

Social Impact Assessment

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1. Overview of Social Impact Analysis Guidance

- History
 - Sustainable Fishing Act (SFA) : 1996
 - Amendment 7: 1996
 - Port profiles available (Hall-Arber's work for Amendment 5; Dyer and Griffith for Amendment 7)

1. Overview, continued

- Legislative Context
 - NMFS “Communities Workshop” (April 2002). Guidelines under construction.
(http://www.st.nmfs.gov/ows-econ/rir/communities_workshop_final.pdf).
 - National Standards Final Rule: 63 Federal Register 84, starting page 24211 [May 1, 1998]

1. Overview, continued

- “The term “fishing community” means a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community” (16 U.S.C. §1802(16)).
- Issues: engaged versus dependent; social and economic needs, regional and local conditions, primary and secondary ports.

1. Overview, continued

- Methodological Considerations
 - Strengths: Integrates available data from multiple sources
 - Weakness: Paucity of social data
 - No consensus in the qualitative social sciences on the absolute merit of particular techniques.

1. Overview, continued

- Methodological Considerations, cont.
 - The Social Impact Informational Meetings were based on the methods of focus groups & are a tool for understanding how widespread ideas and values are.
 - The informational meetings were useful for identifying relevant factors (e.g., safety and regulatory discarding) to focus on in the assessment.

2. SIA Information Sources

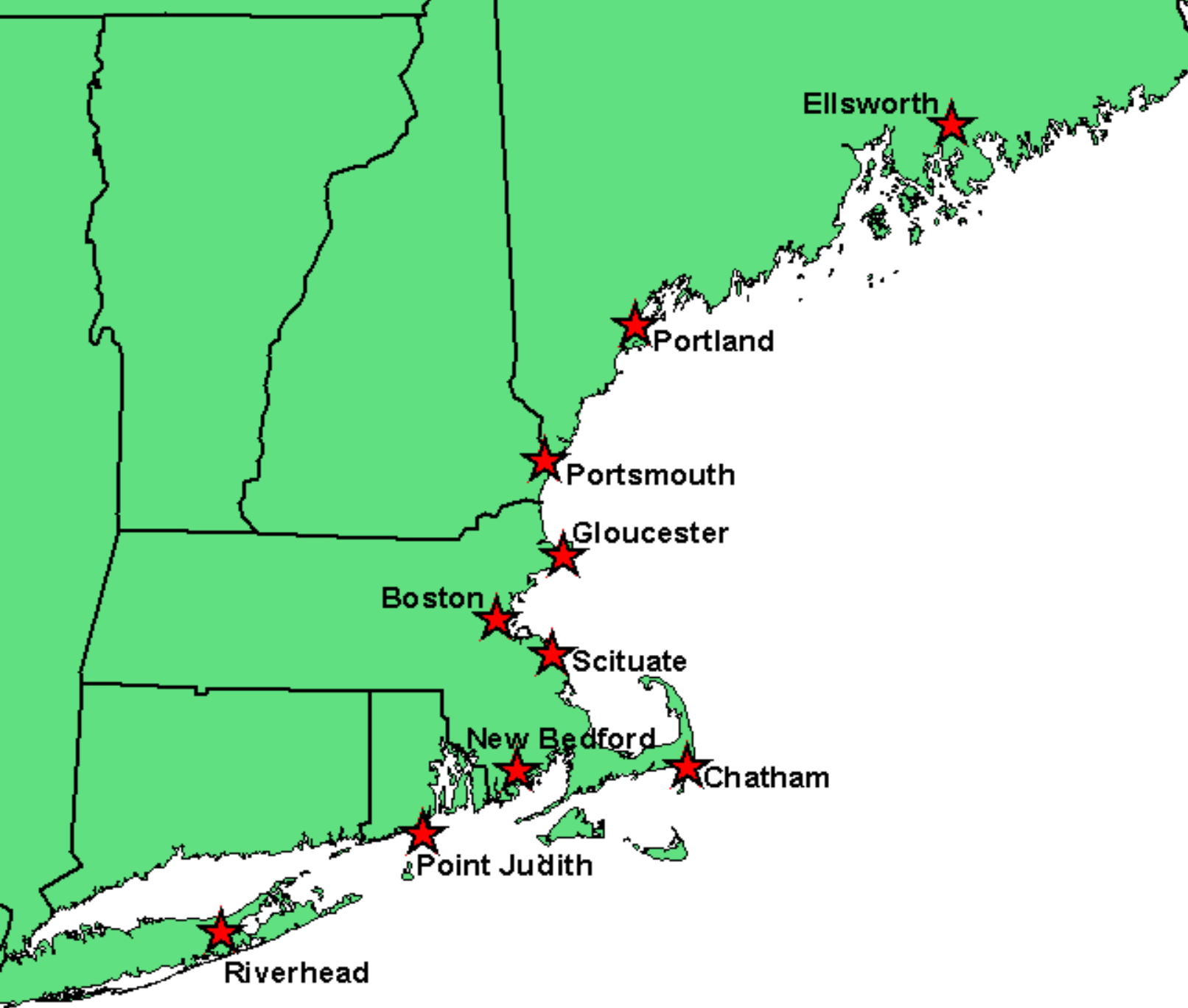
- Secondary Information
 - Scholarly and gray literature some fund by NEFSC
- NMFS Economic Data
 - VTR and WO (homeport vs. weighout port)
- Other Data Sources
 - Census Data
 - Social Informational Meetings

3. Identification of Communities of Interest

- **SIA Informational Meetings**
 - Conducted by Council Staff with support from members of the Social Science Advisory Council
 - First attempt at primary data collection. Has not yet been repeated.

3. Identification, cont.

1. Gloucester, MA – November 1, 2000
2. Chatham, MA – November 2, 2000
3. Portsmouth, NH – November 6, 2000
4. New Bedford, MA – November 8, 2000
5. Point Judith, RI – November 9, 2000
6. Portland, ME – November 13, 2000
7. Riverhead, NY – November 21, 2000
8. Boston, MA – December 4, 2000 (impromptu)
9. Scituate, MA – December 4, 2000
10. Ellsworth, ME – December 7, 2000



Ellsworth

Portland

Portsmouth

Gloucester

Boston

Scituate

New Bedford

Chatham

Point Judith

Riverhead

3. Identification, cont.:

Meeting Overview

I. Introductions

II. Meeting Objectives

III. Definitions

(Fishing Community and Social Impacts)

IV. Brainstorming Sheet

V. Discussion

VI. Comment Sheets

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Objectives

- Obtain qualitative social information about primary ports currently involved in the groundfish fishery
- Obtain a better understanding of the cumulative impacts of Amendments 5 and 7, and subsequent framework adjustments
- Obtain information to better predict the potential impacts of the Amendment 13 alternatives
- Better meet the Council's legal requirements under NEPA and the SFA
- Enable assessment of key factors

3. Identification, cont.: What are *Social Impacts*?

Social impacts are the effects of fishing regulations on individuals, families, and communities.

- **Way of life**
(how people live, work, play, and interact)
- **Cultural traditions**
(shared beliefs, customs, values)
- **Community**
(population structure, cohesion, social networks, stability, and character)

3. Identification, cont.: Comment Sheets

Purpose:

- Opportunity for meeting participants to provide written comments
- Opportunity for those who could not attend the meeting to provide comments

Result:

- 61 Comment Sheets (35 handwritten, 26 electronic) and 4 Written Letters
- Written comments have been incorporated into the report.

3. Identification, cont.: Amendment 13 EIS and SIA

This report is *not* a social impact assessment. But the information is incorporated into the EIS for Amendment 13

- Affected Human Environment
- “Community Perspectives”
- Help focus SIA

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Summaries Overview

- Each meeting summary is structured identically
- Attendance and written comments are noted

I. Background Information

II. Social Impact Issues

III. Groundfish Regulations

IV. Community Information

V. Other

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Common Themes

1. Regulatory Discarding

- Stress and anxiety
- Disgust about wasting resource
- Loss of pride in work and job satisfaction

2. Safety Concerns

- Adaptations for decreased income
- Maximizing available fishing opportunities
- Distance traveled to fish

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Common Themes

3. Crew Problems/New Entrants in Fishery

- Uncertainty, loss of year-round employment opportunities
- Long-term social impacts

4. Loss of Commercial Waterfront Property

- Tourism and recreational/pleasure boat demands
- Increased cost of living
- Long-term social impacts

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Common Themes

5. Positive Impacts?

- Recognition of the long-term positive social and community impacts of a rebuilt resource and a sustainable fishery
- Positive social impacts of groundfish measures, DAS – provide stability and flexibility and do not create derbies
- In some cases, SFA and increased regulations have helped to unify the industry to more effectively influence legislation and management

3. Identification, cont.: Meeting Summary

- Those who commented feel that cumulatively, groundfish regulations since 1994 have produced social impacts in affected fishing communities.
- **DAS reductions** (Amendments 5 and 7) and **nearshore area closures** (Frameworks 25, 26, 27, 31, 33) were reported to have had the most significant social impacts.

3. Identification of Communities of Interest

- **Primary and Secondary communities**
 - “Primary communities” landed more than one million lbs of groundfish during 1994-99, or had identifiable shoreside infrastructure
 - “Secondary communities” have some participation in groundfish.
 - Compared and cross-referenced to the MARFIN Report
 - Groundfish dependence defined as groundfish activity relative to other fisheries, not total economic activity. Aim: any community substantially involved in the groundfish fishery would include any community substantially dependent.

4. On-Going Research and Social Data Gaps

- Projects
 - Port profiles for the Mid-Atlantic
 - Processing plant workers, crew, and recreational fishers
 - Community institutions
 - Environmental justice
 - Updating information in port profiles every 2 to 3 years.

4. On-Going Research and Social Data Gaps

- Objectives
 - Our understanding of the impacts of fishery management measures on communities and the households that comprise them is remarkably barren of socially and culturally derived data.
 - Our intent is to provide depth and context to existing and new community profiles that will give us a window into the kinds of household-level impacts rarely documented – both in terms of cumulative effects and (because of the timing) with regard to the specific impacts of Amendment 13 to the groundfish plan.