

Community Resilience – *Moving Ahead*

Workshop Summary

NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center

June 26-27, 2017

Gloucester, MA

Community Resilience (CR) Workshop Overview:

- A facilitated two-day workshop at GARFO, June 2017
- More than 50 participants representing local municipalities, state and Federal agencies, fishing industry, research institutions, non-profits
- Fifteen presentations, opening and closing remarks by John Bullard (GARFO) and Dr. Jon Hare (NEFSC)
- Seven posters displayed
- Open discussions on CR needs and solutions

Top Needs: *What we heard.*

Trust - Resolve disconnect between science and what fishermen are seeing on the water (ongoing effort by NEFSC)

Information Flow and Delivery, Outreach and Communication - Develop a portal for information exchange on issues/organizations relevant to community resilience

More Flexibility to Promote Adaptability and Resilience

- More adaptable management process and permits
- Assess regulations and adjust as appropriate
- Forecast stock shifts and adjust allocations as needed

Additional Needs: *What we heard.*

- Maintain working waterfront
- Address disconnect between management actions and communities' needs, impacts
- Prepare industry and communities for uncertainty
- Pass down knowledge and prepare next generation of fishermen
- Support and promote optimum yield of stocks
- Understand gaps in and effects of actions on infrastructure (related industries and supply chain)
- Improve understanding and interaction between stakeholders rather than focusing exclusively on communities

Suggested Action Items for GARFO and NEFSC: *What we were asked to do.*

- Summarize activities on website
- Develop information portal
- Assess needs and resources to address working waterfront issues and promote community and industry adaptability
- Continue the workshops with smaller, more focused roundtable meetings

Next Steps: *What we are doing.*

- Established 2018 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grants Priorities that promote CR (complete)
- Mid-Atlantic CR Workshop tentatively planned for 2018 (planning ongoing)
- Design/implement an outreach strategy that includes social media (ongoing)
- Create a website, including links to the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Data Portals, to foster collaboration and share information on relevant CR topics and programs (complete and ongoing)
- Establish an email address to allow people to contact us and share their ideas on CR (complete; nmfs.gar.community.resilience@noaa.gov)
- Continue to identify opportunities to enhance the economic diversity of fishermen and fishing communities (ongoing)

Take Homes: *What we learned.*

- "Ambassadors" (field staff) are an effective outreach resource
- Maritime industry networks or "clusters" may address inadequacies and gaps in resilience, communication, and infrastructure
- Aquaculture and value-added fishery product development are keys to economic diversity for coastal communities
- A collaborative approach is necessary to enhance resilience of fishing communities and living marine resources

Attendee Feedback: *How to make the next workshop even better.*

- Overall, well-received, positive feedback, high level of interest in CR concepts and activities
- Do a better job of attracting industry by building trust and using smaller venues in their ports
- Include in the future:
 - ASMFC, elected officials, seafood dealers, shore side support industries, Sea Grant Extension, state coastal zone management agencies
 - More discussion, less presentations