

Research Set Aside Program
Mid Atlantic Fisheries Council
800 North State St. suite 201
Dover DE 19901

Research set aside MONEY!

The United National Fishermen's Associations offers to collect all research moneys; FOR fisheries with state based landing limits based on pounds. {LANDING LIMITS BASED ON POUNDS THAT A VESSEL CAN LAND PER TRIP.

The question: Can the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Contract with private organizations to collect research set aside monies. {YES} Based on past history: Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council Contracted with Garden State Seafood & others to collect Research Set Aside funds through an so called auction that ONLY GSFA & NFI MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO BENEFIT & PARTICIPATE IN THE SYSTEM!

The proposed system to collect Research Set Aside is designed to allow ALL FISHERMEN LANDING FISH WITH A STATE QUOTA TO BENEFIT PROVIDED THE FISHERMAN & DEALER ARE ENROLLED IN THE COLLECTION OF Research Set Aside FUNDS.

PROPOSED SYSTEM IS FAIR TO ALL FISHERMEN. It allows all participants to land the entire quota amount without fear of penalty for poundage over the state quota. The participant fisherman will have on board a catch slightly higher than the quota. Participant fishermen will Boat Tracs NMFS they have over the limit of the species and that they are participants in the Research Set Aside collection system. NMFS will then contact UNFA that boat X is going to dealer Y to pack RSA fish. Dealer will pack the fisherman's quota & the overage. Dealer will write fisherman a check. Dealer will write separate check to a bank specified by UNFA The specified bank CAN NOT RELEASE ANY OF THE ORIGINAL FUNDS TO United National Fisherman's Association or it's members. The specified bank can only release money to the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council for research set aside funds WHEN COSIGNED BY UNFA.

All law enforcement concerns will be addressed.

UNFA will verify RSA is landed because check is sent to bank, IF no RSA funds are deposited then fisherman & or dealer made false statement to NMFS. Fisherman is subject to prosecution. For making false deceleration / statement.

All RSA money will be available to the Council for RSA projects as soon as approved by Council & NMFS or what ever agency.

KISS [KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID] principle is applied. 1. FISHERMAN NOTIFIES NMFS & UNFA HE HAS OVER QUOTA TO BE APPLIED TO RSA. 2. DEALER PACKS RSA & SENDS CHECK TO BANK. UNFA VERIFIES DEALER SENT CHECK TO BANK. & NUMBER OF POUNDS TO BE SUBTRACTED FROM RSA.

MONEY IS THEN AVAILABLE TO COUNCIL TO PAY RSA PROJECTS.

Should Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council require further explanation it will be provided.

THIS SYSTEM ALLOWS ALL FISHERMEN TO LAND ENTIRE TRIP QUOTA WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING OVER. THUS RECEIVING A TICKET.

SYSTEM COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED A BY CATCH REDUCTION PLAN.

James Fletcher 2/19/ 2016

*DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION / DISCUSSION
NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MID ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL*

Dear Sir,

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Converting research set aside quota from pounds of scallops / fish to dollars, approved for research projects!

Proposed method for converting research set aside quota to dollars; benefiting fishermen is being offered by United National Fisherman's Association.

1. Allows fishermen to land total trip limit poundage; without fear of overage thus enforcement action!
2. Allows utilization of by-catch while preventing discarding of overage of target species.
3. Provides law enforcement two methods of verification concerning landing of research set aside.
4. Allows researchers access to dollars at any stage of the project approved by council.

United National Fisherman's Association offers the following services. Converting research set aside quota to dollars from limited access fisheries, and State Limited Landing Quotas to dollars.

Every vessel holding a limited access permit or every dealer with permits to buy limited access fish; could apply for an overage exemption letter from United National Fisherman's Association.

Conditional upon notifying National Marine Fisheries through Vessel Tracking System that an overage of landing poundage would occur with an good faith estimate of the poundage of overage.

The vessel would then off load the catch, the vessel would receive payment for the allowable poundage. The dealer would sell the overage and send a check for the overage to an account in a specified bank Under United National Fisherman's account. The Vessel Trip Report in the kept discard (19) would enter species # *RSA*.

The Dealer would note on dealer Report species # *RSA*

Three checks in the system exist,

1. Vessel Tracking System notification of overage prior to landing.
2. Overage listed (19) on Vessel Trip Report
3. Overage listed on Dealer Report.

A forth verification could exist; provided a method existed to notify United National Fisherman's Association of any announcement from the Vessel Tracking System. (Email Etc.) United National Fisherman's Association would have incentive to verify a deposit

had been made from the dealer with the vessel name / or identification (permit I.D.) into the research set aside account in the dealer name & vessel name for the date in question. If and when the research set aside poundage was to be reached. As recorded from Vessel Trip Report (19) or Dealer Report then a message could be sent Via Vessel Tracking vendors THE OVERAGE ALLOWANCE FOR X SPECIES WOULD END 00/00/00.

United National Fisherman's Research Set Aside Account would be in a separate Bank and totally Separate Account. Every deposit & withdrawal would be accounted for & traceable. Upon notification from the Council OR Marine Fisheries a check for the designated / negotiated amount could be sent to whomever. PROVIDED SUFFICIENT FUNDS EXISTED.

POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES!!!

The possibility exist, to remove Marine Fisheries & Councils from Research Set Aside Grants dollars. A process where Councils & Marine Fisheries approve projects but not the dollars to be paid. Council proposes a possible range of dollars, the grantee could receive, the grantee would then negotiate within the range provided by Council; with United National Fisherman's Association for the final amount within the possible range. Thus the Councils and National Marine Fisheries are not giving grants in dollars. (PROVIDED THE COUNCIL WANTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE DOLLARS)

Fishermen would not be worried concerning citations for slight overages of quota limited landings. Vessels could receive allowed dollar amount for catch.

Regulatory discards would be eliminated.

All vessels could participate in the process.

All Dealers could participate in the process.

Fishermen could have slight say in process. (We think it is a good project give the Researcher, the maximum amount).

United National Fisherman's Association is compensated for it's participation in the process by the interest the money generates while in the account. Plus the economic benefit all fishermen who chose to participate gain for their personal accounts. Every dollar paid into the Research Set Aside account will be available for pay out.

THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT A RESEARCH PROJECT: It is an offer to covert research set aside pounds to dollars while benefiting all fishermen whom chose to participate.

James Fletcher Director

United national Fisherman's Association
123 Apple Rd Manns Harbor NC 27953
5/27 2008

1 x x

RESEARCH SET ASIDE DOLLARS REPLY TO JOHN HOEY & HARRY MEARS:

In response research set aside \$.

United National Fishermen's proposal is intended to convert all research set aside pounds into dollars. Main point: fishermen landing on state or Federal (scallop) quotas will land total allowable quota without fear of fines or loss of trip for being as little as one pound in excess of quota. Vessels landing scallops from closed area can land 18,000 # exactly without fear of loss of trip. A vessel which catches a species for which it does not have a permit can land the species if a research set aside exist (by catch reduction).

FISHERMEN WILL BE ALLOWED GREATEST DOLLAR AMOUNT POSSIBLE WITHOUT FEAR OF FINES OR LOSS OF TRIP. LAW ENFORCEMENT WILL KNOW: TRIP WILL HAVE AN OVERAGE ON TRIP REPORT & DEALER REPORT FROM NOTIFICATION!

The proposal: Allows for species of fish to be in the market year around even if the season is closed; thus the greatest price for resource at no benefit to fishermen, The dealer research set aside science & consumer benefit; presently the species is discarded at no benefit to anyone with the consumer buying imports.

Answer to Harry Mears: 1-8

1. The proposal is nothing like NFI; it reduces by catch discarding, it reduces stress on vessel masters, it allows Captains & crews the maximum dollar return per trip on quota landed species, it informs law enforcement that a research set aside landing will occur with VTS or phone in notification. Research set aside comes from all fishermen so all fishermen can participate. Recreational research only need to apply for dollars, they would not need a method to convert pounds to dollars. Even with a closed season the dealer & public would have legal access to a limited supply of fish species.
2. A petition for federal rulemaking will be initiated BUT frame working could allow the process as it; reduces by catch; increases benefit to fishermen; allows product for consumers all year; reduces regulatory discarding. I do not see the need for public comment or comment from NMFS or council staff Research set aside is already an approved fact. The problem is converting POUNDS TO DOLLARS! This proposal converts pounds to dollars while benefiting the vessels crews dealers & consumers. The proposal ask that council & NMFS propose a range of dollars for the research. Thus the fishermen can have some say in amount allowed the research. {fishermen now have no say in research or funding) Funding could not be less than council & NMFS proposed but it could be more.
3. Tracking RSA would be accomplished by the bank. Every dollar received will be paid back out for research. Council & NMFS only propose a range for each {approved} research project. Recreational and water quality groups would have a vehicle to research dollars. The council & NMFS would only need to approve sufficient research to match RSA dollars in bank. The bank does all accounting. Dollars in against dollars out simple math. Council & NMFS approve a range of dollars for each project, Fishermen review range, decide on amount inform council, bank sends check to researcher for 90%, council is informed by bank &