## Sea Urchin Zone Council Meeting Summary March 28, 2019, Brewer

**DMR staff:** Nick Popoff, Maggie Hunter, Robert Russell, Sgt. Colin McDonald, Sgt. Tom Reardon **SUZC members present:** Tracey Sawtelle (Chair), Tim Robinson, Tim Peterson, Brian Preney, Alan Knowlton, Joe Leask, Clint Richardson, Mark Nickerson, Sinuon Chau, Chuon Muth, Larry Harris, Steve Bechard

SUZC members absent: Teresa Johnson, Steve Eddy, Randy Ramsdell

**Public:** Brian Swartz, Fred Gray, Mitch McConnell, Michael McConnell, Marcus Jones, Erik Scott, Adam Scott, Paul Cox, Robert Hersey Jr., Tony Fitch, Tristan Smith, Tom Reno, more

Meeting commenced at 3:10 pm.

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair T. Sawtelle welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves around the room, both council members and audience.

### II. Election of Officers

C. Richardson nominated T. Sawtelle to remain chair, second by J. Leask. **Unanimous approval**. J. Leask nominated B. Preney to remain co-chair. Second by M. Nickerson. **Unanimous approval**.

### III. Approval of last meeting minutes (4/30/18)

T. Peterson moved to accept; T. Sawtelle seconded the motion.

### UNANIMOUS. Approval of minutes passed.

(Correction noted: T. Sawtelle corrected a statement related to the size of urchins near Lubec)

N. Popoff reviewed the agenda.

### IV. DMR Update/Season Summary

a. Maggie Hunter provided a presentation (Appendix A. meeting slides)

The asterisks in the table are due to confidentiality.

Urchins were the 6<sup>th</sup> most valuable fishery in Maine. The value and landings have remained fairly steady the past several years. Roe index declined slightly from last year. Approximately 60% of urchin licenses were active in 2018/2019.

There was a question related to unknown licenses which are attributed to tribally licensed fishers.

### V. Discussion: 2019/2020 Season Setting

B. Preney is concerned about discussion season prior to handling outstanding issues such as weather days and expansion of the fishery because the swipe card should allow fishing on any day that weather permits.

M. Jones commented that the intent of the swipe card was never to maximize fishing days. Concern exists related to dragging and negative impacts to juvenile urchins.

*B.* Preney made a motion for Zone 1 divers: eliminate early and late season, allow 15 days, 12 totes per day but consider reducing to 10 totes. Season: Sept – February, Mondays-Fridays. Seconded by C. Richardson.

Discussion:

C. Muth apposed due to concerns related to the market and effort. If effort isn't spread out it could mess up processing.

S. Chau was concerned that Zone 2 would want something similar and product would not be consistent.

Atchan Tamaki mentioned that roe quality is an issue and that there has been a trend of poor roe in September due to higher water temps. Should the season be shifted later?

Several folks concerned about harvesting urchins in September when quality isn't good. The processers need product in September to get a market share. Poor roe quality is less important, need to get product out to market.

T. Robinson mentioned that eggs melt later in the year and moving the season back isn't a good idea.

B. Preney believes there is room to expand the fishery from 2 million lbs annually.

J. Leask would like more meetings to discuss resource issues and believes we should be looking at cuts not liberalization. Sees the fishery declining over time and worried that there won't be an urchin fishery in five years at this rate. We should consider less days and less trays daily.

DMR didn't come to this meeting to recommend any changes to the fishery but the Council can certainly make motions.

T. Sawtelle called for a vote on Preney's motion.

### Motion: 8 in favor, 1 abstention – Motion passes

### Calendar Setting

Fisherman broke up into groups to discuss their respective Zone, gear, season and provide draft calendars for the 2019/2020 season. No one was present for Zone 1 Late Drag and the council proposed maintaining the 2018/2019 calendar for them.

## Proposed

2019-2020 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 1\* \*A Zone 1 harvester may choose to fish 15 of 20 optional days



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### Early Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers

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### Early Season for Draggers

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# *Proposed* 2019-2020 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2

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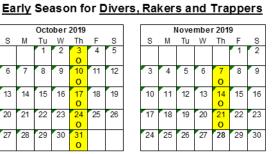
### Proposed

# 2019-2020 Sea Urchin 15 DAY Season for Whiting & Dennys Bays LIMITED ACCESS AREA (WDB LAA)

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### Late Season for Draggers

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# Motion to approved as drafted made by C. Richardson and seconded by T. Peterson. 10 in favor, 1 abstained. Motion passes.

### IV. Potential Discussion Topics:

J. Leask discussed the need to reduce harvest. He's concerned that the resource is in decline and that if action doesn't happen soon that we'll lose this fishery.

### Motion made by J. Leask and seconded by S. Bechard

Zone 1: 15 day season, 8 tote daily limit. Zone 2: 25 day season, 6 tote limit.

### No weather days and no overlapping of zones/seasons on the calendar, or a little overlap as possible.

Discussion:

Who gets Christmas? Several folks were concerned with Christmas due to price points during the holiday tend to increase. There is a growing concern among SUZC members and public that the resource is in decline. Several folks discussed organizing an industry only meeting to discuss this issue without DMR presence.

Other concerns: several folks said that fishermen are fishing more than their 38 days and fishing all 45 days and not swiping their cards. DMR is concerned about the removal of weather/safety days given all the effort the DMR and council spent to create them.

There are still concerns related to licensing and an aging urchin fisherman. Need to figure out a new entry system...

### Motion: 2 in favor, 8 opposed. Motion does not pass.

Next meeting: April 25, 1PM, Jeff's Catering. Meeting adjourned at 6:15PM

### **APPENDIX: Meeting Agenda and Slides**

Sea Urchin Zone Council Meeting Agenda 3:00pm Thursday, March 28, 2019 Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Road, Brewer, ME

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Election of officers
- III. Approval of last meeting minutes (04/30/18)
- IV. DMR/Season Summary
- V. Discussion: 2019-20 Season Setting
- VI. Set Future Meeting Dates, Other Business
- VII. Adjourn

### Preliminary Maine Sea Urchin Data 2018–2019 Season

Maggie Hunter Mike Kersula, Marilyn Lash Lessie White Maine Dept. of Marine Resources. Mar. 26, 2019





www.maine.gov/dmr

## Maine Sea Urchin Landings In Pounds 2018-2019

	Zone 1		Zone 2		State
Di	ve & Drag	Dive	Drag	<u>Total</u>	Total
Sep*	87,495	38, 109	0	38,109	125,604
Oct*	*	97,234	159,252	256,486	256,486
Nov	0	89,620	119,110	208,730	208,730
Dec**	76,249	244, 211	219,946	464,157	540,406
Jan	12,351	156,981	160,358	317,339	329,690
Feb	38,069	149,903	93,766	243,669	281,738
Mar	0	133, 489	86,478	219,967	219,967
Total	214,164	909,547	838,910	1,748,457	1,962,621

\* October Zone 1 Dive data were combined with September, and

\*\* December Zone 1 Drag data were combined with December Zone 1 Dive,

to preserve confidentiality.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	State	State
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Sep*	87,495	38, 109	125,604	\$ 236,434
Oct*	*	256,486	256,486	\$ 751,507
Nov	0	208,730	208,730	\$ 712,285
Dec**	76,249	464, 157	540,406	\$1,838,734
Jan	12,351	317,339	329,690	\$1,055,323
Feb	38,069	243,669	281,738	\$ 728,249
Mar	0	219,967	219,967	\$ 559,240
Total	214,164	1,748,457	1,962,621	\$5,881,773

# Maine Sea Urchin Landings (Lbs) and Value 2018-2019



All data are preliminary.

# Maine Sea Urchin Landings In Pounds

	Zone 1	Zone 2	State
	Total	Total	Total
Sep*	87,495	38,109	125,604
Oct*	*	256,486	256,486
Nov	0	208,730	208,730
Dec**	76,249	464,157	540,406
Jan	12,351	317,339	329,690
Feb	38,069	243,669	281,738
Mar	0	219,967	219,967
Total	214,164	1,748,457	1,962,621

	Zone 1	Zone 2	State
	Total	Total	Total
Sep	109,936	76,731	186,667
Oct	13,751	280,697	294,448
Nov		326,792	326,792
Dec	81,709	341,851	423,560
Jan		289,732	289,732
Feb*	66,890	394,241	461,131
Mar*		160,251	160,251
Total	272,286	1,870,295	2,142,581

 March Zone 1 Drag data combined with Feb to preserve confidentiality.



### Maine Sea Urchin Landings In Pounds 2018 - 2019 2017-2018

	Zone 1	Zone 2	State		Zone 1	Zone 2	State
	Total	Total	Total		Total	Total	Total
Sep*	87,495	38,109	125,604	Sep	109,936	76,731	186,667
Oct*	*	256,486	256,486	Oct	13,751	280,697	294,448
Nov	0	208,730	208,730	Nov		326,792	326,792
Dec**	76,249	464,157	540,406	Dec	81,709	341,851	423,560
Jan	12,351	317,339	329,690	Jan		289,732	289,732
Feb	38,069	243,669	281,738	Feb*	66,890	394,241	461,131
Mar	0	219,967	219,967	Mar*		160,251	160,251
Total	214,164	1,748,457	1,962,621	Total	272,286	1,870,295	2,142,581
				*	March Zone	1 Drag data con	nbined with Feb

to preserve confidentiality.

About 180,000 fewer lbs caught in 2018-19 than 2017-18.

Red indicates months when values were lower than last season's; and black indicates months that were higher.

All data are preliminary.

# Maine Sea Urchin Price per Pound in Dollars

2018 - 2019

Zone 1			Zone 2	State		
Dive & Drag		Dive	Dive Drag		Average	
Sep*	\$1.86	\$2.32		\$2.32	\$2.00	
Oct*	*	\$3.06	\$2.76	\$2.87	\$2.87	
Nov		\$3.75	\$3.16	\$3.41	\$3.41	
Dec**	\$2.51	\$4.02	\$3.02	\$3.55	\$3.40	
Jan	\$2.59	\$3.69	\$2.77	\$3.22	\$3.20	
Feb	\$2.54	\$2.89	<b>\$2</b> .11	\$2.59	\$2.58	
Mar		\$2.94	\$1.93	\$2.54	\$2.54	
Total	\$2.26	\$3.42	\$2.73	\$3.09	\$3.00	



# Maine Sea Urchin Price per Pound in Dollars

	2	2018 – 2019			2017-2018			
	Zone 1	Zone 2	State		Zone 1	Zone 2	State	
	Average	Average	Average		Average	Average	Average	
Sep	\$1.86	\$2.32	\$2.00	Sep	\$1.96	\$2.68	\$2.26	
Oct	: *	\$2.87	\$2.87	Oct	\$1.84	\$2.81	\$2.77	
Nov		\$3.41	\$3.41	Nov		\$3.25	\$3.25	
Dec*	* \$2.51	\$3.55	\$3.40	Dec	\$2.59	\$3.57	\$3.38	
Jan	\$2.59	\$3.22	\$3.20	Jan		\$3.40	\$3.40	
Feb	\$2.54	\$2.59	\$2.58	Feb*	\$2.60	\$2.89	\$2.85	
Mai		\$2.54	\$2.54	Mar*		\$2.29	\$2.28	
Tota	\$2.26	\$3.09	\$3.00	Total	\$2.30	\$3.09	\$2.99	



All data are preliminary.

# Maine Sea Urchin Price per Pound in Dollars

2018 - 2019

### 2017-2018

		Zone 1	Zone 2	State		Zone 1	Zone 2	State
	•	Average	Average	Average		Average	Average	Average
S	ep*	\$1.86	\$2.32	\$2.00	Sep	\$1.96	\$2.68	\$2.26
C	)ct*	*	\$2.87	\$2.87	Oct	\$1.84	\$2.81	\$2.77
N	lov		\$3.41	\$3.41	Nov		\$3.25	\$3.25
De	ec**	\$2.51	\$3.55	\$3.40	Dec	\$2.59	\$3.57	\$3.38
J	lan	\$2.59	\$3.22	\$3.20	Jan		\$3.40	\$3.40
F	eb	\$2.54	\$2.59	\$2.58	Feb*	\$2.60	\$2.89	\$2.85
Ν	/lar		\$2.54	\$2.54	Mar*		\$2.29	\$2.28
Т	otal	\$2.26	\$3.09	\$3.00	Total	\$2.30	\$3.09	\$2.99

Prices in 2018-2019 were about the same as 2017-2018, over all.

Red indicates months when values were lower than last season's; and black indicates months that were higher.

# Maine Sea Urchin Roe Index (%)

### 2018 - 2019

	Zone 1		Zone 2	State	
Dive & Drag		Dive	Drag	Average	Average
Sep*	7.8	11.8		11.8	9.0
Oct*	*	13.0	11.0	11.8	11.8
Nov		13.7	11.5	12.5	12.5
Dec**	9.9	13.9	10.3	12.2	12.0
Jan	11.3	14.7	10.5	12.5	12.5
Feb	12.3	14.6	10.1	12.8	12.7
Mar		15.0	10.3	13.1	13.1
Total	9.6	14.1	10.6	12.4	12.2



All data are preliminary.

# Maine Sea Urchin Roe Index (%)

2018 - 2019

### 2017-2018

		Zone 1	Zone 2	State		Zone 1	Zone 2	State
		Average	Average	Average		Average	Average	Average
S	ep*	7.8	11.8	9.0	Sep	8.4	12.3	10.0
C	)ct*	*	11.8	11.8	Oct	8.2	12.3	12.1
N	lov		12.5	12.5	Nov		12.4	12.4
De	ec**	9.9	12.2	12.0	Dec	10.3	12.8	12.5
J	lan	11.3	12.5	12.5	Jan		13.7	13.7
F	eb	12.3	12.8	12.7	Feb*	10.9	13.3	13.1
N	/lar		13.1	13.1	Mar*		13.0	13.0
т	otal	9.6	12.4	12.2	Total	9.5	12.9	12.6



## Maine Sea Urchin Roe Index (%)

2018-2019

	Zone 1	Zone 2	State			Zone 1	Zone 2	State		
	Average	Average	Average			Average	Average	Average		
Sep*	7.8	11.8	9.0		Sep	8.4	12.3	10.0		
Oct*	*	11.8	11.8		Oct	8.2	12.3	12.1		
Nov		12.5	12.5		Nov		12.4	12.4		
Dec**	9.9	12.2	12.0		Dec	10.3	12.8	12.5		
Jan	11.3	12.5	12.5		Jan		13.7	13.7		
Feb	12.3	12.8	12.7		Feb*	10.9	13.3	13.1		
Mar		13.1	13.1		Mar*		13.0	13.0		
Total	9.6	12.4	12.2		Total	9.5	12.9	12.6		

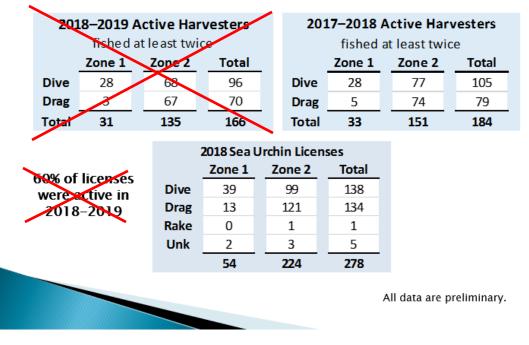
Roe indices were lower in 2018-2019 than 2017-2018.

Red indicates months when values were less than last season's; and black indicates months that were higher.

All data are preliminary.

2017-2018

# Number of Active Urchin Harvesters (fished at least twice)



[Correction to the slide above, made after the meeting, with my apologies (M. Hunter 4-8-19):]

2018–2019 Active Harvesters									
fished at least twice									
Zone 1			Zone 2	-	Total				
Dive	27		65	-	92				
Drag	2		65	-	67				
Total	29		130	-	159				

57% of licenses were active in 2018-2019