



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Striped Bass Industry Work Group 7-13-11

Striped Bass Industry Work Group Meeting

July 13, 2011

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction- Tom O'Connell, Director Fisheries Service
 - ***Objective: Open the discussion about the future of the commercial striped bass fishery.***
- Management Principles / Identified Problems – M. Luisi
 - ***Objective: Presentation describing the problems with current industry practices which fail to meet our standards for management of the striped bass fishery.***
- Options to Address Identified Problems – M. Luisi
 - ***Objective: Discuss the necessary actions , both regulatory and non-regulatory, to address the problems associated with meeting our management principles.***

Management Principles/Minimum Requirements

The following represent the Department's core fishery management principles:

- Sustainability
- Harvest Accountability
- Enforceability
- Cost Recovery



Striped Bass Workgroup / Goals and Objectives

Goal

- Provide a management plan for the long-term sustainability of the Maryland striped bass commercial fishery

Objectives

- Develop a plan that keeps harvest within the quota
- Create an open process of cooperative development of fishery rules
- Create enforceable and understandable regulations
- Create fair and objective rules for allocation of total quota
- Optimize economic efficiency
- Provide for strict accountability of harvesters

Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Sustainability:

- Current biological targets are being met (SSB, F).
- However, it is necessary to address issues with harvest accountability, enforceability and cost recovery to maintain and fully achieve sustainability



Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Harvest Accountability:

Problems have been identified relating to individual fisherman and check station accountability

- Under Reporting and Falsifying Reports
- Illegal /Misuse of tags
- Calling Check Stations and Physical ID of catch by check station staff





Problems Associated w/ Management Principles

Enforceability:

- Use of Illegal Anchor Gill Nets
- Illegal / Misuse of Tags
- Falsified harvest reports

Cost Recovery:

- Total Permit and License Fee Revenue ~\$451,000
 - Permit (138,000) and License Fee (313,000)
 - Not all fees used for striped bass management
- Total Management & Enforcement Cost ~\$1.02 million
 - *Biological and Permit Monitoring Cost ~\$470,000*
 - *Enforcement Cost ~\$500,000*
 - *Other Misc. Management Cost ~\$50,000*

Options to Address Identified Issues

Enforceability – Short Term (Upcoming Gill Net Fishery):

- Require fisherman's license number identification on net corks on a vessel or deployed.
- Elimination of net reels on boats engaged in gill net fishing in the Chesapeake Bay only.
- Fisheries to provide NRP with commercial tag sequence.
- Increase in Penalties (Existing & Knowingly egregious or repeat)
- Hail-In / Hail-Out (HI/HO) System for all active gill netters.
 - Real-time data for NRP
 - License Number, Date, time of departure, fishing area (HO)
 - Time of return, Location of Landing & Check Station , and estimated harvest (HI)
- Random Check Station Audits

Options to Address Identified Issues

Harvest Accountability (GN Fishery and Beyond):

- Management Uncertainty regarding reported harvest
 - Reduce the quota allocated (December and 2012) to account for this uncertainty
- State Operated Check Stations – Feasible?
 - Approximate cost – \$1.9 million (Cost Recovery?)
- HI/HO with Random Audits at Check Stations (All Gears)
- Enforcement of current regulations that require an individual to accompany his/her fish to the check station with documentation
 - 08.02.15.05D: “At check-in time a person shall present his or her commercial fish license and striped bass allocation permit to the Department representative at the check station.”



Options to Address Identified Issues

Harvest Accountability (GN Fishery and Beyond):

- Mandated Electronic Reporting for all dealers/check stations buying and selling striped bass (SAFIS)
- Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) – Voluntary pilot program
- H&L Check-In Time – Same Day (similar to all other gears)

Options to Address Identified Issues

Cost Recovery:

- Increase commercial fishing license and/or striped bass permit fees over time to obtain greater cost recovery.
- Establish a landings tax



Public Comment

or

Questions?