

Tab B, No. 5

From: Dave McKinney [mailto:Dave.McKinney@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 8:47 AM
To: Wayne Swingle; 'Hal Robbins'; 'Phil Steele'
Cc: 'John Reed'; Tina Trezza; 'Anik Clemens'
Subject: IFQ workshops report on first series

Wayne:

Good morning. The following is my report to the Council on the first round of red snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) stakeholder workshops:

During the week of September 11, 2006 NMFS and Gulf Council staffs conducted a series of stakeholder IFQ training workshops across the Gulf of Mexico. The total number of registered attendees was approximately 136, although a number of persons attended and did not sign in. The workshops were held in Panama City, Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston. Two Council members Messrs. Horn and Pierce were in attendance in Mobile and New Orleans respectively. State law enforcement officers also attended the training in Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston. Each session was individually well attended with standing room only in all but Galveston which had approximately ten seats left vacant.

The vast majority of attendees were class 1 and class 2 fishers. A number of dealers attended and a few recreational fishers.

Each session began at 1900 (7pm) and usually ended formally at 2200 (10pm). At all sessions there were follow-on discussions after the meeting which continued as late as 2330 (1130pm). Attendees were encouraged to sign-in, the meetings were recorded, and major questions were captured to ensure we enhanced each subsequent stakeholder meeting and, finally, the questions will be used in an upcoming SERO-IFQ online tutorial under "commonly asked questions."

The presentation itself consisted of two power point presentations. The first by NMFS Law Enforcement to explain the program and the second by SERO-OMI elaborating on the initial presentation by showing how all aspects of the IFQ program would operate on a real-time basis. Both presentations were conducted in an open format. We actively solicited comments and suggestions from the audience on areas of improvement; both for changes which could be made contemporaneously and those which will be included in the first modification of the overall system. Having the participants learn and simultaneously comment on the IFQ system required some control of the discussions by the presenters but hopefully demonstrated to the fishers and dealers their input into the real-time electronic data gathering process was important to ensure the IFQ program remains lucrative and user friendly.

The meetings also raised questions which the team could not answer. Following each meeting, as you are aware, I would report on those questions and seek answers. By the final meeting in Galveston all those questions had been researched and resolved.

As anticipated, we had a disappointing turn out by the Vietnamese segment of the commercial fishing industry. It was determined early on one stumbling block is the language barrier. Therefore, in the next round of stakeholder meetings in November we intend to have specific notice to the Vietnamese community. This will take the form of posters and letters in Vietnamese to potential participants inviting them to attend; a discussion of the IFQ program on a Vietnamese talk show at a radio station in Houston; and a Vietnamese interpreter at the Lake Charles, Louisiana and Corpus Christi, Texas stakeholder meetings.

It is my intent to assess our collective outreach efforts following the November round of stakeholder meetings to determine how, or if, a final round in December will be required. I will keep you apprised of developments as always. My thanks to the participating Council and NMFS staffs for their efforts in this project.

This concludes my report.

Regards,
Dave