



NOAA Fisheries' Community Resilience Workshop

Mid-Atlantic Fishing Community Resilience Workshop Summary

Hosted by NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Office and

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

June 4, 2018

Cape May, NJ

Community Resilience (CR) Workshop Overview:

- A facilitated single-day workshop in Cape May, NJ, June 4, 2018
- More than 35 participants representing local municipalities, state and Federal agencies, fishing industry, research institutions, non-profit organizations
- Opening remarks by Regional Administrator Michael Pentony (GARFO) and Dr. Jon Hare, Science and Research Director (NEFSC)
- Background on regional community resilience efforts by regional staff
- Open discussions on community resilience needs and solutions
- Several posters displayed
- Nine presenters:
 - Mayor Clarence Lear, Cape May, NJ
 - Mayor Erik Simonsen, Lower Township, NJ
 - James Gilmore, Director, NY DEC Marine Fisheries
 - Sarah Schumann, Resilient Fisheries of Rhode Island
 - Capt. Peter Haskell, Haskell's Seafood of Long Island
 - Jordan Shockley, Hooper's Island Oyster Co.
 - Don Webster, University of Maryland Aquaculture Extension
 - Lisa Calvo, Haskin Shellfish Research Lab, Rutgers University
 - Darlene Finch, National Ocean Service

Top Needs/Challenges/Solutions: *What we heard and how we can improve.*

Science and Research

- More industry involvement with research priorities, cooperative research
- More flexible, comprehensive management to consider changes in fish distribution
- Manage based on science not opinion
 - Consider National Science Foundation project on agency and industry partnerships at scemfs.org

Wild Harvest and Fisheries Management

- Quota re-allocation issue is a major one – consider flexibility in state of landing and investment of industry
- Maintain coastal access, working waterfront, and infrastructure
- Balance size of industry with resource
 - Recognize that one size doesn't fit all
 - Fishery regulations should reflect discrepancies in the sizes of fishing businesses and the differences in coastal versus offshore operations

Aquaculture

- Don't promote aquaculture at the expense of wild-caught fisheries
- Seek a balance in promoting aquaculture – consider impacts on environment and other sectors of the industry to promote a balance
- States should consider Maryland's model for taxing shellfish growers to fund programs and research for industry benefit
- Consider oyster reefs as a means of coastal protection from storm surge, sea level rise, beach erosion, etc.

Communication/Collaboration/Support

- Pair up NOAA staff with industry on a more regular basis to facilitate communication and collaboration on projects and better address issues
- Bridge gaps and inconsistencies between state and federal management agencies
- Adjust management to account for changes in fish distribution

- Community supported fisheries are an effective way to bridge the gap between local industry and local markets but require sufficient shore-side infrastructure
- Consider industry-funded initiatives, more grants, research set-asides, expand financial services and marketing

General Comments

- Coastal resilience and fishing community resilience don't always overlap
 - Communities/municipalities tend to be more concerned with coastal resilience as it relates to the effects of climate change
 - The fishing industry is more concerned with economic diversity, management flexibility in a changing environment, and working waterfronts
- Consider impacts of offshore marine development projects on environment and fisheries

Attendee Feedback. *How to Improve Future Workshops*

- Ramp up mode and scope of workshop notification
- Get to a working group level, specific fishery or fleet related focus
- More locally-focused rather than regionally-focused
- Consider an industry panel structure, rather than the presentations and selected speakers, to give industry a platform to weigh in and allow for broader industry participation
- Addressing aquaculture and wild-caught fisheries in the same meeting and discussion was complicated
- Better industry participation
- More time for discussion
- Consider a two-day workshop if same format is used
- Happy hour or ice-breaker would facilitate networking/build trust