

Sea Urchin Zone Council Meeting Summary May 23, 2024 in Brewer, ME

DMR staff: Melissa Smith

SUZC members present: Tracey Sawtelle (Chair), Stephen Bechard, Joe Leask, Clint Richardson, Tim Peterson

SUZC members absent: Brian Preney, Alan Knowlton, Mark Nickerson, Sinuon Chau, Tim Robbins, Teresa Johnson, Larry Harris, Steve Eddy

Public: Justin Gebo and others (not signed in)

Meeting commenced at 4:40 pm.

No quorum present.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Both the Chair and Vice Chair absent at the beginning of the meeting. Chair Sawtelle arrived at 5:10pm and took over the meeting.

II. Approval of last meeting summary (4/11/2024)

There was no quorum to allow for Council motions.

III. Discussion for 2024-2025 Season Specifications

There was no quorum to allow for Council motions. Discussion continued on how to best structure the on-shore storage allowance. There were two options for discussion:

- 1) In Zone 2, maintain the daily 6 tote limit AND implement an 18 tote weekly max limit
- 2) In Zone 2, allow for only an 18 tote weekly limit

Consideration regarding how quickly the resource could be harvested was raised at the previous meeting and was the basis for discussion regarding option 1 or 2 highlighted above. Also mentioned at the previous meeting, there were comments suggesting that Zone 2 calendars could be open harvest 5 days a week, with the carry-over, so long as harvesters were then able to permit a sale transaction with multiple days. From a resource perspective, a weekly limit plus 5 harvest days would present the most risk to the sea urchin biomass. This concept was also revisited.

Council members and the public discussed several ways to implement the on-shore storage option. The least amount of risk to the resource, while still providing some flexibility is to allow a daily tote limit that may be kept over night and sold later. The group determined that all sales should happen by Friday. This idea is linked to how many days of fishing is available per week. If it's only 3 days a week, it would be an 18 tote limit in Zone 2. However, there are times when the drafted calendars have 2 days per week, or 4 days per week. Council members suggested that the weekly total should reflect the number of active harvest days per week.

The second option discussed would allow for a weekly 18-tote limit. But again, this would be in conflict to the current drafted calendar. Questions from the Council members included changing the daily limit, so that if there was a good opportunity, the limit could be set at 9 totes a day, but not exceed 18 totes per week. Ultimately, the most appealing option allowed for a weekly limit based on the number of total

harvest days and would allow a greater than 6 totes for daily harvest. This option worked with the varied number of days per week that was captured by the draft calendars for all sectors.

Additional discussion about the calendars indicated that Zone 1 calendar was fine. Zone 2 drag calendars were also considered fine. Continued discussion on Zone 2 early dive introduced a recent submission by a Processor to allow for the inclusion of October and removal of January. Harvesters suggested starting the season for Zone 2 Early Dive on October 8th, with 3 day weeks in October, 4 day weeks in November, and mostly 3 day weeks in December; ending the season on December 27th.

IV. Other Business

M. Smith discussed the difficulty of achieving quorum at the last several meetings. Some current members are no longer active in the fishery and do not wish to participate in the fishery. A new manager will soon be assigned to the Urchin fishery and could run updated elections. Or the current council could decide whether a full council is needed to determine specifications. A council member asked how the process would change, if there was no council to make recommendations. M. Smith explained that process would continue in a similar fashion; one or two meetings would still occur, as “industry” meetings, where everyone would provide input and decisions would be made based on consensus of the group. A summary of consensus recommendations would then be presented to the Commissioner for consideration of rulemaking. Those Council members present suggested revisiting this topic again when there was a quorum (if possible).


Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.


Appendix:

Zone 1 Draft 1 - Recommended

2024 - 2025 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 1 - DRAFT

A Zone 1 harvester may choose to fish 15 of the open days

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One Season for Divers, Rakers, Trappers and Draggers

November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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Zone 2 Draft 1:

2024 - 2025 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2 -DRAFT

A Zone 2 harvester may choose to fish 30 of the 40 open days

O = open

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Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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Early Season for Draggers

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Late Season for Draggers

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Zone 2 Draft 2 (For Z2 Early Dive, submission from processor)

2024 - 2025 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2 -DRAFT

A Zone 2 harvester may choose to fish 30 of the 40 open days

O = open

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Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

October 2024

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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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Early Season for Draggers

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Late Season for Draggers

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Zone 2 Draft 3 (Amended based on submitted version and comments from May 23rd)

2024 - 2025 FINAL Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2

A Zone 2 harvester may choose to fish 30 of the 40 open days

O = open

= closed

Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

October 2024						
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November 2024						
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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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Early Season for Draggers

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Late Season for Draggers

December 2024						
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Zone 2 LAA Draft 1 (Amended based on submitted version and comments from April 11th)

2024 - 2025 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2 DRAFT

For Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area

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Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

November 2024							December 2024							January 2025						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025							March 2025						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Early Season for Draggers


November 2024							December 2024							January 2025							February 2025						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	


Late Season for Draggers

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025							March 2025						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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Zone 2 LAA Draft 2 (Amended based on comments from May 23rd)

2024 - 2025 FINAL Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2 For Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area

 = open

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Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

October 2024						
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November 2024						
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10	11	12 O	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 O	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 O	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3 O	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 O	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 O	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 O	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

December 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 O	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 O				

January 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 O	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 O	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 O	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 O	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4 O	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 O	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 O	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 O	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4 O	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 O	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Early Season for Draggers

November 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 O	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 O	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 O	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 O	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 O	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 O	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2 O	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 O	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 O	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 O	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 O	31	

February 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 O	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Late Season for Draggers

December 2024						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 O	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 O	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 O	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 O	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 O	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 O	31	

February 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 O	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 O	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 O	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 O	28	

March 2025						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6 O	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 O	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 O	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					