

# TAB E

## **Sustainable Fisheries Committee Report June 5, 2017 David Walker – Chair**

### **Florida Sea Grant Presentation on Barotrauma (Tab E, No. 4)**

Captain Betty Staugler (Florida Sea Grant) presented a review of two surveys on angler knowledge and attitudes toward venting and descending devices. One survey was conducted by Florida Sea Grant in 2014 via e-mail. The other survey was a University of Florida Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences survey completed for the Council in 2015/16. Both surveys found that anglers are generally familiar with barotrauma signs, with more anglers familiar with venting tools than descender devices. The greatest impact affecting the use of mitigation measures was predicted to be from social norms. A requirement to possess venting tools or descender devices is likely to emphasize the social norm. Most anglers receive educational information via fishing magazines, TV shows, websites, and YouTube videos.

### **Options Paper – Framework Action to require possession of descending devices or venting tools on board vessels possessing reef fish (Tab E, No. 5)**

Staff reviewed an options paper for possible actions to recommend or require venting tools or descending devices on vessels fishing for reef fish. Committee members strongly supported an outreach program regardless of whether devices were recommended or required. One member suggested that, given the social pressure to use such tools, a regulation may not be necessary. It was pointed out that activities under the RESTORE program could include distribution of devices, but only if they are not required by regulation. If required by regulation, RESTORE funds could not be used to distribute devices, but could be used to establish an outreach program. One Committee member suggested requiring a placard be on board providing instructions on how to use the devices, similar to the placard required for sea turtle release required on commercial vessels. Some Committee members questioned if the SEDAR stock assessments could account for the use of devices if they were not required. Dr. Bonnie Ponwith responded that there were many factors involved and it would be a judgement call on how much to credit the use of the devices.

Staff suggested that if the Council chooses to recommend rather than require venting tools or descender devices, a framework action may not be needed. Staff is awaiting guidance from the Council on how to proceed.

### **Options Paper – Carryover of Unharvested Quota (Tab E, No. 6)**

Staff reviewed an options paper to modify the Council's ABC Control Rule by incorporating a provision to allow for the carry-over of the uncaught portion of the ACL into the following fishing year, given the conditions outlined in the options paper. Committee members asked about the amount of foregone yield that might be carried over for a given species. Staff

explained, through the actions presented, how the Council could determine which species would be eligible for a carry-over, and how to adjust the amount of foregone yield that could be carried over to the next fishing year. One large issue which has been extensively discussed by the IPT is how to handle species that are managed under IFQ programs. Staff asked for clarification on how the Council might like to handle IFQ species, and whether the Committee agreed with the current direction of the document. NOAA General Counsel advised the Council to justify the percentages presented in alternatives in Actions 3 and 4, likely using the tables provided in the document.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.