**PORT MEETING QUESTIONS – December 2013**

**Introduction:**

***(Addresses Communication Strategic Goal)***

* How do you hear about what we are doing at the council?
* What do we need to be doing to make sure that you hear about what we are doing and get you and keep you involved?

**Management:**

* What do you think is working with current management of the fish? For the fisherman? For both?
* What is specifically not working for the fish? For the fisherman? For both?
* What strategies have you thought about that could fix one if the above issues?

**Sector-Specific Questions**

**COMMERCIAL:**

Species Targeted:

* *What are the most important species to you?*
* *Which species are caught together most often and should be maintained “open” together when possible to avoid discards?*

Full Retention vs. Size Limits:

* *What are your thoughts on a full retention fishery versus use of size limits?*
* *Are there certain species or groups of species for which full retention makes sense?*
* *Are there some species/species grouper for which size limits make sense?*

Allocations:

* *Are current allocations between sectors acceptable?*
* *Are there some SPECIFIC species we should take a closer look at?*
* Allocations for most snapper grouper species have been based 50% on historic landings and 50% on recent landings. *Are there other ways to use landings information to determine allocations? Are there methods other than landings to fairly determine allocations?*

Electronic Reporting & Monitoring:

* *Should Council consider allowing multi-day trip limits to be taken by boats voluntarily equipped with electronic monitoring devices that track the length of their fishing trip?*
* *Should EM be mandated on boats as an enforcement measure if a vessel and/or permit holder has a set number of violations?*

Conflicting Regulations:

* *Are there regulations in other fisheries (e.g. highly migratory species) that impact your ability to operate profitably in the snapper grouper fishery?*

SCIENCE: *Are there better, more efficient ways to collect commercial catch/effort/discard/economic data? How would you suggest improving the commercial logbook?*

**ADDITIONAL ?s:**

* Spatial Management and MPAs.
* Electronic reporting and monitoring (see revised questions above)
* Suggestions for improving data collection programs.
* New technologies?
* Think about the ordering of questions.

**CHEFS/DEALERS**

Supply chain:

* *When are you having the greatest trouble obtaining snapper grouper species for distribution/sale?*
* *What species are in greatest demand?*
* *Will the sustainable caught program the councils are advocating help with marketing and price?*

Chefs:

* *Not all fish are available year-round throughout the region, even if quotas/catch limits are not filled. What are the most popular fish on your menu?*
* *How can the council help educate consumers on fish availability?*
* *On the need to protect species during times when they are spawning?*

**ADDITIONAL ?s:**

* *What species would you like to have access to?*

**FOR-HIRE**

Species Targeted:

* *What are your most important seasons/ species?*
* *What are you targeting most often/catching together/discarding most often?*
* *What species are most important to maintain open seasons together when possible?*

Seasonality:

* Are there ways the council can improve “fishing opportunity” and “trip satisfaction”?
* Would knowing the season start and end dates at the beginning of the year help stabilize your fishing years and allow you to plan for your business better than current fishery closures based on MRIP numbers?

Allocations:

* *Allocations for most species have been based 50% on historic landings and 50% on recent landings. Are there other ways to use landings to determine allocations?*
* *Are there methods other than use of landings to fairly determine allocations?*
* *Should there be a specific for-hire sector allocation for quota/ tags?*

SCIENCE: *What is your level of confidence in how catch/effort data are collected? Are there specific ways the for-hire sector can assist in improving the accuracy of this information?*

**ADDITIONAL ?s:**

* Spatial Management and MPAs.
* Artificial Reefs
* Electronic reporting and monitoring – validation for reporting. (Have a list of examples provided with question.)
* New technologies
* How important is it for stakeholders to see a healthy ecosystem while they are out fishing? (Viewing marine mammals, pelagic seabirds, etc. more of an eco-tourism component.)

**RECREATIONAL**

Targeted Species:

* *What species do you fish for the most?*
* *What time of year do you fish for snapper grouper species?*
* *What species do you catch most often together?*
* *What species do you find yourself throwing back the most and why?*

Allocations:

* *Allocations for most species have been based 50% on historic landings and 50% on recent landings. Are there other ways to use landings to determine allocations?*
* *Are there other ways to fairly determine allocations other than landings?*

SCIENCE: *Are you familiar with how recreational catch and effort data are collected? Are there ways anglers can contribute to improving the accuracy of recreational catch and effort information?*

**ADDITIONAL ?s:**

* Spatial Management and MPAs.
* Artificial Reefs
* Electronic reporting and monitoring – validation for reporting. (Have a list of examples provided with question.)
* New technologies
* How important is it for stakeholders to see a healthy ecosystem while they are out fishing? (Viewing marine mammals, pelagic seabirds, etc. more of an eco-tourism component.)

**TOURISM/MARINE RELATED BUSINESSES**

* What time of year does your most important season occur?
* What educational or outreach information would it be useful for you or your business to have regarding fishing opportunities?

**ADDITIONAL ?s:**

* Include a question about tournaments and ability to schedule them.
* How important is it for stakeholders to see a healthy ecosystem while they are out fishing? (Viewing marine mammals, pelagic seabirds, etc. more of an eco-tourism component with recreational dive industry, charter trips, etc.)

**COMMENTS/ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:**

* The council should make a concerted effort to pull together list of all the major fishing clubs and fishing organizations and make sure they are the mailing list, as well as start contacting magazines (i.e. NC, SC FL sportsman and others to see if they will run some quick stories. (Some of this is already underway).
* Make sure we compile the results of port meetings by sector but also geographically.
* Additional Questions:
  + Artificial Reefs and Council’s role in possibly establishing them? (RECREATIONAL and FOR-HIRE SECTORS)
  + Add some questions about MPAs.
  + Catch shares? Maybe include this on an on-line comment form? Just asking what their interest is in this approach.
  + Need to possibly add some habitat questions. Quality of habitat.
  + Consider question about monitoring tools such as observers.

**Science**

Many of these questions might be best addressed in another forum – through advisory panel input, perhaps an online questionnaire, etc. as many stakeholders may not be aware of existing science/data collection programs beyond their direct experience in logbooks or recreational intercept/effort surveys.

**Governance**

Many governance issues may become clearer as stakeholders provide input on communication tools used by the council. Because governance is often a less tangible concept for many stakeholders and involves process issues, it may be more appropriate for the council to play a greater role in addressing these.