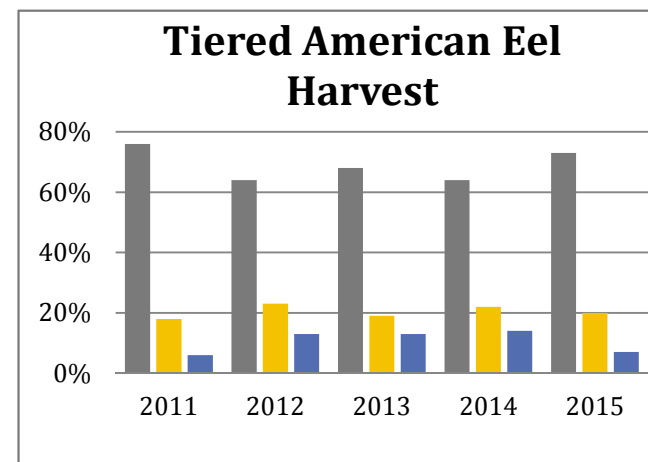


How: Quota would be monitored on a more timely basis (monthly reports not enough) and the fishery would be closed once a tiered quota was projected to be caught. Permits would be issued and then a quota would be associated with each tier. For example:

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



Limited Entry Fishery Example: Spiny Dogfish



Maryland's Spiny Dogfish Fishery, a limited entry – with tiers - example:

- Quota for Maryland set by ASMFC, coast-wide quota monitored by NMFS/MAFMC.
- Low-value fishery, 0.08-0.18/lb, market in Europe, few dealers/processors, quota often left-over.
- Often encountered as bycatch in other coastal fisheries.
- Three levels (tiers) of harvesters:
 - Licensed to land finfish & holds a spiny dogfish permit – 10,000lbs in MD waters
 - Approximately 25 permit holders
 - Licensed to land finfish & holds an Atl striped bass permit – 2,500lbs in MD waters
 - Approximately 75 permit holders
 - Licensed to land finfish – 1,000lbs in MD waters
 - Approximately 10-15 license holders that are likely to benefit, includes out-of-state (NJ/DE)

Work Schedule



Next meetings

Monday, January 23th, 4-6pm

Topic: Harvest Data Collection Challenges and Tools

Thursday, February 2nd, 4-6pm

Tentative Topic: Business Processes