

RECREATIONAL FISHING SYMPOSIUM (from page 10)

In regard to gear conflicts between trawl and rod & reel fishing, many felt buffer zones should be established or explore restructuring commercial vessel traffic in-shore where feasible to reduce large vessels from operating close to the shore or in estuaries.

4. Redistribution of fish quotas due to biomass movement and climate change. Participants felt a redistribution of fish harvest quotas based on current distribution, catch and value (both recreational and commercial) is necessary.

5. Add council seats in neighboring regions to accommodate fish movement as well as recreational seats (19 votes). Require recreational representation on all Regional Councils possibly a minimum of one private recreational angler representative with no commercial fishing interests and a second from the party and charter sector.

6. Add transiting provision to MSA to accommodate a Block



Symposium participants included leadership from RISAA affiliated clubs, fisheries managers from RI, CT and MA, and distinguished guest speakers leading the discussion

Island to Mainland corridor (12 votes). Other transient provisions occur in New England and throughout the county. Due to a mile or two state water gap between Block Island and

mainland Rhode Island, a transit provision should be added to MSA.

Janet Coit, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management said, "Recreational fishing in Rhode Island is a vital part of our economy and quality of life - and is a lot of fun," She, and a half dozen of her staff, attended the Symposium.



Janet Coit

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