**ACCSP BYCATCH PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

**Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

**Time: 12:30PM-5:00PM**

**Location: Westin Crystal City**

**1800 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202**

**Webinar Information:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6467897369343043936>

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Partner** | **Phone** | **Email** |
| Lee Benaka | NOAA |  | lee.benaka@noaa.gov |
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| Christopher Davis | VA MRC |  | christopher.davis@mrc.virginia.gov |
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| Jesse Hornstein | NY DEC |  | [jesse.hornstein@dec.ny.gov](mailto:jesse.hornstein@dec.ny.gov) |
| Jennifer Lee | NOAA |  | jennifer.lee@noaa.gov |
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| Edward Leonard | GA DNR |  | eddie.leonard@dnr.ga.gov |
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| Chris Uraneck (Vice Chair) | ME DMR | 207-350-6040 | [chris.b.uraneck@maine.gov](mailto:chris.b.uraneck@maine.gov) |
| Sara Weeks | NOAA |  | [sara.weeks@noaa.gov](mailto:sara.weeks@noaa.gov) |
| Greg Wojcik | CT DEEP | 860-434-6043 | gregory.wojcik@ct.gov |

Staff Members in Attendance: A. Christmas-Svajdlenka (Data Coordinator), A. Lee (Data Coordinator), J. Ni (Data Analyst), H. Power (Senior Fisheries Data Coordinator), M. Rinaldi (Data Team Lead)

**Welcome/Introduction**

H. Power and C. Uraneck welcomed the group.

**Approval of Agenda**

C. Uraneck moved to approve the agenda. D. Player approved the motion to approve agenda, L. Benaka second the motion.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Bycatch Matrix Suggested Changes**

* Items brought to committee attention during last matrix review to be finalized this year-
  + South Atlantic Otter Trawl for the future look at what species are being landed, and what gears are being used for this fleet
  + Fleet name for the Atlantic Eel trap/pot
  + Fleet name of the New England Purse Seine and separate into NE inshore PS and NE PS or by permit type, states versus federal.
  + Split New England Purse Seine (Gillnet) fleet. This includes the New England small mesh gill net (primarily targets menhaden, inshore) and New England large mesh gill net (primarily targets groundfish, offshore)

H. Power noted matrix changes to be readdressed including line 21, 22, 39,40,42, and 83 on the matrix.

**South Atlantic Otter trawl**

H. Power asked for South Atlantic Otter Trawl what additional species should be listed for primary species landed. J. Curtis noted adding King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel for both primary and bycatch. The group agreed by consent.

H. Power asked about gear inclusions. The group agreed to make no additional gear inclusions.

**Mid Atlantic Eel Trap/ Pot**

H. Power noted the suggested change to Mid Atlantic Eel Trap/ Pot, was to change the fleet name to Atlantic Eel Trap/Pot. The group agreed to this change by consent.

H. Power asked about additional species changes. S. Doctor noted to add Blue Crab and Brown Bull Head as additional bycatch species. C. Uraneck noted for stock range to include New England. The group agreed to this change by consent.

**New England Purse Seine**

H. Power noted the suggested change to New England Purse Seine was to separate the fleet by New England in shore and New England Permit type.

C. Uraneck discussed the change for New England Purse Seine. Maine regulations change often off shore includes Herring fleet and inshore includes Menhaden fleet which use smaller boats. Federal permit allows observer onboard. State permit has no observer coverage. The current matrix mentions a bycatch program.

H. Power asked if the fleet is separate would it affect the way the matrix is currently. The biggest difference would be observer. H. Power noted to make a clarification for bycatch programs between state and federal observer coverage. N. Lengyel Costa noted Rhode Island and New England does state observer programs that does include Maine for Herring and Menhaden species. The ACCSP grant covers larger vessels with pumps.

N. Lengyel Costa suggested adding a new specific row for Gulf of Maine or discussing it with the Bycatch program for small scale vessels. C. Uraneck noted a comment can be added related to small scale fisheries are not covered by the bycatch program. H. Power added should the comment be added to the matrix itself and where or the bycatch presentation.

H. Power noted the Bycatch Committee creates the top 25% of the matrix. The top 25% gets used for funding, and is presented to the Coordinating Council.

N. Lengyel Costa suggested adding to the bycatch program column “yes”, “no : Gulf of Maine inshore”. The group agreed with this change.

**New England Gillnet fleet**

H. Power noted currently the fleet includes both New England small mesh gillnet and New England large mesh gillnet. Combined as a New England Gillnet fleet.

C. Uraneck noted Maine has inshore gillnet fishing fleet for Menhaden. The suggested change included adding to the bycatch program column “yes” and “no: Gulf of Maine small mesh gillnet”. The group agreed with these changes.

**H. Power noted all changes will be included in the matrix.**

**Update Bycatch Priority Sampling Matrix for FY 2024**

C. Uraneck went over the updates and changes for the Bycatch Priority Sampling Matrix for FY 2024.

Bulk/ Approval Suggestions

**American Lobster Pot**

Gulf of Maine/ Southern New England- Fleet name change to American Lobster Pots. Change was approved.

Gulf of Maine – Amount of regulatory/ non regulatory discard suggested to change from 4 to 2. Change was rejected.

Southern New England- Amount of regulatory/ non-regulation discard suggested to change from 4 to 2. Change was rejected.

Gulf of Maine- Significant change in management suggested to change from 1 to 3. This change was approved.

Southern New England- Significant change in management suggested to change from 1 to 3. This change was approved

**Florida Spiny American Lobster fishery of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands Trap/Pot**

South Atlantic, Florida- Significant change in management from 1 to 0. This change was approved.

**Green stick/ Trolling Fleet**

Atlantic Coast- Amount of regulatory discards from suggested change from a 2 to 5. H. Power suggested S. Weeks to send NOAA documentation related changes to the amount of regulatory discards for the group to review.

South Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change to yes. This change was approved.

Atlantic Coast- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. The group agreed to this change.

**The group agreed to table the changes related to the amount of regulatory discards proposed by S. Weeks and review the NOAA documentation before accepting changes. S. Wigley and J. Defilippi Simpson will be contacted for future meetings to discuss regulatory discards in early summer/fall.**

**NE Purse Seine**

Disregarded changes. (Marked red disregarded from Matrix)

**Gulf of Maine, NE, Mid-Atlantic Harpoon**

Gulf of Maine, NE, Mid-Atlantic - Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

**Mid-Atlantic traps and pots**

Mid Atlantic- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**Mid Atlantic large mesh otter trawl bottom**

Mid Atlantic- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**Atlantic Bottom Longline**

Mid Atlantic- Significant change in management suggested change from 3 to 1. This change was accepted.

**Mid Atlantic Eel trap/pot**

Mid Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

**Mid Atlantic Haul/Beach Seine-Long Haul**

Mid Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

**Mid Atlantic Mid Water Otter trawl**

Mid Atlantic- Significant change in management score suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**Mid-Atlantic Pound Net**

Mid Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no for federal New England. Yes, for the rest of the regions. This change was accepted.

**Mid-Atlantic Small Mesh Otter Trawl Bottom**

Mid Atlantic – Suggested change to add Horseshoe Crab species to fleet (landed and concern). This change was accepted.

New England- Suggested to change landings. This change was accepted.

**New England Bluefin Tuna Purse Seine Fleet**

NOAA, NEFSC- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

It was noted this fleet has a shared quota and will be reevaluated next matrix review.

**New England Bottom Long Line**

Maine- Bycatch programs change from yes to no inshore coverage for Gulf of Maine, but yes for all others. This change was highlighted red and disregarded from matrix.

New England- Primary Bycatch suggested to include sharks. **C. Uraneck will follow up on species specific sharks for the matrix.**

**New England Conch Pot/Trap**

New England- Significant change in management suggested change to 1. Related to future implementation within the year. This change was accepted.

**New England Fish Pot/Traps**

New England- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. Related ASMFC amendment. This change was accepted.

**New England Fixed Net**

New England- Bycatch programs suggested change to no. Maine at the state level does not have this program. Federal program does cover gillnet fisheries. H. Power reviewed ACCSP gear codes. 3 related ACCSP gear codes are ground nets, reels and stop nets. This change was accepted.

**New England Floating Trap**

New England- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no.

New England- Significant change in management suggested change from to 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**New England Hagfish Pots and Traps**

New England- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

**New England Large mesh gillnet**

New England- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**New England Large mesh otter trawl**

New England- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**New England mid-water otter trawl**

New England - Protected species interactions suggested change to 1. This change was accepted.

New England- Significant change in management suggested change to 3. This change was accepted.

**New England Otter Trawl**

New England- Suggested to add species to fleet (landed and concern) to add Horseshoe crab, small directed bottom water trawl to fisheries. This change was accepted.

New England- Primary bycatch suggested change to include Lobster. Maine considers this Bycatch species. Other states consider it both bycatch and target species. This change was accepted.

**New England Purse Seine**

New England- Significant change in management suggested change to 3. This change was accepted.

**New England Scallop Dredge**

New England- Primary Bycatch suggested change to include Lobster. This change was accepted.

**New England Shrimp Pot**

New England- Bycatch Programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

New England- Protected species interactions suggested change to 0 fishery moratorium. This change was accepted. This fleet name was greyed out.

**New England Shrimp Trawl**

It was noted the New England Shrimp Trawl has been inactive for years. There was a suggested change to remove this fleet name. The group determined the fleet name will be greyed out. **All inactive fleets will be greyed out.**

**New England Small Mesh Gillnet**

New England - Significant change in management from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**North Atlantic General Category Tuna (Handgear)**

North Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change from yes to no. This change was accepted.

North Atlantic- Suggested change to include Portbeagle, Dogfish, Blue Shark and Thresher Sharks for primary bycatch. This change was accepted.

**Pelagic H &L fleet**

North of Hatteras- Significant change in management suggested change from 1 to 3. This change was accepted.

**Snapper Grouper H&L fleet**

South Atlantic - Bycatch programs suggested change to yes. The group accepted this change.

NOAA - Bycatch programs suggested change to yes. The group accepted this change.

**South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Bottom longline**

South Atlantic- Bycatch programs suggested change to yes. The group accepted this change.

**Finalize Bycatch Priority Sampling Matrix for FY 2024**

C. Davis moved to approve the updated matrix changes. B. Schondelmeier seconded that motion. The changes for the Bycatch Priority Sampling Matrix for FY 2024 were approved by consent.

**Biological/Bycatch Inventory Application Demo**

M. Rinaldi demonstrate Biological/Bycatch Inventory Application. This tool was requested by the Committee previously. Previously a spreadsheet including effort, year, species specific focus such as gear types, monitor of catch, and additional comments. The ACCSP software team created the application with requirements considered. Biological/Bycatch Inventory Application can be found on the Data Warehouse page. Program level information and fleet specific information can be found on the bycatch list. M. Rinaldi demonstrated completing bycatch program form.

Projected implementation is within the next month. H. Power asked would this application update along with the matrix or on its own overtime. M. Rinaldi noted was a program is entered it should be stable it does not have to be updated every year. Previous records are also kept in the application by year. B. Schondelmeier asked procedural questions sea sampling for bycatch and biological data would a row need to be populated for each method. M. Rinaldi noted at this stage yes, it would need to be separate entries for now.

Data inventory should be complete for 2023 by March. M. Rinaldi requested to the Committee to send a list of people who would submit into the Biological/Bycatch Inventory Application. ACCSP will assist with on boarding as needed. C. Uraneck asked if the information being uploaded is just including sea sampling. M. Rinaldi noted for the bycatch inventory the meta data will be link with state monitoring data in the future. There is no input for discard data. L. Benaka asked if there could be a website for the program in the future. ACCSP will consider improvements within the next year. L. Benaka asked if there are guidelines for the PDF files. M. Rinaldi noted PDF files can be determined by the agency. The application is limited to one PDF.

M. Rinaldi asked if 6 weeks is enough time for agencies to submit data after the initial production release. After production release ACCSP will follow up with Data Warehouse account information.

**Elections**

C. Bradshaw will step down as Chair. C. Uraneck will move into the Chair position. C. Davis nominated himself for Vice Chair.

**Hot Topic/Other Business**

There were no hot topics.

For other business M. Powell provided an update on the Atlantic Coast Data Standards. M. Powell and J. DeFilippi Simpson are working on creating the website portion of the updated Atlantic Coast Data Standards to make it more dynamic. The timeline for this would be by the end of the 1st quarter.

H. Power will send out the updated matrix soon.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consent.

**Action Items**

1. **H. Power will update all previously suggested and approve changes to the matrix. DONE**
2. **The group agreed to table the changes related to the amount of regulatory discards proposed by S. Weeks and review the NOAA documentation before accepting changes. S. Wigley and J. Defilippi Simpson will be contacted for future meetings to discuss regulatory discards in early summer/fall. H. Power will make all approved changes to the matrix.**
3. **For New England Bottom Longline Fleet C. Uraneck will follow up on species specific sharks for the matrix. DONE**
4. **The New England Shrimp Trawl fleet has been deemed inactive by the committee and will be moved out of the matrix. DONE**