

WEBVTT

1 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:00:07.565 --> 00:00:26.450

Thank you for joining us my name is and I am virtually here with Larry Redd Jr., and we are in the Atlanta Highly Migratory species management division within the office Sustainable Fisheries in the National Marine Fishery Service within NOAA. This is a public listening session and Larry will be the host. This is.

2 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:00:26.450 --> 00:00:41.850

An opportunity for NOAA fisheries to hear from our stakeholders and the public regarding any insights, concerns, and recommendations pertaining to the harpoon category, uh, in general and the aforementioned petition and this webinar is being recorded.

3 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:00:41.850 --> 00:01:01.850

So, before we get started, I want to orient y'all to the Webex software program. If you are calling in on your computer, using audio to listen to the presentation, you should automatically be on mute and you should be able to see icons on the bottom of your screen. 1 of the icons looks like a person with 3 bars to the right of them.

4 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:01.850 --> 00:01:05.850

And that lets you see who else is participating in today's call.

5 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:05.850 --> 00:01:11.550

The 2nd icon looks like a bubble or a thought comment and that opens a chat box.

6 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:11.550 --> 00:01:17.790

You will be using this box to make a comment or ask a question. Especially if we can't hear your audio.

7 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:17.790 --> 00:01:31.650

After a short introduction on the topic, we will be listening to your comments and thoughts, and we will be monitoring the chat box as well. If you feel more comfortable submitting a short comment in writing feel free to use the chat box.

8 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:31.650 --> 00:01:37.410

Um, in your chat, please identify yourself, any affiliation you might have, and your comment.

9 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:01:37.410 --> 00:01:47.153

And this concludes the orientation, and I will hand the controls to Larry so he can give you the background on today's listening session.

10 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:01:47.153 --> 00:01:50.340

Thank you very much Anna for that uh, lovely introduction.

11 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:01:50.340 --> 00:01:55.050

Uh, and also, thank you for being able to put this meeting together. Um.

12 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:01:55.050 --> 00:02:01.560

So, I see the attendees list I see some very familiar names. Um.

13 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:02:01.560 --> 00:02:21.560

So, let's go ahead and kick into the background of what this listening session is all about. In 2021 and in 2023 we receive petitions regarding the management of the harpoon category fishery for bluefin tuna and specifically, these petitions advocate for regulatory measures to limit.

14 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:02:21.560 --> 00:02:33.510

Harpoon fishing near vessels with mobile gear, as well as to restrict the deployment of floating bait for the purpose of attracting bluefin tuna to the surface.

15 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:02:33.510 --> 00:02:37.500

And also to restrict fishing with harpoon gear at night.

16 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:02:37.500 --> 00:02:54.270

These petitioners noted that these practices were contrary to the traditional method of fishing with harpoon gear, resulted in safety at sea issues, and cause the harpoon category quota to be filled too quickly.

17 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:02:54.270 --> 00:03:03.240

Um, during the full HMS AP meeting last September, we invited stakeholders to provide public comment.

18 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:03:03.240 --> 00:03:20.280

All these petitions, and in recognition of those comments, and in recognition of the discussions that are happening, uh, we mentioned at the, at that time at the AP that we would possibly allow for further discussions on these matters. Um.

19 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:03:20.280 --> 00:03:26.280

Thus, with all of that being said, here we are today for this listening session. Um.

20 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:03:26.280 --> 00:03:29.460  
Just so everyone knows this is a listening session.

21 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:03:29.460 --> 00:03:45.030  
Um, we, as the agency are here to actually hear your input. Um, so we're all ears to your feedback on the topics, on the topics at hand. So.

22 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:03:45.030 --> 00:03:56.880  
So, the topics of this discussion that we are hoping to hear from you all on will be recent harpooning practices and techniques in the bluefin, tuna fishery.

23 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:03:56.880 --> 00:04:06.900  
Recent harpooning activities in the bluefin beneficiary and proximity to mobile gear vessels as well as the impact of nighttime carpooling.

24 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:04:06.900 --> 00:04:24.000  
And thoughts about the potential regulatory changes regarding the harpoon category fishery. Um, I know I've said this probably 2 or 3 times. Now, this once again is a listening session. So we are looking to hear from you all, um.

25 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:04:24.000 --> 00:04:44.000  
With that being said, please, keep in mind that, you know, there may be others in the queue behind you that would like to share their comment, uh, provide feedback and their input. So, we are asking that if you do wish to speak and if you do speak, please keep your comments concise. And understanding.

26 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:04:44.000 --> 00:04:48.089  
The topics at hand, please be respectful. Um.

27 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:04:48.089 --> 00:04:55.739  
Please direct your comments directly to us the staff and not to 1 another um, with that being said.

28 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:04:59.459 --> 00:05:14.999  
If you would like to share more input, um, we have provided the webpage here, um, as well, as you can contact Anna or myself, or others in the management division. Um, so I'm gonna go ahead. Bring the topics back up.

29 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:05:14.999 --> 00:05:24.599

And with that being said, let's open the floor to hear from you all and receive your input all these topics. Thank you.

30 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:05:27.698 --> 00:05:40.079

Thank you Larry, if you are familiar with the Webex software, you have the ability to raise or low your hand by clicking that hand icon to the right of your name. And that will let me know if you would like to, um.

31 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:05:40.079 --> 00:05:54.329

Provide a comment if you can't see that icon please let me know in the chat that you would like to make a comment and I will unmute your line. And when you are speaking or sending a chat, please identify yourself and any affiliation you might have.

32 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:05:54.329 --> 00:05:58.049

And I see some hands raised.

33 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:05:58.049 --> 00:06:03.659

Eric, I'm going to unmute, you.

34 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:06:08.309 --> 00:06:12.251

Okay, you're are now unmuted. Please go ahead.

35 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:06:12.251 --> 00:06:20.519

Anna, and thank you, Larry for the chance to speak about this. I've been a harpooner for my whole career over 30 years.

36 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:06:20.519 --> 00:06:25.559

Uh, I'm here in the room with Sean Sullivan who's been a harpooner longer than I have.

37 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:06:25.559 --> 00:06:35.609

We're both very concerned about this recent practice. It's, we realize that this is something that has always occurred in the fishery on a, on a chance basis.

38 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:06:35.609 --> 00:06:41.849

Somebody's going by a mobile gear vessel and sees fish there and they manage to get 1.

39 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:06:41.849 --> 00:06:45.569

It's been going on since people harpoon fish.

40 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:06:45.569 --> 00:06:50.279  
But, no one has decided to target fish in this fashion until recently.

41 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:06:50.279 --> 00:06:59.609  
And although we're out ahead of the fishery service a little bit. We recognized almost instantly the potential to.

42 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:06:59.609 --> 00:07:04.769  
And what is a very small quota in terms of user groups.

43 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:04.769 --> 00:07:10.229  
Prematurely, and when that happens, it also has an impact on the market.

44 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:10.229 --> 00:07:15.719  
To the extent that those of us who make a living, or part of our commercial fishing living.

45 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:15.719 --> 00:07:20.039  
Doing this are, um, disenfranchised by it.

46 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:20.039 --> 00:07:24.059  
We estimate that should, you know.

47 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:24.059 --> 00:07:28.349  
Upwards of 10 or 15 fishermen choose to start fishing this way.

48 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:28.349 --> 00:07:40.409  
And many of us see that we don't have a choice. If everybody's going to fish this way, then we're all gonna have to fish this way because the catch rate is so fast. We could conceivably close this category down.

49 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:40.409 --> 00:07:45.419  
In in 4 or 5 days, you know, if 20 boats caught the 5 fish.

50 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:45.419 --> 00:07:50.849  
Which is the minimum, uh, daily catch rate that, that can mandate now?

51 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:07:50.849 --> 00:08:04.019  
And if you start to account for discards, which is something our category has never had to deal with before, and now, all of a sudden, you know, you're losing fish.

52 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:04.019 --> 00:08:07.979  
That could be reduced to 2 or 3 days of fishing.

53 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:07.979 --> 00:08:16.259  
So, when we look back at the founding documents for the harpoon category,  
it was very clear that the fishery service intended.

54 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:16.259 --> 00:08:20.009  
That the category accommodate people who chose to.

55 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:20.009 --> 00:08:24.179  
Fish only by harpoon and with the knowledge that.

56 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:24.179 --> 00:08:33.719  
That could only occur on the good weather days. So rather than force them  
into a 1 fish per day limit, like, everyone else in the general category.

57 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:33.719 --> 00:08:38.189  
They created a special category for those who chose harpooning.

58 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:38.189 --> 00:08:49.139  
Because it was such a weather dependent fishery and certainly, at that  
time, the service had never conceived that people would go out and  
harpoon fish at night since obviously.

59 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:49.139 --> 00:08:52.949  
We need to see the fish with our eyes in the daylight.

60 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:52.949 --> 00:08:57.209  
To harpoon fish in a traditional sense. So I guess.

61 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:08:57.209 --> 00:09:04.919  
I feel and many others among us do, people, over a 100 people in the  
fishery now, who signed the petition.

62 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:04.919 --> 00:09:10.829  
That, um, this category would never be created today.

63 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:10.829 --> 00:09:14.399  
You know, like, if we came to the fishery service and said we're owners.

64 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:09:14.399 --> 00:09:18.419  
And we want 50 times, so we can go catch it in a week.

65 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:18.419 --> 00:09:22.289  
By doing this, we get left out of the room.

66 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:22.289 --> 00:09:26.339  
So, how does how do we continue from this point?

67 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:26.339 --> 00:09:36.329  
You know, trying to accommodate this new method. I don't think we do it either. Rolls us back into the general. Like they wanted to do in 82.

68 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:36.329 --> 00:09:41.099  
Or we make a rule that eliminates this.

69 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:09:41.099 --> 00:09:48.449  
To harpoon only category people could certainly still do it in the general category. We're not trying to make rules for anyone else. Thank you.

70 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:09:52.902 --> 00:09:59.429  
Okay, thank you very much for those comments and I'm going to go ahead.

71 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:09:59.429 --> 00:10:03.479  
Michael Miller, I see your hand raised so I will unmute your line.

72 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:10:12.089 --> 00:10:32.089  
Okay, I've sent that request to you.

73 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:10:32.089 --> 00:10:46.739  
Yeah.

74 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:10:46.739 --> 00:10:54.989  
Michael Miller did you have a comment you would like to share? I'm requesting to unmute your line.

75 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:11:01.062 --> 00:11:12.509  
Like, if you are having issues, uh, being able to unmute your line, uh, please keep in mind that you could always, um, also leave us a comment and put your comment in the chat.

76 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:11:29.856 --> 00:11:34.139

You are able to unmute yourself with star 6 Michael Miller.

77 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:11:42.599 --> 00:11:51.359

Okay, I'm going to go to the next in the queue. Michael Blanchard. I see that your hand is raised. So I'm going to request to unmute your line.

78 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:11.400 --> 00:12:24.719

Okay, finally, this is a I gotta say this is about as choppy a program is I have seen I, I don't know how this is going to work. I've got people emailing me.

79 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:24.719 --> 00:12:31.469

Texting me other fishermen, I've got a phone call going. I have a computer on an iPad.

80 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:31.469 --> 00:12:38.759

I'm not sure you guys are going to get all the information that you're looking to get today. Uh, my name is Michael Blanchard. I'm a fishing.

81 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:38.759 --> 00:12:43.289

Tuna fish for, I don't know, 20 years or so.

82 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:43.289 --> 00:12:49.049

And the founding of the bluefin tuna harpoon category was.

83 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:49.049 --> 00:12:59.249

Really founded upon what is necessary for weather dependency and I find this not just a, um.

84 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:12:59.249 --> 00:13:06.989

Threat to the category as far as getting caught too quickly. I see this as a threat to the category.

85 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:13:06.989 --> 00:13:11.519

And it's existence all together, it was founded on whether dependency.

86 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:13:11.519 --> 00:13:31.519

And that whether dependency is what allows us to fish, unencumbered with no restricted fishing days, it also allows us to have multiple catch because we need to be able to make up for the days that the weather isn't good. And as we all know, the weather has been horrendous. Um, look at the way.



87 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:13:31.519 --> 00:13:51.519

Whether it's been in the last few years, these fish don't always come to the surface day in and day out. Um, and our ability to do that is, is, uh, is limited due to the weather. Uh, these boats can now target these fish, lowering the fish. The service would be, they can fish in the league of a large vessel.

88 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:13:51.519 --> 00:14:00.779

That's the side down when whether where it's com, they can fish at night. The fish are pursued relentlessly, 24 hours a day.

89 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:00.779 --> 00:14:11.429

This is nothing more than someone prying at a loophole, grasping at straws in order to catch these fish in this manner.

90 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:11.429 --> 00:14:14.909

It's a real threat to, it's a real threat to the category.

91 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:14.909 --> 00:14:18.869

And the existence of the category, and I'm completely opposed to it.

92 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:18.869 --> 00:14:26.729

I previously been opposed to restricting the amount of fish that could be caught in a given day, but since this has started.

93 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:26.729 --> 00:14:32.549

I would strongly advocate for a much lower bag limit on these fish.

94 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:32.549 --> 00:14:44.789

Until this is resolved. We had sent a letter, there was a letter that was circulating around that had 95 or so percent of all the fishermen involved in this category.

95 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:44.789 --> 00:14:52.979

It was pretty well outlined as to what we wanted in our category and how we wanted the category carried out.

96 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:52.979 --> 00:14:59.939

I was always, I've always been told in the past that it's "your category. You guys tell us how you want.

97 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:14:59.939 --> 00:15:02.939

To prosecute, you're fishery."

98 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:02.939 --> 00:15:12.299

That wasn't maybe under the harpoon category at the time. It was all the categories, whatever category you're in. "You the people tell us how you want this prosecuted."

99 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:12.299 --> 00:15:18.089

And we'll, we'll, we'll get that done. This is clearly just a prying of a loophole. Um.

100 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:18.089 --> 00:15:25.769

Slipping through the cracks finding a way to get this done. All we're looking for is for the, for the agency to make a rule.

101 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:25.769 --> 00:15:31.349

That limits this to fishing in the traditional fashion.

102 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:31.349 --> 00:15:34.649

Not around or luring fish to the surface.

103 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:34.649 --> 00:15:39.929

Not around a boat that's throwing bycatch overboard. This problem will grow.

104 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:39.929 --> 00:15:44.399

Uh, I think you're going to see an increase in this, this issue this year.

105 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:44.399 --> 00:15:51.269

And it may not even be with boats that are in the harpoon category. You may find general category boats.

106 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:15:51.269 --> 00:16:11.269

Going off shore on 3, fish per day in June when the fish are well, off shore into George's, back in the in the offshore canyons. Um, the problem needs to be dealt with. We, the fishermen have made it clear what we'd like to have done and why we'd like to have it done. And if you sit back in your chair and you think about it, when was the last time you.

107 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:16:11.269 --> 00:16:19.559

Actually encountered a fisherman requesting restriction, requesting a tightening up of the regulation on a fisherman.

108 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:16:19.559 --> 00:16:33.119

I think that if you think about that for a few minutes, you'll understand that our desire is not to have this done in this way and have a fishery that is carried out over a longer period of time.

109 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:16:33.119 --> 00:16:53.119

By a greater number of people. Um, and, and the only thing we have left right now is, to is to really lean on the agency to restrict the amount of fish that are caught in a given day, are allowed to be caught in a given day in the harpoon category. And that is not how the harpoon category was founded, but it's all we're kind of left with right now.

110 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:16:53.119 --> 00:17:01.116

Until you guys come up with a rule. Thank you very much.

111 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:17:01.116 --> 00:17:07.679

Okay, thank you very much for those comments. I'm going to go ahead and mute you and lower your hand.

112 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:17:11.249 --> 00:17:17.249

And Aubrey Church, I see your hand is raised so I will go ahead and unmute your line.

113 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:17:21.059 --> 00:17:24.677

Okay, you are now unmuted. Please. Go ahead. Thank you.

114 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:17:24.677 --> 00:17:31.589

Good morning, Aubrey Church, policy director at the Cape Cod Commercial Fisherman's Alliance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

115 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:17:31.589 --> 00:17:44.219

The harpoon category was established by name on June 13th, 1980 with the intent to create a quota category in which harpoons were the only allowable gear type, in order to preserve the historical fishery that takes place in New England.

116 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:17:44.219 --> 00:17:51.719

Historically, when the harpoon category was formed, an unrestricted daily retention limit was established, because weather it's a critical component of this fishery.

117 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:17:51.719 --> 00:17:57.509

This fishing method is reduced by the number of weather working days in the season that are suitable for harpooning.

118 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:17:57.509 --> 00:18:00.869

Bluefin tuna tend to swim at, or near the surface periodically.

119 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:00.869 --> 00:18:05.339

And are therefore only accessible for harpoons during short hours on any given day.

120 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:05.339 --> 00:18:09.809

Spotting the fish and discerning them from other species requires both skill and experience.

121 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:09.809 --> 00:18:16.439

It is a highly selective and environmentally friendly fishery because only 1 specific fish is targeted at a time.

122 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:16.439 --> 00:18:22.079

And no hooks or nets are involved, therefore, entanglement bycatch of a non-target species is not a concern.

123 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:22.079 --> 00:18:28.439

Our fishers must visually identify the species and size of the targeted fish before killing it due to the site fishing nature of the fishery.

124 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:28.439 --> 00:18:36.269

The bluefin tuna general category fishery, which allows rod and reel fishing is limited to lower daily retention limits, because it is not weather dependent.

125 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:36.269 --> 00:18:54.149

Fishermen use hooks and can catch tuna and haul in at night. For the harpoon fishery the requirement for fair weather and daylight are parts of natural cadence to this fishery that distributes the catch both temporarily and geographically, and also serves to smooth out spikes in the market. This is not the case when you harpoon fish behind mobile gear vessels.

126 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:18:54.149 --> 00:19:04.049

As a result, it's problematic to allow for fishing behind mobile gear vessels because with the help of a mobile gear vessel, could easily fill the boat with bluefin that were caught during the day.

127 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:19:04.049 --> 00:19:08.069

Night in the fog and therefore impact the sustainability of the fishery.

128 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:19:08.069 --> 00:19:18.269

A ban of this type of fishing would be in line with current prohibition language, which states the vessels, and the fishery may receive no assistance from another vessel when fishing for highly migratory species.

129 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:19:18.269 --> 00:19:28.559

Allowing a mobile gear based method to harpoon fishing, crosses the line and allows those who practice this type of fishing to go 24/7 with no learning curve or regard for the sustainability of the fishery.

130 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:19:28.559 --> 00:19:39.539

Absence of the petitioners will be forced to fish this way to ensure that they have access to the quote in a foreshortened fishery, accelerating this race to the bottom of a potential economic return of the fishery.

131 "Aubrey Church" (2841748224)

00:19:39.539 --> 00:19:46.057

Thank you for letting me comment.

132 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:19:46.057 --> 00:19:53.729

Thank you for those comments. Um, I'm going to try and loop back around to Mr. Michael Miller. I'm going to unmute your line.

133 "Michael Miller" (1093473280)

00:20:02.376 --> 00:20:05.435

I do not have a comment at this time. I'm I'm sorry.

134 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:20:05.435 --> 00:20:07.080

Oh, you're fine. You're fine. I will go. Okay.

135 "Michael Miller" (1093473280)

00:20:07.080 --> 00:20:13.798

Lower your hand.

136 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:20:13.798 --> 00:20:20.789

Steven Ghetto, I see that you have a comment I'm going to request to unmute your line.

137 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:20:27.818 --> 00:20:43.709

Thank you I like to thank the agency for allowing us to speak today. Um, I'd like to make a comment on a couple different areas that are worth discussing. I feel, as for the 2024 specification. I think we should open the fish with a 10 fish bag limit.

138 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:20:43.709 --> 00:20:58.199

And I think we should allow the retention of 4 large mediums to encourage fishermen to fish on smaller fish, which will conserve quota. And harvesting more smaller fish, which the dealers prefer. Um.

139 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:20:58.199 --> 00:21:01.619

Secondly, I like to see us impose a 5 fish bag limit.

140 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:01.619 --> 00:21:14.459

On July, 1, while continuing with the 4 fish bag limit on large mediums, this would minimize conflict with the general category before their landings get super heavy. Um.

141 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:14.459 --> 00:21:26.819

That's the biggest problem we face right now is our market is getting stuffed by tournaments and the general category boats. So if we can control our landings in July, we're probably all going to be better off.

142 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:26.819 --> 00:21:30.059

As for the FMP.

143 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:30.059 --> 00:21:35.279

I think the agency can consider opening the fishery on May 15th.

144 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:35.279 --> 00:21:38.459

We all see rising water temperatures.

145 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:38.459 --> 00:21:46.229

And the harpoon fishery is getting compressed in between a June 1 opening and heavy landings in the general category.

146 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:46.229 --> 00:21:52.049

So, a, may 15th opening may give us a window of opportunity to catch some fish.

147 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:52.049 --> 00:21:56.219

A few more fish when the general category is typically less productive.

148 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:21:56.219 --> 00:22:00.539

And allow the harpoon fissures to do better.

149 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:00.539 --> 00:22:06.629

Finally, with respect, respect to fishing practices at night and fishing behind mobile gear.

150 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:06.629 --> 00:22:09.959

As has been pointed out, this has happened often on.

151 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:09.959 --> 00:22:16.289

You know, throughout time, um, I really don't see the issue for complaint here because.

152 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:16.289 --> 00:22:21.839

There are no laws being broken. There are no complaints from mobile gear vessels.

153 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:21.839 --> 00:22:27.809

There have been no citations issued by the U. S. Coast Guard. There have been no injuries reported.

154 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:27.809 --> 00:22:33.659

There's been no property damage reported and there's been no illegal harvest reported.

155 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:33.659 --> 00:22:41.549

In the harpoon fishery, we do allow the use of another vessel because we allow the use of airplanes in the harpoon fishery.

156 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:41.549 --> 00:22:46.649

So, in my mind, the use of another vessel already happens in this fishery.

157 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

00:22:46.649 --> 00:22:54.929

That's really it for my comment I appreciate you giving me the time to come in and thank you for the consideration.

158 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:22:59.776 --> 00:23:05.129

Thank you very much for those comments, Steven I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

159 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:23:09.509 --> 00:23:14.519

Now, Mr. Jeff Douglas, I see you have a question. I'm going to request to unmute your line.

160 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:23:19.079 --> 00:23:22.498

Okay, you are now unmuted. Please go ahead.

161 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:23:22.498 --> 00:23:42.289

1st of all, thank you for hosting this, Larry and Anna. I'd like, I've been in this fishery since 2000 so this will be my 24th year both in general and harpoon category. I kind of typed in and miss Senate, but I think it's everything you draw the string out on it and then you back in and I take exception to the.

162 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:23:42.289 --> 00:23:48.479

Situation my boat is set up to I can take it out 2 night, get behind a driver.

163 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:23:48.479 --> 00:23:54.149

And I can put all my lights on and I will harvest every fish that comes up to the surface.

164 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:23:54.149 --> 00:23:59.249

Um, how many break offs do I get, you know, in the, in the tow? I don't know.

165 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:23:59.249 --> 00:24:19.249

Clearly, the harpoon category was never intended to be this, not to say there's a loophole, and everybody's trying to make a living or pay for their boats and that every advantage is not sought. I recognize that piece but the bigger picture is the general category. So, I go in the general category with my harpoon.

166 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:24:19.249 --> 00:24:28.889

Here on, I can go out I can stay all night. I can get when it goes to 1 fish a day. So there's how many boats are going to be competing behind a tracker.

167 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:24:28.889 --> 00:24:36.239

So that you open this up, it's not 1 boat or 2 boats that we have doing this behind a driver. It's going to be several dozen.

168 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:24:36.239 --> 00:24:40.229

Um, and then the conflict happens, so.

169 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:24:40.229 --> 00:24:46.499

You know, the majority are in agreement to it, which too, um, I think it was.

170 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)

00:24:46.499 --> 00:24:49.499

Um, Eric's point.



171 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)  
00:24:49.499 --> 00:24:59.069  
Everybody's in agreement, or 95% of the people are in agreement that we have an issue here. We're asking you to step in and take action. We appreciate you listening to it.

172 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)  
00:24:59.069 --> 00:25:11.009  
But it's just not a question that, if it's a question of when this problem is exacerbated, there will be physical issues. There'll be confrontations and not to mention the.

173 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)  
00:25:11.009 --> 00:25:19.049  
Economy and ecology of the fish protection, the harpoon category in itself will be done in a week.

174 "Jeff Douglas" (1714641152)  
00:25:19.049 --> 00:25:25.589  
The general category will be impacted dramatically as well. So, but thank you for, for hearing.

175 "jeff Douglas" (1714641152)  
00:25:25.589 --> 00:25:30.104  
Okay.

176 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:25:30.104 --> 00:25:35.219  
Okay, thank you very much for those comments. Um, Mr. Douglas, I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

177 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:25:40.319 --> 00:25:45.959  
The floor is now open for any additional comments. I don't currently see any hands raised.

178 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:25:49.559 --> 00:25:53.849  
Okay, Mr. Spencer Bode. I'm gonna go ahead and request to unmute your line.

179 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:25:58.379 --> 00:26:12.202  
Okay, you are now unmuted. Please go ahead.

180 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:26:12.202 --> 00:26:14.064  
Good morning. You got me Anna. Yeah.

181 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:26:14.064 --> 00:26:17.561  
We've got you, hello good morning.

182 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:26:17.561 --> 00:26:21.719

Thank you very much for putting this on. Uh, my name Spencer and.

183 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:26:21.719 --> 00:26:41.719

I'm on the advisory panel, to my knowledge, I'm the only mobile member of the mobile gear fishing fleet that is representative on the panel and as a member of the mobile gear fleet, I strongly oppose any rules, regulations, creating a buffer.

184 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:26:41.719 --> 00:26:50.879

Around mobile gear vessels in federal waters, and get engaged in the respective fisheries and the harpoon category vessels.

185 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:26:50.879 --> 00:27:10.879

The big history is, when we, when we're using this word mobile gear, our Atlantic sea scallops, groundfish, herring, squid, butter fish, and mackerel. 1st thing first, most importantly, any idea of sector of the harpoon industry has regarding the listed mobile gear fisheries needs to go through the proper.

186 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:27:10.879 --> 00:27:30.879

It'd be discussed and approved by the proper managing authorities and specifically the idea of a new rule to keep our harpoon boats a set distance away from mobile gear fishing boats in federal waters needs to be an agenda item on the mid Atlantic marine fisheries council and more specifically needs to be vetted through the squid, butter fish, and Atlantic.

187 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:27:30.879 --> 00:27:50.879

Advisory panels. Continuing this, it must be an agenda item on the New England, marine fisheries Council, and more specifically needs to be vetted through the Atlantic sea scallop advisory panel. The Atlantic sea herring advisory panel and Northeast multi species groundfish advisory panel. Not going through the.

188 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:27:50.879 --> 00:28:10.879

Proper channels, I would believe be a potential violation, and most likely end up in a lawsuit from the effective stakeholders, which in effect would be a negative situation for all involved parties. At its basis, the current fishing practices that are being discussed are not in violation of any of Magnuson Steven. They're not in violation.

189 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:28:10.879 --> 00:28:19.739

Of any of our national standards and creating a potential rolling closure zone, I think will.

190 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:28:19.739 --> 00:28:32.189  
Make a situation where conflict is now a major issue, a rolling closure zone that has no boundaries. No time schedule just.

191 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:28:32.189 --> 00:28:35.309  
Is constantly moving.

192 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:28:35.309 --> 00:28:38.999  
We're setting ourselves up for a real.

193 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:28:38.999 --> 00:28:55.769  
Potential to have major issues and in this space is the idea of a new regulation is not enforceable. And I personally think it's legally impossible, adding this new regulation in the harpoon category just in fact, make a rolling closure area.

194 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:28:55.769 --> 00:29:00.449  
And my last little thing I would like to say is.

195 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:00.449 --> 00:29:20.449  
Uh, is, this method of fishing, and that's prominent in Canada to fish around commercial herring boats and their nets, as the population has exploded in the Atlantic Ocean.

196 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:20.449 --> 00:29:29.729  
Debated in the commercial fishery for giant bluefin tuna in Norway and it's standard practice already here to fish around mobile gear vessels.

197 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:29.729 --> 00:29:33.599  
That's pretty much all I got. I just.

198 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:33.599 --> 00:29:46.439  
Want to make sure everyone's clear that this isn't a this is a small user group of harpoon permits, but using that blanket statement of creating a buffer zone around mobile gear vessels.

199 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:46.439 --> 00:29:52.169  
You're affecting a fleet of hundreds of boats and.

200 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)  
00:29:52.169 --> 00:30:00.569  
As a member of some of the largest mobile gear vessels, we vehemently opposed this.

201 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:30:00.569 --> 00:30:07.919

And this goes back to resources too, right? Like, are we going to need the.

202 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:30:07.919 --> 00:30:24.029

Division at NMFS, allocating more of their time and effort to go to all these meetings to, to get input from all our different federal fisheries that use mobile gear. I personally believe that allocating.

203 "Spencer Bode" (1145769472)

00:30:24.029 --> 00:30:42.359

More of the time of our division to doing science and research opposed to more management and meeting would be a better use of our, of the limited resources that the agency has. All right and I thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it have a nice day.

204 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:30:42.359 --> 00:30:51.062

Okay, thank you very much for those comments. Mr. Bode. I'm going to go ahead and mute your line and.

205 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:30:51.062 --> 00:31:09.769

Really quickly, there's a comment in chat from, uh, Christine Martin's asking, um, "The participants list is restricted. Are we able to see who successfully was able to attend?" Um, unfortunately given the Webex software, participants can't see 1 another uh, just keep in mind that we.

206 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

00:31:09.769 --> 00:31:16.709

As the Panelist leads, we can see, um, who is attending this meeting. So I just wanted to throw that out.

207 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:31:21.141 --> 00:31:40.849

I also real quick wanted to assure, um, Jeff Douglas, we received your comment "Further complications with 3rd party (Dragger) participation overflows into the General category boats with harpoon gear. Without a ban, we will be forced to fish in all conditions and at night behind draggers. This will not be orderly and you will have.

208 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:31:40.849 --> 00:32:00.479

Boats fighting for the lane and interfering with Draggers tow." Um, I also see your comment. Mr. David Weber. "This is David Webber from York, Maine. I, along with two of my sons, have been harpooning for almost 20 years. We are very much opposed to harpooning in proximity to mobile gear vessels. We have seen the negative.

209 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:32:00.479 --> 00:32:20.479

economic impact of this fishery, specifically flooded markets with giants selling for pennies a pound and or not selling at all. We would certainly support any regulation that would end this non traditional practice, including banning harpooning near mobile gear vessels, daily retention limits, and prohibiting nighttime harpooning. Thank you for your time." So we.

210 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:32:20.479 --> 00:32:29.549

Received those comments as well um, Daniel Dean I see. Your hand is raised so I'm going to request to unmute your line.

211 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:32:37.942 --> 00:32:54.869

So, my name is Daniel Dean crew for, um, I've worked Eric for about 12 years now as 1 of the younger stakeholders in the harpoon fishery. I believe this petition is extremely important, and should be implemented in order to retain the harpoon category.

212 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:32:54.869 --> 00:33:14.869

It has always been my goal to 1 day own my own harpoon boat and join the harpoon category. In my opinion. This petition would be crucial in achieving that goal. I believe if mobile gear assisted fishing continues the harpoon category won't be economically valuable. Younger generations will never have a chance to succeed if the harpoon category is only open for a week.

213 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:33:14.869 --> 00:33:20.819

And the fish are essentially worthless, cause everyone with the tower will fill the already small quota.

214 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:33:20.819 --> 00:33:23.849

Around the trawlers and joggers, um.

215 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:33:23.849 --> 00:33:38.369

There are obviously many more reasons mobile gear system fishing should be ban, including the ethical standpoint as well as the safety aspect. But to sum up my standpoint, I strongly approve this petition in order to conserve the harpoon category.

216 "Daniel Deane" (1423641344)

00:33:38.369 --> 00:33:53.284

I believe it's crucial, and allowing the fishery to remain the way it has always been historically fished for the last 50 years and continue to be an economically viable option for future generations of homeowners. Thank you.

217 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:33:53.284 --> 00:33:57.929

Thank you very much for those comments. Mr. Dean I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

218 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:33:57.929 --> 00:34:06.209

And then Mr. Michael Blanchard I see. Your hand is raised. So I'm going to request to unmute your line.

219 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:15.784 --> 00:34:29.789

Thank you, um, I have been getting a couple of texts we have people that are on the phone, uh, participating in the meeting over the telephone, and are curious how they make comment or go about.

220 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:29.789 --> 00:34:36.689

Letting you know that they want to make comment if you could verbalize that over the computer, they can hear you and they'll know how to do that.

221 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:36.689 --> 00:34:42.989

That's the, that's the 1st thing. The other thing that I just I wanted to mention was.

222 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:42.989 --> 00:34:53.189

I had said earlier that really this is an expansion of a loophole, this harpoons tuna fish around mobile gear.

223 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:53.189 --> 00:34:59.609

I could take that a step further and I present this question to the agency.

224 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:34:59.609 --> 00:35:13.229

Is it fair to say that it's carpooling if I go out on a on a day when there's an RFP for the general category they're on an RFP or better. Yet the general category is closed.

225 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:35:13.229 --> 00:35:17.729

They go out fishing, catch and release.

226 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:35:17.729 --> 00:35:22.949

They catch a fish, they cut the leader next to the boat.

227 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)  
00:35:22.949 --> 00:35:26.099

And I harpoon it as soon as that leader is cut.

228 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:35:26.099 --> 00:35:33.269

The fishes and hooked the fishes and attached to a Rhonda real. It's not on a hand line. The fish is free. Swimming.

229 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:35:33.269 --> 00:35:38.309

For the 3 tenths of a 2nd, before I put a dot in the middle of its back and kill it.

230 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:35:38.309 --> 00:35:48.239

Seems ridiculous, doesn't it? Well, to 95% of the people that are in this category, that harpoon category that's how we feel.

231 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:35:48.239 --> 00:35:57.119

That the carpooling fish around mobile vessels and in and around Bay is it's just a ridiculous.

232 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:35:57.119 --> 00:36:06.629

Breach of a foolish loophole so we're really relying on you people to to, to make a rule and get this shut down.

233 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

00:36:06.629 --> 00:36:14.242

Thank you very much.

234 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:36:14.242 --> 00:36:19.919

Okay, thank you very much for your comment. Mr. Blaine shared. I'm gonna go ahead and re, mute your line.

235 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:36:19.919 --> 00:36:30.809

People that are calling it on mobile, they should be able or should be instructed when they call in on how to raise their hand. And then to unmute themselves, you can do that with star 6.

236 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:36:30.809 --> 00:36:38.369

I see that your hand is raised, I'm going to go ahead and request to unmute your line.

237 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)

00:36:46.263 --> 00:37:03.919

Okay, I am Greg, I have the, uh, Alicia and how to chat him. I've been on harpoon fishing since the mid 80. S I strongly oppose the method of carpooling fish next to mobile gear boats. The category was created on the principle.

238 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)

00:37:03.919 --> 00:37:09.539

To allow all interested persons, a fair opportunity to engage in the fishery.

239 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:09.539 --> 00:37:13.919

And that it's whether dependence would support an unlimited daily catch.

240 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:13.919 --> 00:37:17.069

Fishing next to Mobil gear boats, eliminate.

241 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:17.069 --> 00:37:20.939

The problems of whether I know I'm repeating myself, but.

242 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:20.939 --> 00:37:30.509

You know, this is kind of where we're at, and you can pursue this method at night, relatively rough weather and fog, 24, 7.

243 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:30.509 --> 00:37:38.789

1, both did this consistently last season, which met a limited quote is depleted on big, low quality fish.

244 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:38.789 --> 00:37:44.699

That's basically what was encountered on these boats offshore the rest of the fleet.

245 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:44.699 --> 00:37:48.509

Couldn't afford to sit and wait for calm weather conditions.

246 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:48.509 --> 00:37:51.659

My feeling is if, uh.

247 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:51.659 --> 00:37:58.499

Doesn't pay on this method from the fishery. It will be reduced to a week. Not months.

248 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:37:58.499 --> 00:38:02.249

And making things harder than they already are.

249 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:02.249 --> 00:38:05.819

Uh, to turn a profit from the fishing.

250 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:05.819 --> 00:38:10.859

You have a petition that was signed by all. Uh, uh, but, uh.



251 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:10.859 --> 00:38:14.760  
2 participants in the harpoon category.

252 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:14.760 --> 00:38:22.710  
I hope you will allow, uh, wouldn't allow 2 boats to dictate the future of this longstanding fishery.

253 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:22.710 --> 00:38:27.540  
And I have a few other comments on.

254 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:27.540 --> 00:38:30.570  
Opening I would support a May 15th opening.

255 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:30.570 --> 00:38:36.150  
And I would appreciate, uh, an increase in the medium catch all sort of 4.

256 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:36.150 --> 00:38:41.610  
And I appreciate some of the comments about reducing this.

257 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:41.610 --> 00:38:44.970  
Our daily touch limit while this.

258 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:44.970 --> 00:38:48.150  
Problem exists. I am not in favor of that.

259 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:48.150 --> 00:38:55.680  
Uh, just I would rather keep it the way it is. Uh, I don't want to.

260 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:55.680 --> 00:38:59.280  
Those kinds of restrictions, right? Thank you.

261 "Greg Walinski" (3658926336)  
00:38:59.280 --> 00:39:03.360  
Thank.

262 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:39:03.360 --> 00:39:06.840  
You for your comments Mr. Walinski I'm gonna go ahead and re, mute your line.

263 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:39:06.840 --> 00:39:16.650

I see Joseph Luccisano I see. Your hand is raised so I'm going to go ahead and request to unmute your line.

264 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:39:20.880 --> 00:39:30.204  
Okay, you are now unmuted? Please go ahead.

265 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:30.204 --> 00:39:34.740  
Hello? Hi. Hi. Hi. Thank you for a chance to comment.

266 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:34.740 --> 00:39:44.400  
Um, so I've been in the harpoon fishery, I'd say for about 7 years, and I consider myself.

267 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:44.400 --> 00:39:48.060  
A rocky still a surprising as that might be.

268 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:48.060 --> 00:39:51.870  
This is an incredibly difficult fishery.

269 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:51.870 --> 00:39:55.050  
Uh, it's it's truly an artisanal practice.

270 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:39:55.050 --> 00:40:02.280  
Um, in a sense, we already have restricted fishing days, uh, implemented by Mother nature.

271 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:40:02.280 --> 00:40:07.890  
Um, and this practice of fishing in, or around mobile gear.

272 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:40:07.890 --> 00:40:12.810  
Vessels, especially at night, um, completely eliminates.

273 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:40:12.810 --> 00:40:15.930  
All of those factors from the Fisher.

274 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:40:15.930 --> 00:40:18.930  
And puts us fisherman that.

275 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:40:18.930 --> 00:40:24.180  
Do you stick to traditional methods at a very unfair advantage?

276 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:24.180 --> 00:40:31.500

I would support regulatory changes, uh, to eliminate.

277 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:31.500 --> 00:40:36.720

Boats that are are practicing in in that way.

278 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:36.720 --> 00:40:40.140

Um, you know, the way I look at it is.

279 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:40.140 --> 00:40:43.440

Anybody that's listening now that that.

280 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:43.440 --> 00:40:49.110

Hunt whitetail um, it's pretty easy to go out at night with a.

281 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:49.110 --> 00:40:55.440

Spotlight shine of field and harvest mature, white tail.

282 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:40:55.440 --> 00:41:00.060

And at that point, the deer at extreme disadvantage.

283 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:00.060 --> 00:41:03.150

Doing the same with the bluefin tuna.

284 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:03.150 --> 00:41:08.580

In the harpoon category is quite honestly completely insane to me.

285 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:08.580 --> 00:41:14.580

This this fishery it, it's like I said, it's very difficult.

286 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:14.580 --> 00:41:18.390

It takes years to learn, um.

287 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:18.390 --> 00:41:25.110

We travel sometimes hundreds of miles a day, just to get an opportunity.

288 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:25.110 --> 00:41:28.800

At 1, fish or or to fish.

289 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)

00:41:28.800 --> 00:41:32.250

And fishing in around these.

290 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:41:32.250 --> 00:41:36.960  
Uh, mobile gear vessels, basically jumping in tuna.

291 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:41:36.960 --> 00:41:40.740  
Uh, is shooting fish in a barrel to me.

292 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:41:40.740 --> 00:41:47.760  
Um, and I'm someone who's never had even had the advantage of, of using a plane.

293 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:41:47.760 --> 00:41:54.570  
So, hopefully we can make some changes and put some restrictions in place.

294 "Joseph Luccisano" (2015850496)  
00:41:54.570 --> 00:41:57.630  
To stop this practice from happening, thank you.

295 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:42:01.985 --> 00:42:06.090  
Thank you very much. Those comments I'm going to go ahead and re, mute your line.

296 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:42:12.450 --> 00:42:30.120  
If there anyone, or if anyone is calling out on mobile and would like to raise your hand, you could try star 3 to raise your hand. And then that would be star 6 again to unmute yourself. I do not see anyone in the queue right now, but the floor is still open for any additional comments.

297 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:42:33.600 --> 00:42:37.170  
Okay, Mr. Hesse I see your hand histories I'm going to, um.

298 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:42:37.170 --> 00:42:50.525  
Request to unmute your line. Okay, you are now unmuted. You can please go ahead.

299 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:42:50.525 --> 00:42:53.580  
And a, thank you, um, as 1 of the.

300 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:42:53.580 --> 00:43:00.450  
You know, crafters of the initial petition. I just wanted to offer a clarification that there was never any intention.

301 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:00.450 --> 00:43:04.530

For this petition, or any regulatory changes that came from it.

302 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:04.530 --> 00:43:09.810

To, um, modify, or restrict the behavior on mobile gear vessels. In fact.

303 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:09.810 --> 00:43:18.240

This was all about making rules for a highly migratory species, permitted vessels, meaning the themselves.

304 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:18.240 --> 00:43:34.680

And so we never intended to restrict the activities of mobile gear vessels in any way the impetus for enforcement or following this rule would be all on the permitted vessel.

305 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:34.680 --> 00:43:38.550

Um, and, you know, I, I understand that.

306 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:38.550 --> 00:43:42.930

Crafting a regulation is, is a.

307 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:42.930 --> 00:43:47.160

With the potential for the lawsuits from industry, it happens frequently.

308 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:47.160 --> 00:43:51.510

And you're, you're following the right procedure here by starting.

309 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:43:51.510 --> 00:44:00.600

With a scoping process, and we see this as as 1 step in the management process I will say and I think I pointed out in my writing that.

310 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:00.600 --> 00:44:05.130

While you always consider no action alternative in these things.

311 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:05.130 --> 00:44:10.170

No action alternative in this case, actually forces, um.

312 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:10.170 --> 00:44:15.300

A large proportion of the existing participants to change the way that they're fishing.

313 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:15.300 --> 00:44:18.870

So, no action would be ignoring something that.

314 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:18.870 --> 00:44:27.150

We feel goes against the principles upon which the harpoon category was founded and that in itself to us.

315 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:27.150 --> 00:44:31.230

Is the kind of thing that we would have to consider.

316 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:31.230 --> 00:44:34.740

Um, taking some sort of legal action to rectify.

317 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:34.740 --> 00:44:38.460

Being disenfranchised from something that you've done for 40 years.

318 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:38.460 --> 00:44:47.400

Um, just is not going to sit lightly with with most or 95 of the people who participate in this category. Um.

319 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:47.400 --> 00:44:52.920

And if if I could also mention, you know, we, a lot of us have looked at and and talked about.

320 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:52.920 --> 00:44:57.540

A lower daily limit as a potential temporary solution to this.

321 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:44:57.540 --> 00:45:02.160

What we've seen that distributing the, the catch this way.

322 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:45:02.160 --> 00:45:07.950

Limits commercial opportunities in this history and has resulted in lots of other.

323 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:45:07.950 --> 00:45:12.270

Mostly state managed fisheries, like, Stripe bass, sea bass.

324 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:45:12.270 --> 00:45:19.260

Ending up in the hands of people who are on vacation for a week or 2 a year and turn out in a great numbers.

325 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:45:19.260 --> 00:45:25.380

Uh, I know that AP in our September discussions, and at other times has mentioned.

326 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:25.380 --> 00:45:31.800

The potential for some sort of limit entry or individual quota system.

327 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:31.800 --> 00:45:37.080

To be imposed, which would then distribute the catch and historical.

328 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:37.080 --> 00:45:46.620

Fashion, depending on the period that you use to decide about quotas, and they may may, or may not be transferable but.

329 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:46.620 --> 00:45:50.340

That would certainly be an expedient way to.

330 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:50.340 --> 00:45:56.460

Establish that opportunity for people who wanted a fair chance at participating in the fishery.

331 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:45:56.460 --> 00:46:01.800

I feel that would limit the chances for younger people to get into the fishery down the road.

332 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:46:01.800 --> 00:46:06.180

And we'd rather see this issue clarified by regulation then.

333 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:46:06.180 --> 00:46:10.920

You know, essentially changing the fundamental nature of the history with some kind of.

334 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:46:10.920 --> 00:46:18.090

Or lowering the trip limit till it's basically just like the general category. And if I.

335 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:46:18.090 --> 00:46:21.690

I just keep hearing something else about airplanes.

336 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
00:46:21.690 --> 00:46:27.420

Airplanes enhance the boats ability to catch fish in the traditional manner.

337 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:27.420 --> 00:46:32.100

They never allowed fish to be caught at night, or in the rain.

338 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:32.100 --> 00:46:37.260

Or, even in rough weather, you still have to, you know, sneak up on the fish and.

339 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:37.260 --> 00:46:40.980

And use your skill to to catch a fish that was swimming.

340 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:40.980 --> 00:46:44.460

Unimpeded in the ocean, so I.

341 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:44.460 --> 00:46:48.930

There are some similarities, I guess, in that I could increase the catch rate.

342 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

00:46:48.930 --> 00:46:52.620

But that's as far as it goes, as far as I'm concerned, thank you.

343 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:46:56.920 --> 00:47:12.300

Thank you for your comments very much. Mr. Hesse. I'm going to go ahead and re muted and lower your hand. And then again, if you are calling in by mobile, you can use star 3 to raise your hand. And then that will be star 6 to unmute yourself.

344 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:47:12.300 --> 00:47:18.120

And in the call in user 2, I'm going to request that you unmute your line.

345 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:47:23.670 --> 00:47:27.390

And then that will be, um, star 6 to unmute yourself.

346 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:47:36.418 --> 00:47:44.940

Hello Hi, you're unmuted. We can hear you that. My name's Steve. Weiner. Hold on.

347 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:47:44.940 --> 00:47:50.550

Hold on is getting more commands. Can you hear me?

348 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:47:50.550 --> 00:47:56.433

Yes, sir, we can hear you.



349 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:47:56.433 --> 00:47:59.910  
Thank you, I'm going to send another request to unmute.

350 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:48:12.300 --> 00:48:16.160  
And star 6 should unmute yourself so.

351 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:48:16.160 --> 00:48:17.279  
Oh, hi.

352 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:48:17.279 --> 00:48:19.579  
We can hear you again. Yeah, my.

353 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:48:19.579 --> 00:48:22.590  
Steve later I'll try to be quick.

354 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:48:22.590 --> 00:48:29.100  
I I keep I keep being asked to unmute myself even when I on mute myself.

355 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:48:32.485 --> 00:48:42.605  
Still getting that request, we can hear you. Fine.

356 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:48:42.605 --> 00:48:53.520  
Steve, you don't have to hit the unmute, um, once you go ahead and well,  
once we unmute, you feel free to go ahead and speak. You don't have to  
worry about that a request to continue to unmute yourself.

357 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:49:22.282 --> 00:49:26.250  
Steve, I'm going to send 1 more request to unmute.

358 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:49:26.250 --> 00:49:46.250  
See, if I can unmute your line.

359 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:49:51.125 --> 00:49:53.378  
I take it you can hear me now.

360 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:49:53.378 --> 00:49:55.727  
Yes, yes, we can hear you.

361 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:49:55.727 --> 00:50:02.340  
So, you know, it keeps coming in asking me to unmute myself. So that's my  
commute me. My name is Steve Weiner.

362 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:02.340 --> 00:50:05.970  
Dubious honor being part of the oldest harpoon are on this call.

363 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:05.970 --> 00:50:09.330  
It started in the sixties.

364 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:09.330 --> 00:50:17.400  
Learn from the royalty of harpooning. In my opinion, the MacIntyre family, and I've watched the harpoon involved.

365 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:17.400 --> 00:50:21.420  
For that well, for my 71 years.

366 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:21.420 --> 00:50:26.100  
I think there's some point that need to be emphasized.

367 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:26.100 --> 00:50:34.200  
This is a tiny quota. It's really a tiny quota. And the real issue is the size of our quota.

368 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:34.200 --> 00:50:45.030  
I was involved in the actual starting of the harpoon category when we saw the impending change to the fishery of 1 fish per day.

369 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:45.030 --> 00:50:49.980  
A few of us are sat down with the agency and we made a case.

370 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:49.980 --> 00:50:53.580  
For our own category in our own.

371 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:53.580 --> 00:50:57.570  
Multiple catch criteria. It was a big deal.

372 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:50:57.570 --> 00:51:03.120  
To have done that. I'm still amazed when I go back and read the federal registers that I.

373 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:51:03.120 --> 00:51:07.770  
Has pulled from the 80 s. we were able to accomplish it.

374 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:07.770 --> 00:51:12.840

There was 2 things clearly when you give me those federal registers.

375 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:12.840 --> 00:51:22.170

They were highlighted 1, was the traditional nature, the traditional harpooning in the attempt by the rule to protect the traditional harpooning.

376 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:22.170 --> 00:51:30.180

Secondly, the, the, the, the admittance that whether dependency.

377 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:30.180 --> 00:51:37.200

Was it criteria that was substantial enough to grant us our own category in our own way efficient.

378 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:37.200 --> 00:51:45.690

Her point is, you know, I was trying to think how long what's been going on in me. I'm from me.

379 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:51:45.690 --> 00:52:00.240

And I want to say 100 years, maybe it is, but it's certainly 80, 80 years is prosecuted the same way. You go out in decent weather, you try to find fish, you try to harpoon. It takes a long time to get good at it.

380 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:00.240 --> 00:52:19.380

And what's happening now we know one's trying to say what people are doing now is illegal in this whole discussion by the mobile gear industry that somehow they're offended by this. The reality is the mobile gearfishery is not allowed in the mobile. You're fishing to be participating in the harpoon category.

381 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:19.380 --> 00:52:25.860

Catch a both so if anything look at this as something that protects you.

382 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:25.860 --> 00:52:45.860

Because it permits at risk it could be fine. I mean, I don't know when the mobile gear guys that are protected around these I think a lot of the mobile here guys are just getting attacked by 2 inefficient and they're probably sitting there saying what's heck's going on. I think there's others, it might be encouraging it. I don't know if others might be receiving.

383 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:45.860 --> 00:52:50.400

Money for it, but where, where does that line that mobile gear line?

384 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:50.400 --> 00:52:57.690

Get crushed to where they are actually participating in the highlight or issue. I wasn't going to bring it up what I had to.

385 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:52:57.690 --> 00:53:12.540

Own had to, because I think you're making a huge mistake if the agency I mean, I'm not a guy that asks for government to come in and solve problems anything on the opposite, but there's a place where you need to.

386 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:53:12.540 --> 00:53:24.120

And I think, you know, what's going to hit the sand if the agency ignores this issue exhort, nor is the potential for conflicts and doesn't step in and do something.

387 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:53:24.120 --> 00:53:35.790

You know, this is a traditional fishery it was established as a traditional fishery, and it should stay a traditional fishery. We've all we compete with each other. We have our.

388 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:53:35.790 --> 00:53:55.790

Pissing contest at times in this fishery, but for my whole time, we generally get along. We generally work together. We generally we generally work out our problems. The problem here is there's 1 or 2 people who don't want to be part of the solution. So they want to go their own way. They think they're smarter than the rest of the.

389 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:53:55.790 --> 00:54:04.290

People they think they found a little loophole, but what the reality is, they're going to open the door where everyone is going to have to do this.

390 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:54:04.290 --> 00:54:13.590

And I agree with a previous comment, this threatens the harpoon category, which is the most sustainable.

391 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:54:13.590 --> 00:54:19.740

It's, it's many many people think it's the cleanest of all the fisheries.

392 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:54:19.740 --> 00:54:32.400

And I think it would be a shame and I got to tell you, there's a love of this fishery for the participants in it. It cuts deep into their way of life. I would say, in Maine, even though it may be only.

393 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

00:54:32.400 --> 00:54:40.260

25 30 guys doing it. It, it's part of the culture. It's part of the traditional phishing. It's, it's.

394 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:54:40.260 --> 00:54:47.670

It would be a huge mistake to ignore it and I think it needs the agency has to step in and fix it.

395 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
00:54:47.670 --> 00:54:54.217

Or it's going to get ugly. Thank you.

396 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:54:54.217 --> 00:55:07.670

You very much for that comment Steve. Um, so I just want to let everybody know, you know, thank you for being very respectful to each other. Um, please keep in mind that, you know, this is a listening session, and, you know, please direct your comments to us.

397 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
00:55:07.670 --> 00:55:15.870

I'm not saying anybody said anything, uh, disrespectful, but just want to make sure that we keep this wonderful decorum that we have going.

398 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:55:20.202 --> 00:55:39.050

Quickly Mr. Brian Sargent I wanted to say, we we have received your comment "I'm Brian Sargent owner of Melissa Sue from newburyport Ma. I agree with most of my fellow fisherman. The harpoon fishery wasn't created to fish around mobile gear, fishing at night and in not perfect weather conditions. I strongly agree.

399 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:55:39.050 --> 00:55:51.930

With banning boats from harpooning behind mobile gear and harpooning at night. I have been in the industry my whole life have only owned my harpoon boat for 6 years now. I feel if this action keeps up we won't have a.

400 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:55:51.930 --> 00:55:58.860

A harpoon fishery left." and then your additional comment "just wanted to touch base on the safety of the fisherman.

401 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:55:58.860 --> 00:56:18.860

Fishing behind these boats I'm sure you all of seen the video's. This boat is 3 or 4 feet off the back of these fishing boats. I feel this is not safe for anyone to be doing. I am in favor of a may 15th opening. I please ask you to take immediate action before we have no.

402 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:56:18.860 --> 00:56:23.790

Harpoon fishery left. Thanks so much for your time." So we did also receive those comments.

403 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

00:56:23.790 --> 00:56:31.740

I see in the queue, Lindsay Wilson, I'm going to request you unmute your line.

404 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:56:36.963 --> 00:56:56.810

Thank you Anna this is Lindsay Wilson I own and operate a harpoon boat out of Gloucester mass. I have been in this industry, uh, a very short time. The last 7 years. I respectfully appreciate the opportunity.

405 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:56:56.810 --> 00:57:16.810

To come and hear everyone's concerns, I think, and I want to just reiterate and echo what everyone has said the fact that the vast majority of harpoon fishermen, support, immediate changes, I think is very telling and what I'd like to.

406 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:57:16.810 --> 00:57:28.950

To say is I was not around obviously at the framing of the harpoon category, but as a new fisherman in the harpoon category, if I was involved today.

407 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:57:28.950 --> 00:57:48.950

And I had to construct a framework for which this industry or this segment of the blue Fin, tuna fishery existed. It would absolutely positively not include her pruning behind mobile gear. And I think the thought of of.

408 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:57:48.950 --> 00:57:57.660

Or this is my 1st, involvement with any of this sort of thing. So however, the decision making process occurs, but the, the framers.

409 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:57:57.660 --> 00:58:17.660

Constructing a framework and NOAA and the fisheries administration that approves these. I could not envision in any way shape or form that they would approve efficiency that would allow carpooling behind mobile gear. So I just wanted to express my concerns and express my appreciation for your.

410 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:58:17.660 --> 00:58:29.580

Support and request that, uh, immediate action be taken to curb this behavior. And then on the May 15th opening, I would be strongly in support of that. Thank you.

411 "Lindsay Wilson" (188559616)

00:58:29.580 --> 00:58:33.540  
Yeah.

412 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:58:33.540 --> 00:58:37.980  
Thank you very much for your comments. Mr. Wilson I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

413 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
00:58:37.980 --> 00:58:45.510  
And Mike, I see, your hand is raised I'm going to request you unmute your line.

414 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:58:55.980 --> 00:59:10.920  
I thank you for taking my comments today. I'm actually on both sides of this. I am a spotter, a pilot I fly out of Hampton, New Hampshire. I have flown for the boat that's involved in this, and I have run off shore drivers.

415 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:10.920 --> 00:59:16.440  
And I will say, as an offshore drag him in 5 days into the trip with very little sleep.

416 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:16.440 --> 00:59:28.080  
We haul back, turn around and step back out. We don't make any money if that's not on the bottom. So the potential for a collision if it happened hasn't happened yet it's definitely going to happen.

417 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:28.080 --> 00:59:33.000  
As a spotter pilot, we're just making the harpoon boats.

418 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:33.000 --> 00:59:40.980  
In the traditional fishery, more efficient, instead of 1 or 2 chances that these people talk about, we might have 7 or 8.

419 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:40.980 --> 00:59:51.090  
To 10 chances, um, the guys to less, they hit it, they do have to have some skill involved, but it's just a more efficient way of harpoon.

420 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:51.090 --> 00:59:54.570  
As a viable economic fishery.

421 "Mike" (1163321344)  
00:59:54.570 --> 00:59:58.830  
It's over, it's over if you catch 30 or 40 fiscal year.

422 "Mike" (1163321344)

00:59:58.830 --> 01:00:01.890  
You have basically just covered expenses.

423 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:01.890 --> 01:00:06.030  
So, regulatory wise, I don't know what you can do.

424 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:06.030 --> 01:00:09.660  
This year with rulemaking to get any changes.

425 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:09.660 --> 01:00:13.620  
In effect, the 10 fish limit was put in.

426 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:13.620 --> 01:00:21.420  
To discourage this if we drop it the 5 fish. I know the boat involved has actually bought a 2nd boat.

427 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:21.420 --> 01:00:24.720  
And they'd still be able to harvest 10 fish.

428 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:24.720 --> 01:00:29.280  
In that time, period so, uh.

429 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:29.280 --> 01:00:36.600  
To say this season be over in 5 days. I don't think that's very accurate. This behavior with these bigger fish showing up later.

430 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:36.600 --> 01:00:40.890  
Um, basically in July.

431 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:40.890 --> 01:00:44.760  
It happened last year it started on July 5th.

432 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:44.760 --> 01:00:48.990  
And in that was on George's.

433 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:48.990 --> 01:00:54.300  
On the 7th of July.

434 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:00:54.300 --> 01:01:09.570  
Steve Weiner, Mike, Luccisano, Webber verge they all have multiple catches almost equal to what they will catch it on George's. So, I don't



think limiting the fish to 5 fishper day is basically going to slow this down.

435 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:01:09.570 --> 01:01:13.530  
When I see, this is the end of the additional.

436 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:01:13.530 --> 01:01:16.650  
Open it up to let everybody go to Georges.

437 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:01:16.650 --> 01:01:22.230  
And then we'll just do away with the fishery. You go back to the 3 a day as the general category.

438 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:01:22.230 --> 01:01:29.578  
Thank you for taking my comments. Thank.

439 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:01:29.578 --> 01:01:34.380  
Thank you very much for your comments, Mike. I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

440 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:01:34.380 --> 01:01:43.230  
And then Steven Ghetto, I see that your hand is raised. So I'm going to request the, you unmute your line.

441 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:01:48.039 --> 01:01:55.770  
Thank you my concern when we consider regulating specific tactics within a fishery.

442 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:01:55.770 --> 01:01:59.040  
I think back to my days, when I was a headliner.

443 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:01:59.040 --> 01:02:08.190  
And the came into the fleet and started using rod and reels. We didn't complain when the rod and reels came and we had a.

444 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:02:08.190 --> 01:02:15.330  
Drop off our ball to get get out of a rod and way and within 2 years, we were all using rod and reels.

445 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:02:15.330 --> 01:02:18.660  
Because it was a better way to catch fish.

446 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

01:02:18.660 --> 01:02:23.730

Adapting is a way of life, you know, fish, change, fish, behavior, change.

447 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

01:02:23.730 --> 01:02:26.730

The ocean changes, the oceans are getting warmer.

448 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

01:02:26.730 --> 01:02:32.400

We've asked to open the season earlier as a result of warming temperatures, so.

449 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)

01:02:32.400 --> 01:02:35.880

Adapting is something we have to do. Thank you.

450 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:02:41.519 --> 01:02:53.430

Okay, thank you very much for those comments. Call-in-user 2. I see that your hand is still raised. I didn't know if you had an additional comment I'm going to go ahead and request you on mute.

451 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:03:13.430 --> 01:03:24.881

Okay, I sent that request for 1 more time. We can hear. Yes. Yeah I.

452 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:24.881 --> 01:03:32.940

I meant to say in my comment and forgot, I do believe that a daily catch limit reduction until this.

453 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:32.940 --> 01:03:40.830

Issue was resolved should occur. I think there's an obligation that the agency has to be, uh.

454 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:40.830 --> 01:03:44.700

Give everyone in geographically a fair opportunity.

455 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:44.700 --> 01:03:50.940

And I would, I've heard that the agency can only go as low as 5, but I'd go to those 3.

456 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:50.940 --> 01:03:56.160

I think I think we need to do that.

457 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)

01:03:56.160 --> 01:04:01.770

And, you know, this fishery has been pretty much the same my whole life.

458 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:01.770 --> 01:04:17.340  
There's been ups and there's been downs and people that say, well, it's water temperature and all these things are going to change. It's been the same for my whole 60 years of participating in this fishery. This is not an issue of adapting.

459 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:17.340 --> 01:04:20.700  
If we all adapt to this new way of harpooning.

460 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:20.700 --> 01:04:23.700  
It's not not going to be our blue category.

461 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:23.700 --> 01:04:30.420  
It's not going to happen and to compare what we're doing puttering around in Maine.

462 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:30.420 --> 01:04:34.530  
Looking around for fish to.

463 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:34.530 --> 01:04:40.890  
Going out at night with lights, chasing down a school or a heartbeat. There's just not.

464 "Call-in User\_2" (3665319424)  
01:04:40.890 --> 01:04:48.398  
Apples and oranges, thank you.

465 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:04:48.398 --> 01:04:56.430  
Thank you, I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

466 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:04:56.430 --> 01:05:04.590  
Um, I see no additional hands raised. I also do not see anything in the chat.

467 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:05:04.590 --> 01:05:12.330  
Okay, I see David, that your hand is raised I'm going to request you.

468 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:05:12.330 --> 01:05:22.859  
Um, unmute your line. Okay you're unmuted. You can go ahead.

469 "David Schalit" (956482816)  
01:05:22.859 --> 01:05:28.440  
Okay, I do not have a dog in this fight. I am not a.

470 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:05:28.440 --> 01:05:48.440

And my comments, I'm not representing the American Association. I'm speaking as as a general category fishermen, I have heard, they mentioned mentioned that the general category several times in this conversation, and the sake of good order. I'd like to mention that.

471 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:05:48.440 --> 01:05:58.410

In my opinion, there is probably 0 potential for any of these restrictions that are being discussed right now to get legs.

472 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:05:58.410 --> 01:06:01.650

Or obtain any support in the general category.

473 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:06:01.650 --> 01:06:11.760

These these issues in connection with fishing, behind fishing at night fishing behind a dragger, all these things have been done in the general category.

474 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:06:11.760 --> 01:06:31.760

As far back as I can remember and it's not something that's done every day but it definitely. It's definitely part of the of our toolkit now. I'm not just making a blue fin tuna, but in the case of blue Fin, tuna, when we go to George's bank, if there happened to be some scalpers there and when they're shocking.

475 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:06:31.760 --> 01:06:51.760

That is going to ring the dinner bell for blue Fin, tuna, and we will fish underneath those calibers. Similarly, along the coast of New York and New Jersey in a certain time of year. You have a great many drivers out there who are fishing for squid, and we will fish behind these vessels.

476 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:06:51.760 --> 01:07:00.810

And catch a lot of yellow, right? So, it's just a simple, you know, this is just a statement of fact. Okay, now, I know that.

477 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:07:00.810 --> 01:07:20.810

There are owners in the general category, and I do know that in the month of June, that those harpoons, just like everyone else in the general category have a 3 fish bag limit. Okay. What I'm saying is, I don't know how you're going to be able to deal with this with regard to those harpoons. But what I'm, what I'm leading up to here is that I'm not.

478 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:07:20.810 --> 01:07:28.650

Urging any, any change in regulations in the general category, because I think that there will be 0 support for it.

479 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:07:28.650 --> 01:07:41.280

There is, however, there is an analog in this situation for the situation with regard to big. Now, just by way of background big tuna has been managed by.

480 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:07:41.280 --> 01:07:46.290

Since 974 under 1, Atlantic wide tack.

481 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:07:46.290 --> 01:08:06.290

Okay, so the U. S. doesn't have a specific quota for big guys. So we've been able to catch as many big guys we want. And so has every other country. Now, what's happened is that all the large harvesters now have a fixed quota and and is focusing their attention now?

482 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:08:06.290 --> 01:08:12.060

Establishing a fixed quota for all the small harvesters of which the U. S. is 1.

483 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:08:12.060 --> 01:08:28.020

Okay, so we are looking in the very near future at having a fixed quota for big tuna. Now, I should mention that big tuna is worth far more than any other species commercially.

484 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:08:28.020 --> 01:08:31.650

Okay, so we have a commercial hand gear vessels.

485 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:08:31.650 --> 01:08:51.650

Just like the headquarters in the general category, right? We have commercial vessels that are targeting big tunas and we have a long line fleet, which is targeting big tunas. So now the interestingly long line fleet have been recently made aware of a Japanese technique. That was developed, which is called.

486 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:08:51.650 --> 01:09:09.900

Set long line fishing, we're targeting big tuna, which is a far more effective way, a big tuna than the techniques that have been used by the longliners until now. And so the long owners have 2 choices. They can either continue to do their shallowwater sets.

487 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:09:09.900 --> 01:09:29.250

Or they can, they can adopt the Japanese technique where they will actually obtain more. They, they actually have more success. Okay. Now

there's no dispute amongst all the long liners. Now, they know that they're looking at down the road in the very near future and having a fixed quota for big.

488 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:09:29.250 --> 01:09:37.734

Which means they, they run the risk that you guys are running with the harpoon category of running out of date, David they need to sorry. Hey, David just.

489 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:09:37.734 --> 01:09:48.464

Quickly, I just want you to know, like, uh, thank you for telling us about the long liners, but we're trying to keep this focus to the topics of the discussion with the harpoon category and the practices. Yes, that's right.

490 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:09:48.464 --> 01:10:01.890

So, what I'm pointing out is this, that there are situations that exist in, which are similar to the ones that you guys are looking at. And, uh.

491 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:10:01.890 --> 01:10:04.980

I think the basically.

492 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:10:04.980 --> 01:10:08.940

This is, I think we need to focus on what is the purpose.

493 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:10:08.940 --> 01:10:27.240

And need for this for this change these change that you guys want to make it's really up to you guys how you're going to what you want to do. It's something I, I'm not involved in this situation, but I think that we need to focus on. Precisely. The purpose and need.

494 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:10:27.240 --> 01:10:33.854

For this for these changes, thanks very much.

495 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:10:33.854 --> 01:10:38.790

Okay, thank you very much for your comments. Mr. Schalit. I'm going to go ahead and re mute your line.

496 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:10:38.790 --> 01:10:45.540

And I see Nick that you have your hand raise. So I'm going to request that you unmute.

497 "nick tavano " (3374969088)

01:10:56.298 --> 01:11:00.150

Hi, How's it going? Um, I'm how to Cape Cod.

498 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:00.150 --> 01:11:04.260  
I think I'm 1 of the younger harpoons out there.

499 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:04.260 --> 01:11:10.290  
Being 31 years old, I've been doing it for been in the harpoon category for about 6 years. Now.

500 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:10.290 --> 01:11:21.240  
I am I support the ban against the mobile gear fishery I think it is going to ruin the future of the fishery and young fishermen like me.

501 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:21.240 --> 01:11:32.610  
Um, I also 1 of the biggest reasons for banning it on top of it being so easy and taking away the skill is, these guys are going out and targeting big fish that are.

502 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:32.610 --> 01:11:35.730  
Basically, useless in the market at the moment.

503 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:35.730 --> 01:11:42.780  
None of the buyers want them or anything and these Fisher basically worthless. So they're, they're filling the quote up with worthless fish that are.

504 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:42.780 --> 01:11:52.860  
Uh, really easy to get behind these mobile gear boats and and I think that's a big problem. And kind of going off that I, I do support.

505 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:52.860 --> 01:11:58.680  
The 4:50:a day for 4 mediums a day.

506 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:11:58.680 --> 01:12:05.010  
Um, that Steve was talking about and also a, uh, March 15th. So.

507 "Nick Tavano" (3374969088)  
01:12:05.010 --> 01:12:10.639  
That's all Thank you.

508 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:12:10.639 --> 01:12:13.770  
Thank you. Mr. Tavano I'm going to re, mute your line.

509 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:12:20.010 --> 01:12:28.260

Ok, I currently see no additional comments in the chat nor do I see any hands raised.

510 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:12:32.040 --> 01:12:35.430  
Here's the few that have come in, um.

511 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:12:35.430 --> 01:12:39.390  
Chris, I'm going to request that you unmute your line.

512 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:12:50.015 --> 01:12:53.640  
Okay, you're you're unmuted. You can go ahead. Can you hear me? Okay.

513 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:12:53.640 --> 01:13:01.290  
Yes, we can hear you. Fine. Yeah, I, I just came in late. I was gonna say quickly that, you know, 1 of the things that I've heard is that, um.

514 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:01.290 --> 01:13:06.120  
Profusely I've heard this is that this is Maine fisherman.

515 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:06.120 --> 01:13:10.320  
Jealous about what some people have done um.

516 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:10.320 --> 01:13:15.690  
I think people are in for a rude awakening if they think that there's somehow better.

517 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:15.690 --> 01:13:19.320  
Or more skilled, more talented.

518 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:19.320 --> 01:13:25.890  
And at that, the only place that you could do this, if people want to have a 1 week harpoon category, let's open it up.

519 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:25.890 --> 01:13:33.330  
See, what happens because there's some people that have been talking a lot like, fishermen up north. They're jealous.

520 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:33.330 --> 01:13:39.750  
That it's somehow some skill that these guys developed chasing around 1000 calendars behind. Well.

521 "Chris Weiner" (3013369088)  
01:13:39.750 --> 01:13:45.998



Just be careful what you wish for. Thank you.

522 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:13:45.998 --> 01:13:49.710

Thank you for your comment. Mr. Weiner I'm going to go ahead and re,  
mute.

523 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:13:49.710 --> 01:13:56.610

And then Michael Blanchard, I see that your hand is raised. So I'm going  
to request you on mute your line.

524 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:14:10.854 --> 01:14:20.100

And again, I just want to thank everybody for being able to provide us  
this input. Uh, please once again, you know, not calling anybody out. Uh.

525 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:14:20.100 --> 01:14:39.276

Be mindful of the time I believe we're at 11:20 right now. Uh, please try  
to keep your comments concise and also please be mindful, you know, to  
try to keep it respectful, direct, any comments to us. Hey, I'm unmuted  
now. Can you hear me? Yes, we can hear you. Great. Go ahead. The 1.

526 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:14:39.276 --> 01:14:42.390

Best thing that I wanted to add to the whole thing was, is it.

527 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:14:42.390 --> 01:14:46.530

Although I think and feel pretty confident saying that.

528 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:14:46.530 --> 01:14:55.260

The numbers of fish and the size of the fish that are consistently being  
caught in this manner behind the mobile gear vessels.

529 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:14:55.260 --> 01:14:59.820

Is going to impact and has impacted market prices.

530 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:14:59.820 --> 01:15:05.580

Um, I am not completely opposed to.

531 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:05.580 --> 01:15:12.150

People that want to participate in this style of we'll call it a style of  
harmony.

532 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:12.150 --> 01:15:21.270

To go out, petitioning the agency as was done years ago in all the  
categories. Quite frankly.

533 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:21.270 --> 01:15:25.590

And justify to the agency.

534 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:25.590 --> 01:15:30.000

A quota for that style of harpoon.

535 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:30.000 --> 01:15:39.930

I would support that 100%. You want to go and do it and do your harpoon this way go ahead justify to the agency what you want to do, how you want to do it.

536 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:39.930 --> 01:15:44.250

Justify to them, why you need to be able to fish every single day.

537 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:44.250 --> 01:15:49.560

Justify why you need to have multiple catch.

538 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:49.560 --> 01:15:55.710

As, as the harpoon category fisherman did years ago when that when the category was established.

539 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:55.710 --> 01:15:58.770

I think that if they do that.

540 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:15:58.770 --> 01:16:06.270

They'll find that they won't get their own category and that they want and if they do, they certainly won't be given multiple catch and they won't be allowed to fish.

541 "michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:16:06.270 --> 01:16:14.400

Every day in every single night like that, that would be my final comment if they want to do it.

542 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:16:14.400 --> 01:16:18.510

Go get your own category and you can catch the fish the way you want to catch them.

543 "Michael Blanchard" (2033218048)

01:16:18.510 --> 01:16:22.277

Thank you.

544 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:16:22.277 --> 01:16:29.100

Thank you Mr. Blanchard I'm going to go ahead and remute.

545 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:16:29.100 --> 01:16:34.110

And, um, Mike, I see that your hand is raised I'm going to request that you un mute.

546 "Mike" (1163321344)

01:16:40.753 --> 01:16:46.650

I know this is a listening question, but I had a question that wasn't answered the 1st question within within rulemaking.

547 "Mike" (1163321344)

01:16:46.650 --> 01:16:51.390

I mean, the season's 67 days away, what actually can be done.

548 "Mike" (1163321344)

01:16:51.390 --> 01:16:57.000

Before this, we've talked about a start date and we started about a daily limit.

549 "Mike" (1163321344)

01:16:57.000 --> 01:17:03.060

I'm pretty familiar with rulemaking people's rule in comment, period. What can be done.

550 "Mike" (1163321344)

01:17:03.060 --> 01:17:06.210

For this upcoming season, thank you.

551 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:17:12.814 --> 01:17:19.410

As, you know, when it comes to our rulemaking process, rules, like you said, we'll make a stake time.

552 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:17:19.410 --> 01:17:33.690

Um, in the meanwhile, we do have the flexibility to perform in season actions. Um, a lot of, you know, about, and from last year where we reduced the limit from 10 fish down to 5. um.

553 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:17:33.690 --> 01:17:37.560

That's pretty much all I can give to you right now. Um.

554 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:17:37.560 --> 01:17:41.280

Given that the season is coming up quickly. Um.

555 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:17:49.801 --> 01:17:59.190

Um, call in user 15 I see that. Your hand is raised. I'm going to request that you unmute and then that is star 6 to unmute yourself.

556 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:02.279 --> 01:18:05.970  
Hi, can you hear me? Hi. Yes, we can hear you. Please. Go ahead.

557 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:05.970 --> 01:18:10.560  
Hi, my name's Max. I've been in the fisheries.

558 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:10.560 --> 01:18:13.800  
As long as.

559 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:13.800 --> 01:18:20.880  
A lot of people on the call, but a decent amount of time. Um, I just think I want to try to tease out something from the conversation that.

560 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:20.880 --> 01:18:25.080  
We can all kind of appear to agree on for the most part. And I think, um.

561 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:25.080 --> 01:18:29.310  
That is concerning 5:15: maybe, 15 opening date.

562 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:29.310 --> 01:18:32.700  
And the bump on these 4 large.

563 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:32.700 --> 01:18:39.240  
Um, kind of hear, both sides of the argument here. We kind of all agreeing that.

564 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:39.240 --> 01:18:43.770  
Um, the prices have been really for the past few years.

565 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:43.770 --> 01:18:47.730  
I think that's related to a multitude of factors.

566 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:47.730 --> 01:18:51.300  
Um, 1 of which being.

567 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:51.300 --> 01:18:54.390  
An immense amount of effort in the general category.

568 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:18:54.390 --> 01:19:02.400  
Whether that's related to social media or the TV show so be, it, it just is what it is. Now, the fishery.

569 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:02.400 --> 01:19:05.820  
Is becoming swamped typically the.

570 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:05.820 --> 01:19:11.220  
3 or 4 years since the cove is kind of shut down, it's been, you know, by the middle of July.

571 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:11.220 --> 01:19:17.010  
We're struggling to sell this over 90 that we can shut down.

572 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:17.010 --> 01:19:21.690  
Randomly by dealers, so I think the, uh.

573 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:21.690 --> 01:19:25.050  
Trying to persuade.

574 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:25.050 --> 01:19:30.840  
Ah, that's our computers stitches, more of the large medium sized fish, which is certainly easier to sell.

575 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:30.840 --> 01:19:33.870  
Um, and allowing us to fish earlier.

576 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:33.870 --> 01:19:39.390  
When there is no competition from the general category, or at least a minor amount of competition, because.

577 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:39.390 --> 01:19:43.080  
I mean, regardless of how you're catching the fish in July, whether it's behind the.

578 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:43.080 --> 01:19:46.170  
What would your vote when that presents itself or whether it.

579 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:46.170 --> 01:19:51.210  
Now, traditional way, 70 miles east of Portland.

580 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:51.210 --> 01:19:57.840  
The fish, um, the dealers doesn't really matter. I mean, I know a lot of big Fisher caught me in last year as well. So.

581 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:19:57.840 --> 01:20:04.080  
A return the same, whether they're a cop behind the Dragon, or they're caught.

582 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:20:04.080 --> 01:20:08.520  
Um, the quote, unquote, traditional way. So I think, I think I'd like to try to tease out.

583 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:20:08.520 --> 01:20:15.990  
What we seem to be able to agree on as a fishery in general, and just make that comment that I'd like to see.

584 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:20:15.990 --> 01:20:20.940  
5 g, and opening entertained and for large media.

585 "Call-in User\_15" (1113066752)  
01:20:20.940 --> 01:20:25.481  
Thank you.

586 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:20:25.481 --> 01:20:29.460  
Thank you for your comment, Matthew, I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

587 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:20:29.460 --> 01:20:37.770  
Okay.

588 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:20:37.770 --> 01:20:46.440  
I don't see any chats. Are there any additional comments that would that you would like to make Please raise your hand?

589 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:21:00.270 --> 01:21:07.197  
Um, Mike, I see, your hand is raised I'm going to unmute your line.

590 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:21:07.197 --> 01:21:21.803  
Okay, thank you for taking 1 more question. Can I may 15 start date be accomplished this year? Or is that something that the petition to go back to rulemaking? Is that within the regulations to have an earlier start date? Thank you.

591 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:21:21.803 --> 01:21:27.720  
That is something that would likely need to be petitioned, um, giving.

592 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:21:27.720 --> 01:21:40.801

How everything is playing out, but the season's starting normally, something like that would have to go through proposed to final rulemaking. Um.

593 "Mike" (1163321344)  
01:21:40.801 --> 01:21:45.118  
Do it.

594 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:21:45.118 --> 01:21:50.730  
Thank you, Mike. I'm gonna go ahead and oh, were you done? I guess I'm done. Yeah Yeah. Okay. Yeah.

595 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:21:50.730 --> 01:21:56.310  
Yeah, thank you. Thank you very much. Um.

596 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:21:56.310 --> 01:21:59.940  
Eric, I see that your hand is raised, I'm going to request that you on mute.

597 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:22:19.940 --> 01:22:25.200  
I'm going to send that request 1 more time. Mr.

598 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:22:38.040 --> 01:22:45.600  
Okay, we can, we can come back to you, Steven. I see that. Your hand is raised. I'm going to request that. You unmute.

599 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:22:49.699 --> 01:23:04.196  
Thank you, I just to clarify this is really a question for Larry. The 4 large mediums could be implemented this year because that's within the current fmp. Just if you could confirm that. Thank you.

600 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:23:04.196 --> 01:23:09.840  
Um, the 4 large mediums I believe that is within the bounds of an, in season action.

601 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:23:09.840 --> 01:23:19.680  
Um, at this moment, I believe we, um, set it up to where the range goes from 2 to 4 for large mediums.

602 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:23:19.680 --> 01:23:26.876  
But, again, that's something that, you know, we would have to take into consideration and look at the data. Right?

603 "AP Steven Getto" (4053845504)  
01:23:26.876 --> 01:23:34.277

Thank you.

604 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:23:34.277 --> 01:23:37.650

Okay, thank you very much. I'm going to go ahead and re, mute your line.

605 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:23:37.650 --> 01:23:43.230

And now, Eric has them coming back to you, I'm going to send you another request on mute.

606 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:23:48.416 --> 01:23:58.110

Thank you Anna. Um, I just think it might be worth pushing around the concept of a lower bag limit a little bit more. Uh, it seems to me like.

607 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:23:58.110 --> 01:24:03.210

We have a fairly broad agreement in our category that.

608 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:03.210 --> 01:24:07.140

You know, the 5 to 10 a day is, um.

609 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:07.140 --> 01:24:22.650

In the reasonable range, although those of us who have done this for quite a while, recognize the utility and the reasons for unlimited catch and that being offered initially, as you start to get down to the lower single digits.

610 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:22.650 --> 01:24:26.550

And specifically, 3 fish per day, now, you're.

611 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:26.550 --> 01:24:30.780

You know, engaging in social engineering to some to some extent.

612 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:30.780 --> 01:24:45.510

And it allows people with capital to, you know, over capitalize the fishery, have 2 votes where they can catch 6 fish a day, or have 3 posts catch 9:50:a day. Um, money isn't always a consideration.

613 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:45.510 --> 01:24:54.240

With social media and likes, it seems like people are getting involved for very different reasons in, especially sometimes. Um.

614 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)

01:24:54.240 --> 01:24:59.580

So, I don't know that that's a solution as a commercial fisherman.



615 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:24:59.580 --> 01:25:06.900

I, you know, if it's going to come to that, and often when Nick puts a rule like that on the books, it stays on the books. Even if.

616 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:06.900 --> 01:25:12.960

We do resolve this issue 1 way, or the other, and a van is implemented that 3 fish will always be on the books.

617 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:12.960 --> 01:25:18.930

And it will always be a, you know, we've managed it in the past to through our dealers.

618 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:18.930 --> 01:25:26.160

Slow down the fishing when it just didn't make sense to go because of the prices and those include those times in July. So.

619 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:26.160 --> 01:25:30.960

I'm opposed to it. I don't think that's the answer here.

620 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:30.960 --> 01:25:35.190

I don't think quotas are the answer either.

621 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:35.190 --> 01:25:41.520

But, you know, I'd rather be able to go out and be assured that I could catch fish when they're worth something and a quota. Does that.

622 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:41.520 --> 01:25:45.390

So, I mean, I'd rather see this be band.

623 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:45.390 --> 01:25:49.680

And to focus our our energies on that, um.

624 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:49.680 --> 01:25:56.310

People have called it a, an adaptation to the fishery and blame it on climate change. Uh.

625 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:25:56.310 --> 01:26:00.900

You know, harpoon guns would be an adaptation that we could make to guns.

626 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:00.900 --> 01:26:07.440

Are not currently allowed in the fishery, but if they hadn't been banned initially and somebody started using 1.

627 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:07.440 --> 01:26:11.040  
We'd be having this conversation for a whole other reason, I suppose.

628 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:11.040 --> 01:26:18.420  
You know, that's an adaptation. Is it something that we would want to consider in this history? I don't. I don't think so.

629 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:18.420 --> 01:26:26.730  
And I thought, I just mentioned 2 other things that may have a bearing on on this particular, uh, petition.

630 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:26.730 --> 01:26:32.520  
The fact that there's going to be a show apparently about exclusively devoted to.

631 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:32.520 --> 01:26:35.640  
On a on a major network, um.

632 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:35.640 --> 01:26:41.250  
Could exacerbate the number of people who want to go out and fish this way if they choose to.

633 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:41.250 --> 01:26:47.010  
Uh, film boats doing this and I, I think it would.

634 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:47.010 --> 01:26:50.040  
Shine a spotlight on the fishery service.

635 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:50.040 --> 01:26:56.550  
Uh, in terms of their responsible management of the history, especially if you know something where to go wrong.

636 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:26:56.550 --> 01:27:04.410  
On the other thing is there's recently been some interest in certifying the sustainability to fishery.

637 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:27:04.410 --> 01:27:10.860  
And I think that goes out the window when you have, you know, up to a 50% discard mortality rate.

638 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:27:10.860 --> 01:27:16.380

Because people are competitively trying to stick fish behind drag as well. The tone.

639 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:27:16.380 --> 01:27:24.840

Um, if that, you know, that, that would absolutely limit our ability to attain, uh, sustainability certification.

640 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:27:24.840 --> 01:27:28.710

And, and thereby get more money for our fish.

641 "Eric Hesse" (3774685696)  
01:27:28.710 --> 01:27:33.374

Thank you.

642 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:27:33.374 --> 01:27:41.310

Thank you for those comments, um, really quickly in the chat. Um, I want to do knowledge. We received it's.

643 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:27:41.310 --> 01:27:52.410

Comment Hi, thank you. For your time. My name is Joel olive on, and I have been involved in the fishery for 15 years, and been in the harpoon category for 5 years.

644 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:27:52.410 --> 01:28:12.410

As a younger, new member of this category, I would just like to piggyback on what my fellow fishermen are saying, and opposing fishing around mobile gear vessels. We run relatively small vessels and this is a fishery that takes skill and decent weather. Um, I'm in favor of opening on May 15th and bumping to 4 large.

645 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:28:12.410 --> 01:28:20.040

Medium a day, and also in favor of a 5 fish bag limit until this issue is address. So we did receive that comment. Thank you.

646 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:28:20.040 --> 01:28:27.360

And then Mr Shirley, I see your hands raised. So I'm going to go ahead and unmute your line.

647 "David Schalit" (956482816)  
01:28:30.935 --> 01:28:50.840

Alright, thanks, uh, with regards to this issue may 15 opening. We're talking about the harpoon category singularly, not the general category. Okay, but I have a question for Larry when we were talking just earlier about May 15 opening, you invoked the proposed rule scenario and I would and I'm a.

648 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:28:50.840 --> 01:29:07.133

Assuming, but I appreciate your confirming that this then means that we're looking at a, that would be looking at a 6 to 7 month regulatory process as compared with the normal 2 year regulatory process.

649 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:29:07.133 --> 01:29:11.520

Uh, not necessarily invoke and David uh, essentially what I was.

650 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:29:11.520 --> 01:29:31.520

Pretty much trying to, to let folks know, um, anytime we get something like this, it's not a very, you know, our rule makings. We have a process essentially, uh, as, you know, um, and with that process it takes time. So, as far as a specific timeline, I'm not gonna be able to give you 1, um, you know, of.

651 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:29:31.520 --> 01:29:51.452

That we have had on the books for years, because that's just what it takes to get done. Um, I was just trying to let people know that. This is not something that is a super quick action that you would see with an in season. Uh, this is a process and we would have to follow that process, um, from top to bottom.

652 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:29:51.452 --> 01:30:03.210

I appreciate that. That's good. Info. I suppose that maybe can we say that if this is or it would not would it would not be a frame workable process.

653 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:30:07.314 --> 01:30:17.885

That I am going to be honest with you, I'm not a 100% certain of, um, but again, that is something that, you know, I hear what you're saying.

654 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:30:17.885 --> 01:30:21.510

We would have to go back to the to see if it's very workable. Right?

655 "David Schalit" (956482816)

01:30:21.510 --> 01:30:27.632

Okay, gotcha. Thanks. I'm done.

656 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:30:27.632 --> 01:30:31.290

Thank you. Mr. I'm going to go ahead and mute your line.

657 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:30:31.290 --> 01:30:39.060

And Eric has, I didn't know if you had an additional comment, or if that was your hand raised from earlier. I'm going to.

658 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:30:39.060 --> 01:30:45.450

Oh, okay. I see. That disappeared. Mr. Chris. Wiener I see. Your hand is raised I'm going to request that. You on mute your line.

659 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:30:49.080 --> 01:30:53.758

Okay, you're on mute. Please. Go ahead. Yeah, I just, I guess I missed the discussion about the.

660 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:30:53.758 --> 01:30:56.820

815, I used to be a huge fan of that.

661 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:30:56.820 --> 01:31:11.130

But, you know, people worried about what's going on right now. Um, I would warn that that same activity goes on South of us. There's fish loaded all the way to Florida right now.

662 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:11.130 --> 01:31:17.580

I was 1 of the biggest proponents ever of a May 15th start May 1st, at 1 point.

663 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:17.580 --> 01:31:22.170

But I hope before the agency goes down that road, we all think that out very carefully.

664 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:22.170 --> 01:31:27.390

Because the last thing you want to do is go find out that the whole quarter gets caught off of Virginia.

665 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:27.390 --> 01:31:33.150

Before you start, so, I mean, in terms of the start early start, I'm not sure who.

666 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:33.150 --> 01:31:43.770

Who's been supporting that? Maybe the whole line has been supporting it, but I don't support that right now as a, as a personal fisherman speaking for myself until we think that out, because.

667 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:43.770 --> 01:31:47.100

Uh, if you're worried about a quick quota.

668 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:47.100 --> 01:31:52.470

Just be careful what you wish were there too, because there's fish loaded to ourselves loaded.

669 "Chris Weiner" (3280479232)

01:31:52.470 --> 01:32:08.219

And I would just be real careful with that, but, you know, that seems like a big job. I don't know how we got to that. So, I've heard 5 comments now, already about that, I hope that we go before we were to switch the beginning date that we would really think that out. Thank you.

670 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:32:11.893 --> 01:32:14.969

Thank you very much for those comments. Um.

671 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:32:14.969 --> 01:32:19.836

Don't see anything else in the.

672 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:32:19.836 --> 01:32:42.439

There's a question in the chat from sorry? Rolling up. There is a question and chat from Dan Doumani. He had asked if the daily, um, catch limit can go below 5 fishes and then season action. Um, no, it cannot with the passage of amendment 13, which was implemented.

673 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)

01:32:42.439 --> 01:32:56.969

I want to say January 1st, 2023, um, with that action, we actually set the range from 5 to 10 fish. So it is not possible for us to do an, in action to lower it below 5 fish.

674 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:33:04.255 --> 01:33:10.619

I currently do not see any hands raised if there are any additional comments.

675 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:33:10.619 --> 01:33:17.249

Okay, Russell query I see. Your hand is raised I'm going to request that. You unmute your line.

676 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)

01:33:36.749 --> 01:33:48.995

I'm going to send that request again. Okay you're now unmuted? Please. Go ahead.

677 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)

01:33:48.995 --> 01:34:01.619

I have laryngitis I hope I can get this out. My name is Russel query and for many years have represented the commercial language association representing and you're efficient and is hooking line and harpoon fishermen.

678 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)

01:34:01.619 --> 01:34:07.919

I want to emphasize these categories and these fisheries are set up with deliberate inefficiencies.

679 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:07.919 --> 01:34:12.539  
You're not as far as the argument that efficiencies evolve.

680 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:12.539 --> 01:34:21.299  
And and this is just another tool is mobile gear, fishery, inducted at nighttime in any weather. This is.

681 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:21.299 --> 01:34:26.279  
As the potential of being the black swan event for the harpoon fishery.

682 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:26.279 --> 01:34:29.279  
Glittering a tradition that has gone on.

683 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:29.279 --> 01:34:34.949  
I can verify for 9 years. I have a photograph of my father who harpoon.

684 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:34.949 --> 01:34:43.199  
His 1st, giant blue Fin, tuna, 700 powder in 934 at age 17. so that's 90 years, right? There.

685 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:43.199 --> 01:34:49.559  
They also have a video that was taken on big island, Maine in the early 930. S.

686 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:49.559 --> 01:34:55.079  
Of a cartoon fishing uh, it's a traditional.

687 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:34:55.079 --> 01:35:03.059  
And the, uh, the designing of these categories has been intentionally limit.

688 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:35:03.059 --> 01:35:06.599  
Gear types and limit efficiencies.

689 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:35:06.599 --> 01:35:13.199  
To expand the participation and to preserve a particular way of life that.

690 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:35:13.199 --> 01:35:19.439  
And that supports small boat owner operator fishing.

691 "Russell Cleary" (51297536)  
01:35:19.439 --> 01:35:25.154  
Thank you.

692 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:35:25.154 --> 01:35:28.859  
Thank you very much for that comment. I'm going to go ahead and re, mute your line.

693 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:35:36.299 --> 01:35:41.459  
Okay, there are no hands raised currently.

694 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:35:41.459 --> 01:35:45.299  
And nothing in the chat, if anyone has any comments, they would like to make.

695 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:35:45.299 --> 01:35:55.559  
We will be wrapping up at 12 or if there are no additional comments.

696 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:36:06.029 --> 01:36:09.089  
I do not see anything.

697 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:36:09.089 --> 01:36:18.710  
Um, Larry, if there's anything I might have missed, but I don't see anything else coming in.

698 "Larry Redd Jr" (2817500928)  
01:36:18.710 --> 01:36:41.509  
Chad, I also do not see anything else coming in.

699 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:36:45.590 --> 01:36:53.819  
Okay, so with that, if there are no more comments or chats coming in or hands being raised, um, we're going to go ahead and wrap up.

700 "Anna Quintrell" (1418838784)  
01:36:53.819 --> 01:37:06.779  
So, on behalf of Atlantic management division and NOAA fisheries, we would like to thank you for your time and participation in the listening session. And this concludes our meeting. Thank you very much.