

From: Christopher Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:53 PM
To: FGC; Mastrup, Sonke@FGC
Subject: Lobster Harvest Control Rule presentation MRC meeting April 24th

Dear Commissioners,

This harvest control rule needs to be developed through a management strategy evaluation that models the management tactics which are labeled tools. This is a needed next step in the science.

This will also provide for the development of an appropriate conflict resolution process for the FMP as intended in the stakeholder policy section of the MLMA.

A significant problem has been generated by the lobster FMP facilitation process. It is that the facilitation team and the stakeholders were not fully aware of the current harvest rates in the lobster fishery when they developed their recommendation.

This problem is multiplied by the stakeholder assumptions of MPA's as an insurance policy in brood stock mitigating the congestion of fishing effort outside.

We do not have a real number for how much total area of lobster habitat is now in MPA's. We are only able to model 15% and 20% not that actual area.

These problems can easily be solved at this time with the help of the F&GC applying their strategic plan. The best assessment method now is a social model for a monitoring economy for each of the management tools. This way we can integrate a pro-active science capacity for management.

It is also the logical way to consider the fishery objectives with the management target of optimum yield.

A core issue for a sustainable fishery is how you calibrate the harvest control rule. The time clock for assessment of the stocks now has to be fully integrated.

I think that the F&GC should now discuss a plan to retain the modeling capacity of our science team that was contracted by the OPC to design the monitoring programs as a community based collaborative research partnership.

At the coming F&GC meeting on the 16th in Ventura I would like to start a conversation with you about this idea.

It is directly related to a long term goal of utilizing the states sustainable fisheries initiative and the California Fisheries Fund for the generation of new type of partnership in sustainable fisheries.

This partnership's goal would be a pro-active harvest planning and cost recovery design.

Thank You,

Chris Miller

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Lobster Fisherman Santa Cruz Island 37 years

Fishery Organizer 15 years