

horses learned to fly
 their tails grew into wings
 letters turned to digits
 phones began to ring
 cars come here and take us there
 never leaving us far behind
 technology seems to challenge
 my ever evolving mind
 Now Vietnam has come and gone
 history takes its place
 oh, God forgive me for I have sinned
 when I tried to hide my face
 Desert Storm let's not forget
 the blood that you had shed
 so men and women could return
 to the countries that they fled
 And for all the men and women
 who will answer a fatal call
 I say to you I'll place your name
 upon my strongest wall
 and when at war and we need it most
 our founding fathers will say
 hear ye, hear ye,
 then you'll hear them pray
 Yes I'm fighting hard
 as my father's son
 so men and women can be free
 that's why those wars were won
 so it doesn't really matter
 where you are and when you say
 God bless America
 it's Independence Day!
 Yes,
 God bless America
 it's Independence Day!

2003 BLOOMFIELD CITIZENS COUNCIL AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of Pittsburgh residents who were honored on May 3rd 2003 with Bloomfield Citizens Council Awards.

Every year, the Bloomfield Citizens Council gives out these awards to recognize members of the community who have improved the quality of life in the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the 2003 award winners for their efforts to make Bloomfield a better place to live.

Emil DelCimuto has been selected as the recipient of the Mary Cercone Outstanding Citizen Award for his commitment to helping others in the community. As a volunteer for the Bloomfield Lions Club, the St. Joseph Nursing Home, and Meals on Wheels, Mr. DelCimuto has dedicated his time and energy to the people of Bloomfield. He is also an active member of the Bloomfield Preservation and Heritage Society and a sports columnist for several local newspapers.

The Distinguished Patriotism Award was presented to Raymond Fern. As a Korean War Veteran and life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr. Fern is currently Commander of District 29, which has 15,000 members. Mr. Fern also became the first Pennsylvanian in 25 years to receive the All Star Grand Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie in 2000 for his strong commitment to hospitalized veterans.

The People of Vision Award was presented to David Voelker, Richard Voelker and Marcia Deaktor for their financial investments in the

economic growth and development of Bloomfield.

The Bloomfield Citizens Council will present two awards for Christmas decorations this year. Joe and Toni Surmacy received the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award for their holiday arrangement with a religious theme, and Art and Mary Harrover received the Most Outstanding and Completely Decorated Home for their detailed Christmas designs.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2003 Bloomfield Citizens Council Awards on their important contributions to the quality of life in Bloomfield. On behalf of the residents of Bloomfield and the rest of the 14th Congressional District, I thank them for their efforts.

SUCCESS WITH SCALLOPS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we hear too rarely of our public policy successes, because of a natural tendency for people to focus on areas where our efforts have fallen short of what we sought to achieve.

It is important to examine the policies which have not worked well, so that we can change them. But when organizations, the media, and others pay attention only to failure, the public gets a distorted overall picture, and people become unduly pessimistic about our ability to achieve important goals through public policy.

One area in which the private and public sectors can work together to produce a very favorable current situation is that of the scallop fishery. This does not mean that no errors were made in the course of this work, and to some extent we have seen here a process of trial and error. One of the errors we had previously made was to rely exclusively on science conducted by the regulators, and in recent years, independent scientific assessment of the fishery has proven to be an extremely useful tool.

Today, the scallop fishery is a very successful one. The catch is high, the stock has been replenished, the economy of the Greater New Bedford area—and other scallop fisheries—benefits, and, perhaps most importantly, consumers are able to receive a steady supply of a food that is both good and good for them. Sadly, this success seems, in some cases, to have angered some conservationists when it should, instead, have given them a sense of confidence about our ability to make public policy decisions. As the Representative of the City of New Bedford, the Town of Fairhaven, and other communities in which scallop fishing is important, I have had the disappointing experience of seeing some—by no means all—environmental organizations take unreasonable positions, and maintain them even in the face of contradictory experience.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that when we reauthorize the Sustainable Fisheries Act, we build on the experience that we have gained in the scallop fishery, as well as in other fisheries, and make changes in the law that will enhance our ability to achieve the public policy successes that we have seen in the regulation of scalloping.

In a very comprehensive and thoughtful article, our former colleague, Gerry Studds, and Dr. Trevor Kenchington, a marine biologist, present the story of the success in the scallop fishery—as the sub-headline of their article in the May 25 issue of the New Bedford Standard Times correctly notes, “cooperation between managers and fishermen has rebuilt stocks.”

Those who served with Gerry Studds during his twenty four years in the House, including his service as Chair of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries before its abolition, will not be surprised to read his cogent and balanced presentation. As a leading voice in this House on the question of fishing, Mr. Studds had a major role in bringing about many of the achievements chronicled in this article, and I am proud as his successor in representing the major scallop fishery in America to have been able to carry on his work.

Because this is a very important issue that we will, I hope, be addressing in legislation this year, I ask that the very informative article “Success With Scallops” offered by Mr. Studds and Dr. Kenchington and carried in the New Bedford Standard Times, be reprinted here.

SUCCESS WITH SCALLOPS

COOPERATION BETWEEN MANAGERS AND
FISHERMEN HAS REBUILT STOCKS

(By Trevor J. Kenchington and Gerry E. Studds)

If you thought all living marine resources were either severely depleted or on the verge of extinction, due to a combination of ineffective management and the greed and short-sightedness of fishermen, you could hardly be blamed. After all, that is the message conveyed to you day after day in the media—and in the fund-raising solicitations of many environmental groups.

You might be more than a little surprised, therefore, to learn that an immensely valuable component of commercial fishing in New England and the Mid-Atlantic—the Atlantic sea scallop fishery—presents a shining example of successful management and an unprecedented instance of cooperation between fishermen and managers.

“The scallop resource on Georges Bank and in the Mid-Atlantic region has not only increased dramatically in recent years, but is at record high levels and considered fully rebuilt,” said the Executive Director of the New England Fishery Management Council last fall. (Heading Toward Recovery: Rebuilding New England's Fisheries, Fall 2002)

Under these circumstances, you might be even more surprised to learn that several environmental organizations and their allies have gone to court again and again to block these management efforts. To date, their legal challenges have been uniformly unsuccessful. But they have succeeded in tying managers and fishermen in expensive, litigious knots.

Why is it that these groups, among them the Conservation Law Foundation and Oceans, have painted a target on the backs of the scallop fishermen when pinning a medal on their chests for innovative, proactive citizenship might seem more appropriate?

Let's take a closer look, first at the scallops themselves and their importance to the country and to local communities, then at the recent history of scallop management.

Scallops feed on the lowest level in the marine ecosystem—microscopic floating plants. Much as cattle turn grass into beef, scallops turn natural plant energy into meat. Scallop meat is, moreover, nutritious, low fat and a prized delicacy when fresh.

Left to themselves, however, scallops are not an efficient pathway for the plants to feed the rest of the ecosystem. Scallops, with their strong shells, resist most predators. Enter humans. With effective management of the U.S. Atlantic scallop fishery, annual production of some 40 million pounds of high-quality scallop meat can be landed and enjoyed by consumers, replacing high-priced imports with fresh product. Importantly, because scallops are "shucked" (opened) at sea with only their meats brought ashore, their viscera are discarded overboard and thereupon become a food source for predatory fish such as cod.

The scallop industry is very important to the social fabric of shoreside communities from Maine to North Carolina. The bulk of the catch is harvested by approximately 200 full-time scallop vessels, while another 100 or so fish for scallops to a lesser extent. Some 2,000 people are directly employed in the harvesting. In the process of supplying this product to consumers, the scallop fishery can earn between \$150 million and \$200 million per year, valued at the point of landing. Even more value is added and more jobs supported in processing, distribution and sales.

Income from scalloping contributes to the economies and way of life of many coastal communities in a half-dozen states. That is an important contribution for some ports like Stonington, Conn.; Cape May, N.J.; and Hampton Roads, Va. But, scalloping is vital to New Bedford, where the majority of Atlantic scallops are landed. In fact, the revitalization of the scallop fishery has propelled New Bedford into its current position as the No. 1 fishing port in the United States, measured by dollar value of product landed.

But it is not foreordained that the scallop industry should have its current success. In the past, scallop fishermen, like those in so many other U.S. fisheries, compensated for a declining resource by fishing harder (and more dangerously) struggling to maintain their income but driving the scallops down further.

1994 RULES

In 1994, all that began to change when strict rules were implemented limiting the number of participants in the fishery and, more importantly, the number of days that scallop vessels could fish in a given year. Further cuts followed, particularly in 1998. Full-time scallop vessels are now limited to 120 days at sea each year compared to the 250 or more that many worked before restrictions began. They are also now limited to seven men, which severely limits their catching power, compared to the 13 men commonly carried in earlier years. In addition, large portions of the most productive scallop grounds in the world (on Georges Bank, off Massachusetts) were closed in order to assist federal efforts to rebuild stocks of groundfish (cod, flounder, and haddock). About 80 percent of the Georges Bank scallops (roughly half of the entire Atlantic scallop resource) is currently off-limits to fishing.

Under these strict management measures, the weight of scallops alive in the ocean has increased almost eight-fold since its low point in 1993. It is now safely above target levels set by federal managers for rebuilding the stock pursuant to the federal Sustainable Fisheries Act. For scallops, a formal 10-year rebuilding plan was initiated in 1999. By 2001—just three years—scallop stocks had rebuilt to their target level.

RELATED REASONS

They rebuilt so quickly for a series of inter-related reasons.

First, scallop stocks can be, and were, very productive. Second, significant conservation measures were imposed in time to capitalize

on a large, natural up-tick in scallop productivity. Third, the scallop fleet responded to challenges imposed by the Sustainable Fisheries Act by organizing itself to partner with the federal government to achieve conservation goals. Almost 200 full-time participants in the Atlantic scallop fishery have come together under the banner of the Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF), which is headquartered in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, just outside New Bedford.

FSF participants have worked with the federal government to develop innovative approaches to improve scallop yield, reduce the (already very limited) bycatch of other fish species by scallop dredges and reduce the potential for interactions between scallop dredges and the ocean bottom habitat. FSF members have also worked in partnership with major East Coast universities, such as the University of Massachusetts School for Marine Sciences and Technology and the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences at the College of William & Mary, using both scallop gear and high-resolution video cameras to survey scallop stocks, to learn about the ocean bottom in scallop areas and to develop gear that can reduce the potential for fish bycatches and the small potential for interaction of scallop dredges with endangered sea turtles.

Pilot projects, involving the industry, academia and the federal government, were undertaken in 1999 and 2000 to reopen portions of the Georges Bank groundfish closed areas to environmentally responsible scallop fishing. Areas have been closed in the Mid-Atlantic to allow concentration of small scallops detected in those regions to grow and then to spread the catches of these large concentrations of harvestable scallops over a period of years, rather than have them be taken in one "gold-rush" event.

ROTATING CLOSURES

The FSF has also been working since 1999 to devise a systematic approach to rotational management of scallop beds—an effort that promises important habitat benefits and further reductions in the already small bycatches.

Few, if any, fishery participants nationwide have invested more time, effort and material resources in developing proactive management approaches. Significantly, moreover, these cooperative management efforts have repeatedly (and, sad to say, expensively) stood the test of determined court challenges.

This is fisheries management for the 21st century. If anything became clear in the 20th century, it was the top-down management of fisheries, in an atmosphere of conflict between managers and the managed, has failed worldwide and would not have worked for the Atlantic scallop fishery.

It is, finally, important to recognize that the scallop fishery is an environmentally clean fishery. Scalloping involves very little bycatch. There are only negligible catches of cod, haddock and most other species of fish. Bycatches of flounder, monkfish and skate are a bit higher but still relatively small.

Scalloping alone would pose no threat to those populations; however, there can be issues when a resource has been depleted by directed fishing (that is, not by scalloping) or by environmental factors. The potential for scallop bycatch is something that needs to be considered in developing rebuilding measures in these cases. The scallop industry is working with managers to identify and resolve these specific issues when they arise.

DESIGNED TO WORK

Then there is the issue of the scallop dredge itself. Simply put, harvesting scallops from deep offshore waters requires towed

gear. Thus, dredges are necessarily used for the bulk of the scallop fishery. Importantly, however, while the dredge is a large and heavy device when sitting on land or aboard a boat, when towed under the water, hydrodynamic forces literally lift it off the bottom. In fact, the New Bedford style scallop dredge used in the Atlantic has been called an "airplane" dredge and actually requires "depressor plates" (which function as upside-down airplane wings) to maintain contact with the bottom—contact that involves chains and skids skimming across the bottom, rather than digging into it. Contrary to the impressions created by some, dredges do not plow the bottom for scallops; rather, water flow behind the depressor plates causes scallops to be sucked off the bottom and whirled into the bag portion of the dredge.

Moreover, scallopers tend to avoid areas with even occasional boulders unless they are forced there by lack of resource elsewhere or by closures of productive scalloping areas. Their gear is not efficient in those areas while damage to expensive dredges is both common and dangerous. It is those rocky bottom areas that represent the main focus of efforts to protect essential groundfish habitat from the adverse effects of fishing gear. Scallops and scalloping on the other hand are most productive where the seabed is sand or fine gravel.

Managers are currently working, as they should be, towards focusing scallop fishing efforts on large concentrations of large scallops, including those in closed areas of Georges Bank. Moreover, focusing scallop effort on areas where scallops are abundant also reduces the potential for any impact of the scallop dredge on the ocean bottom and the potential for bycatch of other species. Scallopers fishing in areas of high abundance spend less time fishing for scallops and more time processing them. This reality is at the heart of scallop rotation management, as championed by the industry. Successful rotation management, therefore, requires access to areas of scallop abundance.

So, to return to where we began, why is it that the fisherman who regularly risks his life in the most dangerous of all occupations to wrest a living from the sea and put food on our table who has not only played by the rules but has taken the initiative (at considerable expense to himself) to help develop an innovative, conservation-positive management system that is working and working well—why is it that, in addition to the forces of nature and the processes of regulatory bureaucracy, he must now contend with a sustained legal assault from groups that seek to portray him as the most avaricious and irresponsible of men?

Might it be that the scallop industry has "stepped on the message" of some whose world view has no place for them? Are there those whose agenda is somehow threatened by proof that a fishery can be both successful and sustainable? These are questions that thoughtful and responsible people would do well to ponder.

RECOGNIZING WORCESTER COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL WARM FRIENDS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to this year's Worcester Community Action Council Warm Friends Award recipients from the City of Worcester. I am very