

**Industry Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2006
Stedman Government Center
Wakefield, RI**

Ken Ketcham, Chair - RIMFC
Stephen Parente, RIMFC
Jim Lowe*
Elizabeth Kordowski
Lanny Dellinger*
Mike McGiveney*
Ed Baker
Brian Murphy, RIDFW
Nancy Scarduzio, RIDFW

* IAC members

IAC Recommendation on Lobster Endorsements for 2007

K. Ketcham announced that the Director has given his approval on the new lobster regulations that institute the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's effort reduction plan for Area 2. At the two previous meetings, the IAC tabled any recommendations on whether new lobster endorsements should be made available in 2007 until the Director made a decision on the lobster regulations. Since the Director has made a decision, K. Ketcham requested that the IAC make a recommendation on the issue. L. Dellinger stated that he does not support issuing new endorsements in 2007 but would support making them available without limit in 2008 since trap tags will limit entry into the fishery. M. McGiveney indicated that new endorsements should be made available to individuals already involved with the fishery first. L. Dellinger replied that it would not matter because trap tags will limit entry into the fishery and any individual who purchases a set of tags from someone in the fishery should be able to get an endorsement. There was discussion on how the program will affect value of trap tags and who should have priority in obtaining endorsements. All were in favor of not issuing new lobster endorsements in 2007.

IAC Recommendation: No new lobster endorsements in 2007.

Species harvested under various endorsements

This issue was brought before the IAC because of uncertainty with licensing regulations and The IAC was informed that according to DEM legal, an individual with a quahog endorsement is only allowed to take quahogs and a non-quahog endorsement is required to harvest all other shellfish. The same is also true for restricted finfish and lobster

endorsements. An individual with a restricted finfish endorsement needs to have nonrestricted finfish endorsement to harvest species that are not under the restricted category and a nonlobster endorsement to take crustaceans other than lobster. M. McGiveney stated that the regulations should be changed so that a person with a quahog endorsement can harvest any type of shellfish and not be required to spend the extra money for an additional endorsement. There was discussion on whether the endorsement categories were created in statute or regulations. B. Murphy informed the IAC that the existing endorsement categories exist in statute, which also gives the Department the authority to create new endorsements through regulation. He also stated that the statutes do not mention which species are available under the various endorsement categories and the only endorsement for which a list of species is provided in regulation is the restricted finfish. K. Ketcham indicated that it was not industry's intention for this to happen when the new laws were written but somehow ended up that way. A motion was made to modify quahog endorsements to include all shellfish including but not limited to quahogs, steamers, snails, whelks, oysters, scallops, and mussels. All were favor. A motion was made to modify restricted finfish endorsements to include all finfish. All were in favor. And lastly, a motion was made to modify lobster endorsements to include all crustaceans along with lobsters.

IAC Recommendation: Modify regulations to allow individuals with a quahog endorsement to harvest all species of shellfish, a restricted finfish endorsement to harvest all species of finfish, and a lobster endorsement to harvest of all species of crustaceans.