

NHSG Fisheries Roundtable Series
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
Seacoast Science Center, 5pm - 7pm

SUMMARY NOTES

A Fishing Community Dialogue on Values and Impacts of Change in the Gulf of Maine

Goal of this Roundtable session: Share your perceptions about fishing community values, anticipated impacts, and associated implications of change in the Gulf of Maine. Assessing fishing community values will help to prioritize actions that the industry can take to address your needs.

What is Sea Grant's role? Ecological and economic change in the Gulf of Maine presents a complex set of opportunities and trade-offs for communities and industries in NH. NHSG does not have any decision-making authority as change happens, but is committed to encouraging community engagement and autonomy, serving as an honest broker of information, and providing the best available science. We are here to facilitate open, honest discussion and give guidance to you all on effective ways to engage. We cannot advocate for the industry, but we are here to help make connections and support you all in navigating change.

Nov. 29 Discussion Prompts:

- What matters to you? What does the industry value?
- How will a changing seascape impact what you value?

Takeaways from discussion:

Roundtable participants expressed frustration over the oversight of their deeply held values in pivotal decisions, policies, and ocean-planning processes. These values, linked closely to accrued knowledge, are crucial yet often not prioritized. To address this, a suggested approach involves pinpointing and categorizing these values to construct action plans that specifically address key concerns. Despite a sense of futility in affecting change, there was recognition that control is not entirely absent; instances like [NHCFA's consistent and continuing involvement in offshore wind siting](#) have yielded [relatively positive outcomes](#). This acknowledgment underscores that industry engagement can generate progress, even if it might not meet the desired pace or level of acceptability. Outcomes from the conversation are below.

Next steps:

We have invited the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and NOAA Fisheries to the [next Roundtable \(Dec. 13, 2023\)](#), to seek your input on their [Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind Integrated Ecosystem Assessment \(IEA\) for the Gulf of Maine](#). This is an opportunity to insert your accrued knowledge, values, and associated concerns into an ongoing process, and generate progress towards preserving what you value.

In 2024 Roundtables, we would like to build on these discussions by communally prioritizing ideas to work towards an action plan that addresses key concerns.

Nov. 29 exercise outcomes:

<i>What matters to you? What does the industry value?</i>		
Value	Sub-value	Example
Basic functional infrastructure	Ability to physically access ocean	Functional boat ramps, piers
	Ability to process seafood	cold storage on piers; cold storage on boats; hoists
Autonomy	Freedom to fish	
	Freedom from surveillance	
	Space to fish	
	Ability to become owner-operator	
Cultural connection	Continuance of heritage	
	Emotional connection to ocean	
	Multi-generational knowledge	
	Ecological knowledge	
	Spatial connection	
Food security	Food affordability	
	Access to fresh seafood	
	Local food sources	
Healthy marine ecosystem	Healthy non-fished species	whales; marine birds
	Intact habitats and conditions	
	Sustainability of commercial species	
Capability to effect change	Having fishermen's knowledge valued	
	Being understood	
	Scientific evidence	
Stability of fisheries and markets	Affordability	Cost of fuel; cost of bait
	Continuity of fleet and fisheries into the future	
	Community support	
	Opportunity for future generations	
Industry diversity	Decentralized quota allocation	
	Small boat fishery, lobster fishery	

Action Category	Possible Action	Value impacted
Prioritization	Create an action plan with prioritized actions, and track how/when the action plan is implemented	
Infrastructure	Get on Pease Development Authority agenda (PDA has advisory role for the New Hampshire Port Authority)	Basic functional infrastructure; capability to effect change; stability of

		fisheries & markets; autonomy; food security
	Survey/Map of fishing infrastructure & infrastructure needs (survey three state facilities and coop)	Basic Functional Infrastructure; capability to effect change; stability of fisheries & markets; autonomy; food security
	Compile information on different funding sources to address infrastructure needs (e.g., ARPA, IRA, BIL, https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants)	Basic Functional Infrastructure; capability to effect change; stability of fisheries & markets; autonomy; food security
Collaborative Research	Advocate for more research from F&G and collaborative research with industry,	Scientific evidence; capability to effect change
	Collect data on fishery to inform offshore wind compensatory mitigation (what data would be useful and doable?)	Scientific evidence; capability to effect change; fairness
	Make CCOM aware of seafloor mapping priorities	capability to effect change; healthy marine ecosystem
	Learn about cooperative research that the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation does	capability to effect change; healthy marine ecosystem
Advocacy	Learn mechanisms for introducing legislation, or have the Marine Advisory Committee convene all the legislators so they are aware of industry needs	Capability to effect change; community support
	Work with F&G and Marine Advisory Committee to advocate for dredging to not happen during spawning	Stability of fisheries & markets; capability to effect change
	“Virtual project” for where the fishing industry would put a transmission cable, like the UK example	capability to effect change; healthy marine ecosystem

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? TO THE INDUSTRY?

example: local knowledge; fresh seafood

- working waterfronts
- space to fish
- living ecosystems/organisms
- truth
 - decentralized allocation (not consolidation)
- ecological knowledge
 - functional facilities, good infrastructure (e.g. freezer)
 - resilience
 - resources for future
- healthy habitats
- small boat fishery + lobster fishery
- stability into future
- local seafood
- fisher men's voice, generational knowledge
- affordability
- freedom to fish / from surveillance
- continuity of fleet into future
- autonomy

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

WHAT DOES THE INDUSTRY
VALUE? VALUE → ACTION PLAN

example: local knowledge, fresh seafood

- access to fresh food
- stability up and down supply chain
- economic stability
- Naval Shipyard
- yearround access to water
- diversity of industry
- ~~ease~~ ease of entry into fishery
- autonomy
 - ↳ trap limits restrictive
- scientific evidence
- fairness
- future generations option to fish
- get on PDA agenda
- access to basic needs: hoists, piers, cold storage on piers and boats

HOW WILL A CHANGING SEASCAPE IMPACT WHAT YOU VALUE?

example: loss of local knowledge

- habitat destruction
- loss of fisheries
- loss of stability
- no new fishermen

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Get on PDA agenda (advisory) → introduce legislation?
- survey of fishing infrastructure + needs
 - Janice (3 state facilities + coop)
 - go after ARPA &
 - look for different sources
- advocate for dredging to not happen during spawning → F&G
 - recs from Mar Adv Comm
- more research by F&G
 - collaborative research w/ fishery
- figure out how to maneuver legislation, etc.
- input to compensation
- collect data on fishery to inform