

**Industry Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2007
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Jamestown, RI**

There were 12 people present (* IAC member)

Ken Ketcham, Chair	Jeff Grant
Jim Lowe*	Nancy Scarduzio, RIDFW
Lanny Dellinger*	Bob Ballou, RIDEM
Mike McGiveney*	Brian Murphy, RIDFW
Ted Platz*	
Rick Bellavance*	
Robert Mattucci*	
Stephen Parente	
Raymond Allard	
Ian Parente	

Shellfish

B. Ballou stated that at the last IAC meeting the committee tabled recommendations on licensing for the shellfish sector until data from SAFIS regarding the activity of non-renewed licenses was available. He indicated that the committee has operated under the assumption of a 1:1 ratio between non-renewed licenses and new licenses. The ratio of 3:1 was used in past years because the activity of those licenses was unknown. The SAFIS data available this year indicates that of 46 multipurpose licenses not renewed in 2007, three were involved with sale of quahogs and of the 49 principal effort licenses not renewed with quahog endorsements, three had quahog sales activity. It was suggested to look at the 2005 data to see if those licenses would qualify as active according to definition in regulation but it was determined that data was sparse that year because SAFIS was not fully online. M. McGiveney stated that he thought the ratio would be closer to 3:1 rather than 10:1 as indicated by the SAFIS data. He suggested remaining with the 3:1 ratio for this year and then conduct more research on effort. B. Mattucci made the suggestion to assume that the six licenses not renewed with quahog sales be regarded as active licenses. There was some discussion on whether multipurpose licenses would ever be available because principal licenses cost more. **M. McGiveney moved to use a 3:1 ratio between non-renewed principal effort licenses with quahog endorsements and new licenses available for the 49 principal effort licenses. All were in favor.**

B. Ballou commented that based on the number of non-quahog endorsements issued and landings data that capping effort on soft shell clams might be necessary. He suggested creating a soft shell clam endorsement and grandfathering current license holders as a

method to curb increased effort. M. McGiveney stated that anyone with a principal effort license and quahog endorsement should have access to all shellfish. B. Ballou responded that the issue lies with having to pay \$75 for the non-quahog endorsement. B. Mattiucci suggested adopting a control date and those who buy the non-quahog endorsement after that date would be given notice that soft shell clams might be removed as an available resource if determined to be overexploited. Discussion ensued regarding license fees. There was discussion on whether it takes more time to earn same money as previous years. An individual who fishes for soft shell clams responded that it does take more time, which is an indication that the resource is being depleted. There was question as to information available and whether DEM is currently conducting any surveys on soft shell clams. Response was that no surveys were currently being conducted. B. Murphy suggested that CPUE data could be gathered for 2006 and 2007 through SAFIS and compared to see if any changes have occurred.

B. Mattiucci made a motion to recommend setting a control date for new licenses. T. Platz amended the motion to make the control as close to the present as reasonable. There was discussion on setting 12/31/07 as a control date which would allow time for notice to those getting licenses on 1/1/08. Two were in favor of the motion and four opposed. Motion failed.

B. Ballou stated that another option to limit landings is through reducing possession limits. **M. McGiveney made a motion to combine the quahog and non-quahog endorsements for principal effort licenses. Four were in favor and two opposed. Motion passed.** The Committee agreed that the fee could be determined at a later time.

Lobster

B. Ballou stated that the transferability plan for lobster pots is still being resolved but will be in place at some future time. There was much discussion on whether lobster licenses should be open. Some felt they should not be open while others stated they should be available to anyone interested in obtaining pots since the fishery is now controlled through pot allocations. There was concern that opening licenses would cause the value of existing businesses to increase drastically. One individual suggested on giving those denied an allocation first option on getting a license. Those in favor of opening licenses stated that a person should not be restricted when selling their business and if there are no eligible buyers in RI will then allocations will be sold to NY, CT, or MA. J. Lowe was opposed to opening licenses next year because a lawsuit against ASMFC regarding the plan is currently open. **There was a motion to recommend opening lobster endorsements. Three were in favor while three were opposed.**

Finfish

Based on reductions in commercial quotas for many species next year the committee agreed that new finfish endorsements should not be made available in 2008. There was discussion on ways to allow those with a CFL with a non-restricted finfish endorsement

to upgrade to a restricted endorsement. One suggestion was to allow those that are actively fishing to upgrade after some specified number of years. Several people disagreed because of the limited amount of fish available through quotas. **The committee agreed to recommend status quo and not allow any new restricted finfish endorsements in 2008.**

B. Ballou reviewed several other issues such as annual versus biannual availability of new licenses, commercial fishing license review board, non-resident licensees that move into the State, individual licenses versus vessel licenses, license fees, and recreational licenses.