



St. Thomas/St. John Trap Reduction Committee

Progress Report

28 June, 2011

Committee Members

- Tony Blanchard, Chairman
 - Daryl Bryan, Vice Chairman
 - Julian Magras, Secretary
 - Winston Ledee
 - Claude Berry
 - Michael Berry
 - Ricky Laplace
 - Warren Querrard
 - Neville Samuel
 - Danny Berry, non-voting
 - Robert Berry, non-voting
 - Austin Callwood, non-voting
 - Catherine Bryan, non-voting
 - Jed Brown, non-voting
 - Tony Iarocci, non-voting
 - Heather Blough, NMFS Advisor
- Committee Members have 42% of traps in the St. Thomas/St. John fish trap fishery.

Cut Off Date

- February 10, 2011.
- Fishermen entering fishery after this date are not guaranteed of having traps approved.
- Only fishermen who are determined to be eligible prior to this date are likely to be allowed to fish traps.

Baseline for Reduction

- Several Baselines were considered:
 - Average from 2005 to 2010
 - Number of traps in 2010
- Selected 2010 numbers as baseline for reduction.
 - 2005-10 average list had a number of fishermen who where no longer fishing and inflated the numbers of traps.
- There were 40 trap fishermen in 2010.
- 2010 Baseline number was **4792** Traps.
- Equals 92% of F_{msy} (5200 Traps).

20% Reduction Selected

- All fishermen will reduce their trap numbers by 20% over a three year period.
 - 10% Reduction in Year 1.
 - 5% Reduction in Year 2.
 - 5% Reduction in Year 3.
- No fisherman will have more than 250 traps.
- Total following reduction will leave 3550 traps. (=68% F_{msy})
- 450 traps will be held in reserve to deal with appeals by fishermen. They will not necessarily be allocated.
- If all reserve traps were distributed this would provide effort at 77% F_{msy}

Transferability

- Yet to be decided.
- Options being considered:
 - Only allow transfer within immediate family.
 - Allow for sale/lease of traps to other fishermen as long as 250 trap limit not exceeded.
- Current thinking is that no transfers to be allowed until end of 3 year reduction period.

Remaining Problems

- DPNR Enforcement is continuing to inspect and allow traps for fishermen who had not been fishing in 2010.
- This has added two fishermen who were not fishing in 2010.
- This will create a situation where fishermen will contest exclusion from fishery.
- Plan will have to go through Public Hearings and become part of Act 3330 revision.
- DFW has dropped the ball on Act 3330 revision.
- CFMC/Territorial Compatibility.