



May Local Scallop Meeting Summaries

Dennysville, May 4

Attendees: Earl Small, Chris Bartlett, Barry Huckins, James Ackley, Mike Kilby, Norman Small, Deb Bridges, David Sweeney, Mike Murphy II, Chris Leighton, Lisa Leighton, Stephen Calder, Sheila Huckins, Tim Sheehan, Tom Pottle, Russell Wright, Brian Brodie, Paul Cox, and Randy Newcomb.

Meeting Highlights:

- Support an endorsement so vessels fishing Zone 3 are restricted to area measures statewide.
- Support owner-operator with no grandfathering in of business arrangements.
- More access to Whiting & Denny's Bays and St. Croix River.
- No split season.
- Keep product on market as long as possible.
- Prefer a standardized 5 gallon bucket.

Machias, May 5

Attendees: James Ackley, Mike Murphy II, Ben Crocker Jr., Curtis Haycock, Ron T. Trundy, Chris Chu, James Ackley, Tracey Sawtelle, Billy Moore, Mark Murray and Jason Leavitt.

Meeting Highlights:

- Limited Entry— cannot let anyone else into this fishery at this point. Support apprenticeship for entry.
- Need owner-operator. How does this work for divers?
- Increase license fees to deter latency & support research.
- Rotational Management: would like all areas to open up in Feb/Mar to keep guys from going down to Cobscook.
- Penalties: all associated with the offending vessel should be suspended and vessel out of fishery.

Blue Hill, May 6

Attendees: Josh Stoll, Ben Heanssler, James West, Rustin Ames, Frank Jones, Carla Guenther, Marianne Ferguson, and Rustin Ames.

Meeting Highlights:

- Pilot VMS Program Proposal: Pick days & 2 year rotations.
 - o Fishermen willing to use a tracking system that would support the 2 year rotations, pick days, be notified when crossing into a closed area. This system could assist with quota monitoring and quantify impacts/activity to inform in-season closures.
 - o Area fishermen met with PoleStar to explore the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems.
 - o Participants should have no violations within the past 7 years and participants chosen by raffles and be historical participants.
 - o Two year rotation in exchange for January start/54 day season (Frank Jones proposal).

- Limited Entry: Allow a certain number of licenses in the area per year, a community allocation. Need to own a boat and could require that an application be submitted to a local community and endorsed by 4 or 5 members of the local fleet.
- Would like the Frenchboro Cable Area opened up to “low impact” drags.
- Survey should be done earlier or within the season as there is a lot of lobster gear in the water right now. Would like to see results comparing one year closures vs. multiyear closures.
- State needs to expand its offshore jurisdiction from 3 out to 12 miles.

Augusta, May 11

Attendees: Alex Todd, Craig Stewart, Jeremy Ames, Marianne Ferguson, Marissa Hammond, Sarah Madronal, Ray Swenton, Tad Miller, Bob Baines, Togue Brawn, Jim Wotton, Dan Miller, Brian Preney, Brian Soper, Travis Fogg, Dan Miller

Meeting Highlights:

- Overall, harvesters felt that either the fishing season was not that great or just OK. Really back to “normal” level before the larger, three year closures were implemented in 2009. Large influx of latent effort negated any gains in biomass and only have larger scallops, no small scallops or signs of recruitment. Resource is very different from Downeast, spotty.
- Divers would prefer no days in January and February (December, March and April only). No Saturday Limited Access Area days. Divers feel that draggers have “altered” the bottom.
- Muscongus Bay LAA & Sheepscot River destroyed and should be closed next year. Also, Damariscotta River to stay closed and only opened when the shrimp fishery re-opens.
- Should be doing dive surveys. Survey timing too late. Should do in season surveys in mid-January. Muscle Ridge “large tow” outlier should be thrown out as overall area is really down.
- Support a December 15th start with a 60 day season for entire Zone 1.
- Keep Limited Access Areas the same with same days.

Ellsworth, May 27

Attendees: Sarah Madronal, William Soukup, Brian Gordius, Jeff Turcotte, Justin David, Shirley Soukup, Bill Anderson, Gary Hatch, Erin Owen and Carla Guenther.

Meeting Highlights:

- Boat length limit inshore as larger vessels tow heavier gear with greater impact; inshore/offshore line for vessel & drag size. Dredge size limit in Dyer Bay similar to Gouldsboro.
- Support owner-operator; acknowledged may need grandfathering of current business relationships.
- Protect smaller, targeted seed areas with longer term closures. Close the bays, open up outside.
 - o Federal science shows that what comes out of closed areas in terms of spat production/spawning far outweighs what is harvested in regards to fishery benefits.
 - o Scallops in Union River should have been protected as could have seeded surrounding areas. Consider reseeding scallops from Cobscook to help recovery. If Gouldsboro Bay was protected, could seed outside areas – should restrict harvest in this area to protect/maintain stock.
 - o Possible that eastern Maine and around Machias Seal Island could reseed all of Gulf of Maine. Maine fishery also benefitting from Canadian stocks
- Should consider joint management of the St. Croix River with Canadians; ideal seed area.
- Concern over a new invasive tunicate or “sea squirt” in Somes Sound area that is smothering scallops.
- Should not release information on catch in press releases regarding violations in-season as may drive fleet to those areas. Same with release of survey data.