

From: Wayne Swingle
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2006 2:26 PM
To: Meg Kosick; Trish Kennedy
Cc: Dave McKinney; All Technical Staff
Subject: FW: IFQ Stakeholder Meeting Report to the Reef Fish Committee
Attached is Dave's report for the briefing book

From: Dave McKinney [mailto:Dave.McKinney@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2006 9:01 AM
To: Wayne Swingle
Cc: 'Hal Robbins'; 'Phil Steele'; 'John Reed'; Tina Trezza; 'Anik Clemens'; 'Charles Tyer'; Richard.Cook@noaa.gov
Subject: IFQ Stakeholder Meeting Report to the Reef Fish Committee

Wayne:

Here is the report from our last round of stakeholder meetings across the Gulf.

The joint NMFS-Gulf Council IFQ training team conducted another round of stakeholder meetings from November 27th to December 1st. Meetings were scheduled for Destin, Florida; Orange Beach, Alabama; Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Corpus Christi, Texas. Destin, Florida had the highest turnout with approximately 35 attendees. Orange Beach had approximately 25 attendees. Lake Charles and Corpus Christi locations both had less than a dozen attendees per session.

The team switched the training format from a general indoctrination (as was conducted during the first round) to a more focused and task oriented program given the recent developments in the Final Rule going forward and the recommended 90 day delay in VMS implementation. The stated goal of the team at the beginning of each meeting was to assist fishers and dealers in the smooth transition from the current red snapper plan to the red snapper IFQ. The team took questions and concerns from the audience at the start of each meeting and then proceeded with the formal presentation, paying particular attention to any concerns raised in advance. The discussions on any topic of interest continued until the participants were either satisfied that they had received the information they needed or, in some cases, were referred to subject matter experts including name and telephone number of the specialist.

All meetings were orderly and focused on the business aspects of the IFQ. Of particular interest was the discussion at almost every session on how to connect fishers wishing to sell quota share or allocation with fishers desiring to purchase quota share or allocation. At the Corpus Christi meeting an individual attended with the stated goal of actually becoming a broker.

The team was somewhat disappointed with the overall turnout of Vietnamese-American fishers with all the advanced notice to the fishing community at large. A NMFS employee acting as a Vietnamese interpreter was even available at the Lake Charles and Corpus Christi meetings. As an aside, two OLE agents did appear on a Vietnamese radio station (based in Houston) to explain the IFQ program and the upcoming VMS requirements to the listening audience. That radio session prompted several calls to the SERO.

Based upon the diminishing turnout, another stakeholder session in December was deemed counterproductive. Instead, the joint team developed a special training session at the SERO in December. In addition, a workroom equipped with computers and staff availability, at the SERO, is being implemented to assist fishers and dealers who may need further training and/or assistance. Finally, the team is working on an online tutorial which will serve both as a guide and reference manual and will be periodically updated as appropriate. The tutorial will be located on the SERO IFQ website.

The team members wish to thank the Council and NMFS for the opportunity of participating in the red snapper IFQ implementation process. I would like to extend my gratitude to each team member: John Reed, Tina Trezza and Anik Clemens for their professionalism and dedication to the success of the red snapper IFQ program.

This concludes my report to the committee.

Thank you,
David McKinney
Team leader