

## **Summary of Cobscook Scallop Fishermen's Meetings**

The following recommendations to the Maine Scallop Advisory Council were agreed on during two meetings held on Feb. 27 and March 5 at the Pembroke Elementary School. The meetings were sponsored by the Cobscook Bay Fishermen's Association and the Cobscook Bay Resource Center. About 30 fishermen attended the first meeting; 20 fishermen attended the second. Will Hopkins moderated both meetings. Heidi Leighton took notes. Participants considered the suggestions made at the Scallop Advisory Council meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> as presented in minutes of that meeting, as well as suggestions from the Cobscook group. All suggestions required a two thirds vote of those present for agreement to be reached.

**WE AGREE** to ask the following general questions of the Scallop Advisory Council:

- 1. How do we end the boom and bust cycle?**
- 2. How do we take responsibility for the fisheries in our own backyards?**
- 3. How do we deal with the fact that there are not enough scallops in Cobscook Bay to support the entire Maine scallop fleet?**
- 4. How do we better balance the needs of the mobile fleet with the needs of the home fleet?**

**WE AGREE** that one size does not fit all in fisheries management.

**AGREED:** We support a 42 day scallop season for next year.

**AGREED:** We support declaring or opting in to one closed area.

**AGREED:** We support allowing one day of fishing per week in closed areas for 14 weeks.

**AGREED:** However many days are set for fishing in the closed areas, Cobscook fishermen should have a meeting when half of those days have been fished to review the status of the resource. At this meeting, a vote should be taken as to whether to ask the Commissioner to shut the fishery down to protect the resource.

**AGREED:** All closed areas should be open on the same day.

**AGREED:** Closed areas should be open to draggers and divers on the same day.

**AGREED:** There should not be one meat count for the entire state.

**AGREED:** Fishermen in other areas should decide on their own meat count or be able to decide not to have a meat count if that is what works for their area.

**AGREED:** The daily catch limit should be left the way it is.

**AGREED:** There should not be a statewide 50 pound daily catch limit when the closed areas are open.

**AGREED:** We do not support leaving closed areas closed.

**AGREED:** We will not support further closures until we know the plan for the specific area that is proposed to be closed including: the length of time the area will be closed, how the area will be reopened, and how the area will be surveyed.

**AGREED:** Closed areas should not be established on international boundaries.

**AGREED:** We support declaring or opting in to a Cobscook scallop zone which includes everything from Bog Brook to the Canadian border.

**AGREED:** We want a Cobscook scallop zone with a council like the lobster fishery has.