

## Fisheries and Aquaculture Subcommittee Minutes 1/22/2024

Attendees: Jes W, Ben M, Carla, Michelle, Marissa, Josh, Heather, Amy, Anne, Christine, Ben G, Susie, Melissa, Cameron

### Minutes:

- Ben M welcomed subcommittee members and directed team to read revised strategies document at:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CfnThSnIrKSuZhQ0laE2h8IL6V5d1QXA/edit>
- At 11:20am the subcommittee reconvened. Ben M shared goal for today's meeting is to clean up the revised strategies document. Noted we should aim to add seafood and fisheries/aquaculture to other areas of the WG document, as well. Steered the group to start with Strategy D, section 1.
- Carla recommended making connection to new fisheries and policy need and asked where it should be placed.
- Ben M recommended connecting new markets in D.1 and data in E.4.
- Ben G suggested D.1.a and D.1.b are written broadly enough to connect the two points.
- Marissa highlighted that monitoring for emerging species needs to be recorded and access needs to be addressed (e.g., blue crab licenses tied to lobster license). Noted that existing and outdated structures should not be used for managing emerging species access.
- Ben M pointed out that emerging species and climate winners should both be addressed.
- Carla recommended that we build out more policy structure and conduct a policy analysis for climate winners.
- Jes noted that Pat Keliher and Megan Ware from DMR will be at next CMWG meeting to discuss regional approach to policy updates (e.g., ASFMC).
- Anne recommended including language about taking advantage of innovation in the aquaculture industry. And to broaden emerging species to new species coming into the state and populations shifting within state. Noted there's not enough flexibility in existing policy and aquaculture leasing and amendment process is slow.
- Carla highlighted the need to manage fisheries and help build resilience for wild caught and aquaculture target species.
- Anne suggested to also include infrastructure.
- Ben M agreed existing regulatory system is slow and not adaptable.
- Ben G noted in D.1.b we could add a sentence to consider potential for regulatory reform that would be speedier. Need legislative buy-in to make reg changes faster. [see his edits in document]
- Ben M stated also need to get stronger input from fishermen/fishing groups. Asked how to finalize text in D.1.
- Jes said D.1 will be most influenced by Pat's conversation next WG meeting. Moved group to Strategy E.
- Marissa noted the need to identify the most vulnerable species and impacts first before exploring policy solutions.

- Josh recommended an edit to D.1.a to broaden to ecological and socioeconomic impacts.
- Michelle asked if a vulnerability assessment had been completed on fisheries in Maine. Noted frameworks exist to complete this work. We should call on tools that are out there to help narrow giant problem down to step by step.
- Ben M stated there are some data from Josh, UMaine, on risk to lobster.
- Josh agreed the lobster fishery has been most studied.
- Ben M noted that the groundfish fishery should be more resilient but is restricted on the market side. A food system level risk assessment would help leverage other strategies (e.g., 30x30) to local food and local food access higher level discussion (e.g., Potato War podcast)
- Jes reminded group to track action items in context of how it would benefit Maine in multiple ways.
- Ben M recommended striking launch Maine Seafood Business Council from D.1.e.
- Anne asked how the target dates in the strategy get decided.
- Jes responded that some dates are from GOPIF based on funding availability. Noted we can put new dates forward in subcommittee recommendations.
- Ben M stated we should make a recommendation to review and update dates.
- Josh highlighted that the “coordinating hub” term comes up twice in D.1.d and E.4.a. Asked if they the same Hub or different.
- Jes commented that she reached out to Molly Siegel for clarity on hubs and will report back.
- Carla noted a vulnerability assessment on the different sectors of seafood production should be linked to barriers to achieving the strategy targets for local seafood production. Flagged that it will be challenging for a lot of local seafood to get to right price point.
- Ben M said a solution is to pay people to get price lower. Asked can you realize the costs or quantify the benefits.
- Carla recommended in D.1.e to identify price equity consideration.
- Ben M noted need to connect to Food Systems WG conversation.
- Michelle stated that she and Kathy Mills wrote a paper on how we are leaving catch in local waters that we have capacity to harvest. One barrier is price for some species. The paper evaluated species for their climate resilience, asking are they resilient and under what timelines. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2893945004?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true&sourcecetype=Scholarly%20Journals>
- Jes reminded the group that the next Fisheries/AQ subcommittee meeting is Feb 7. The next CMWG meeting with Pat/Megan is on Feb 15.
- Ben M closed the meeting with plan for Feb 7 to clean up the revised strategies document, figure out priorities and identify questions for Pat.
- Adjourned 11:58am