

Report on the  
**Maine Zone 2 Sea Urchin Harvester Survey**  
**February 2003**

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## **Introduction**

It was suggested at the January 9, 2003 meeting of the Maine Sea Urchin Zone Council (SUZC) that a survey of Zone 2 harvesters be conducted, similar to the poll completed for Zone 1 in December 2002. The survey was conducted to determine the industry's opinion of the status of the stocks, and whether there was industry support for reducing fishing effort for the next fishing season (2003-2004). DMR staff worked with SUZC members to design a questionnaire, which was mailed to all licensed Zone 2 harvesters on January 21, 2003. 570 questionnaires were sent out. Return postage was paid by DMR. A copy of the questionnaire form is in Appendix A. Harvesters were asked to return their surveys by February 3.

## **Results**

159 of the 570 surveys (28%) had been returned to DMR as of February 12, 2003, and their contents are presented here. Full listings of all responses are in Appendices B-D.

### **Question 1: Are you a diver or a dragger?**

94 divers, and 63 draggers responded to the survey, plus two people who checked both. See table below.

### **Question 2: Are you early or late season?**

87 respondents were early season; 70 were late season. (2 did not answer.)

### **Question 3: About how many days have you fished for urchins this season?**

Responses varied from 0 to 67 days. See Table 1. 23 of the 96 divers, and 14 of the 65 draggers had not fished at all so far this season. The median response was 20 days.

### **Question 4: About how many days did you fish for urchins last season?**

Responses varied from 0 to 94 days. See Table 2. The median response was 45 days. 12 of the divers (13%) and 10 of the draggers (15%) had not fished at all last season.

### **Question 5: Do you feel there are more, fewer, or the same number of urchins in your favorite fishing grounds?**

Of those who answered this question, 14 (9%) thought there were more, 89 (59%) thought there were fewer, and 47 (31%) thought there were the same number. 9 did not answer.

**Question 6: Do you feel urchin fishing in Zone 2 should be cut back next season?**

Of those who answered this question, there were 78 “Yes” responses (51%) and 76 “No” responses (49%). 5 people did not answer the question. See table below.

	Cut back?			Total
	Yes	No	?	
<b>Diver</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Dragger</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Both</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>159</b>

**Question 7: How many days do you feel Zone 2 should be open next season (2003-04)?**

There were 144 responses, ranging from 0 to 365 days. See Table 3. The median recommendation was 89 days. The median recommendation of those who supported a cutback next season was 40 days. The median recommendation of those who did not support a cutback next season was 94 days.

**Question 8: Do you favor other types of conservation? If so, what?**

100 respondents recommended other types of conservation measures. The four most common responses favored a daily catch limit (tote limit), eliminating dragging, more reseeded, or a days-at-sea program. See Table 4 for a list. See Appendix C for the full text of the recommendations.

**Question 9: Comments:**

96 respondents made comments. Several attached an extra page for their comments. 9 respondents suggested that there should be a single season that runs 5 days a week at the same time as scallop season, beginning Dec. 1. There were many other suggestions for rearranging the calendar. See Appendix D for the full text of the comments.

**Question 10: Your name (optional):**

107 respondents gave their name, and sometimes their phone number, license number, and/or address.

**Discussion**

A very slim majority (51%) of respondents favored cutbacks for next season (78 vs 76). Because this was so close to a 50:50 split, the median recommendation for the number of days in the season next year (89 days) was very close to the current number of days (94).

Divers were more likely to support cutbacks than draggers were. 55% of divers, versus 40% of draggers, were in favor of a cutback.

A majority of harvesters (59%) felt that there were fewer urchins present than there were two years ago. (89 fewer, vs 61 same or more). This may indicate that the cutbacks made at the beginning of the 2001-02 season were not sufficient to stop a decline in urchin abundance.

There were 16 respondents who stated that there are fewer urchins present now but recommended no cutback for next season.

Harvesters who hold licenses but are not currently fishing were more likely to support cutbacks in the fishery. For example, of the 23 divers who had not fished this season, 13 supported cutbacks, 7 did not, and 3 did not answer the question. Likewise, of the 14 draggers who had not fished this season, 10 supported cutbacks, and 4 did not (Table 1). A couple of those who are not currently fishing commented that they aren't fishing because it is difficult to find urchins in their area.

It appears (from the comments) that the split between those who support further cutbacks and those who don't is roughly geographic, that is, harvesters who fish in the western part of the zone are more apt to favor cutbacks, while those who fish in the eastern part, which includes most of the draggers, do not favor cutbacks.

Several respondents recommended no cutback and no cutback in days, but then recommended other conservation measures - such as tote limits, eliminating dragging, or moving some of the open days into the months of poorest weather - that would certainly reduce fishing effort. This contradiction leads us to believe that some of the respondents did not think that the word "cutback" could include other conservation measures besides a reduction in days. It also suggests that some of the harvesters who do not support a reduction in days might support some other type of reduction in fishing effort.

## **Summary**

These questionnaires provide evidence that harvesters are divided in their support of cutbacks in the Zone 2 fishery for next season, that this division is roughly geographic, and that there are problems in the Zone 2 fishery (see comments in Appendix C & D). A majority of respondents reported a decline in urchin abundance. A slim majority recommended a shorter season for next year (Table 3), and there were many suggestions for other conservation measures.

Table 1. Answers to questions 1, 3, and 6: Do you favor a cutback next season, by license type and number of days fished so far **this** season.

	Days fished this season	Cutback?			Total
		Yes	No	?	
<b>Draggers</b>	0	10	4		14
	2	2	1		3
	6		2		2
	10	2	2		4
	15	2	3		5
	16		1		1
	19		1		1
	20	4			4
	24	1			1
	30	1	5		6
	34		1		1
	35		1		1
	40	1	2		3
	42		1		1
	47		1		1
	49	1			1
	50	1	3		4
	51		1		1
	52		2		2
	54		1		1
	57		1		1
	60		1		1
	67		1		1
	?		2	1	3
<b>Dragger Totals</b>		25	37	1	63
<b>Divers</b>	0	13	7	3	23
	1	3			3
	2		1		1
	3		2		2
	4	1			1
	5		1		1
	6		1		1
	10	3	1		4
	11		1		1
	12		1		1
	14	1			1
	15	2			2
	18	1			1
	19	1			1
	20	4	3		7
	25	3			3
	26	1			1

	29	1			1
	30	7	5		12
	32	1			1
	33		1		1
	35	1	1		2
	38		2		2
	40	2	1		3
	42		1		1
	43	1	1		2
	45		1		1
	47	1			1
	48		1		1
	50	1	2		3
	52	1			1
	54		1		1
	60	2	2		4
	67	1			1
	?		2		2
<b>Diver Totals</b>		52	39	3	94
<b>Checked both diver and dragger</b>	2			1	1
	6	1			1
<b>Grand Totals</b>		78	76	5	159

Table 2. Answers to questions 1, 4, and 6 by number of days fished **last** season.

	Days fished last season	Cutback?			Total
		Yes	No	?	
<b>Draggers</b>	0	8	2		10
	1	1			1
	2		1		1
	4	1			1
	8		1		1
	10	1	1		2
	12	2			2
	15		1		1
	20	2	1		3
	25	1			1
	30	1	3		4
	32	1			1
	33		1		1
	40	1	1		2
	45	1	1		2
	50	1	3		4
	55	1	2		3
	60	1	3		4
	63		1		1
	66		1		1
	68		1		1
	70	1	3		4
	75	1	2		3
	80		1		1
	89		1		1
	90		1		1
	94		1		1
	(blank)		4	1	5
<b>Dragger Totals</b>		25	37	1	63
<b>Divers</b>	0	5	4	3	12
	1	1	2		3
	2	1			1
	4	2			2
	10	1	2		3
	15	2			2
	20	1	2		3
	25		1		1
	30	2	2		4
	35	1			1
	36	1			1
	37	1			1
	40	3	1		4
	42	1			1

	45	3	1		4
	47		1		1
	48	1			1
	50	5	3		8
	51		1		1
	53	2			2
	54		1		1
	58	1			1
	60	6	7		13
	61	1			1
	65	4	1		5
	68	1			1
	69		1		1
	70	2	1		3
	75	1	2		3
	80		1		1
	84		1		1
	90	1	1		2
	94	1			1
	?	1	3		4
<b>Diver Totals</b>		52	39	3	94
<b>Checked both diver and dragger</b>	20	1		1	2
<b>Grand Totals</b>		78	76	5	159

Table 3. Number of days recommended for next season.

Number of Days	Number of Responses
0	26
10	1
15	1
20	1
23	1
25	1
30	3
35	1
40	2
45	1
47	1
48	1
50	6
60	10
62	2
70	4
74	1
75	3
80	3
81	1
84	1
88	1
90	5
94	46
95	1
96	1
100	8
115	2
120	5
130	1
150	1
365	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>

Number of Days, Grouped	Number of Responses
0	26
1-10	1
11-20	2
21-30	5
31-40	3
41-50	9
51-60	10
61-70	6
71-80	7
81-90	8
91-100	56
101-110	0
111-120	7
121-130	1
365	3

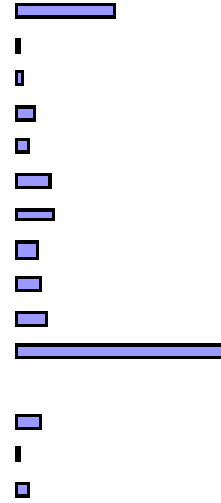




Table 4. Other types of conservation recommended, and other comments.

<b><u>Conservation recommendations</u></b>	<b><u>Number in favor</u></b>
Daily catch limit (tote limits)	23
No dragging or no dragging west of MDI	15
Reseeding, relocating	15
Days-at-sea, pick own days	12
License buy-back	7
Closed areas	6
Culling on bottom	6
No diving	4
Annual individual quota with more open season	3
Spawning closures	2
Lower minimum/maximum size tolerances	2
Manage locally, fish locally	2
Increase minimum size	2
Cull over the beds	2
Minimum size back to 2 inches	2
More zones	1
No new licenses	1
Limit divers per boat	1
Increase fines	1
More enforcement	1
1 tender/culler per boat	1
<b>Season recommendations</b>	
Season: Dec 1 - Mar 15 or Apr 15	9
Other Season suggestions	23
<b>Other recommendations</b>	
Leave it alone: weather/market/existing regs work	13
Don't manage Zone 2 based on Zone 1	2
Aquaculture	1
Logbooks for harvesters	1

## Appendix A. The questionnaire form.

Dear Zone 2 Sea Urchin Harvesters,

DMR and the Maine Sea Urchin Zone Council are concerned about recent reports that sea urchin stocks are seriously depleted. We would like to know your opinion on this issue, and on the idea of making cutbacks for next season (2003-04). Please fill out the survey below, tape it closed, and mail it to the address on the other side by **February 3**. The postage has been paid. Thank-you.

Please check one: Are you a Diver \_\_\_\_\_ Dragger \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: Early season \_\_\_\_\_ Late season \_\_\_\_\_

About how many days have you fished for urchins so far this season? \_\_\_\_\_

About how many days did you fish for urchins last season? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel there are more, fewer, or the same number of sea urchins in your favorite fishing grounds, compared with, say, 2 years ago? More \_\_\_\_\_ Fewer \_\_\_\_\_ Same \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel urchin fishing in Zone 2 should be cut back next season (2003-04)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many days do you feel Zone 2 should be open next season? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you favor other types of conservation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what?

Comments:

Your name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B. Answers to the first nine questions.

<u>Survey No.</u>	<u>Diver?</u>	<u>Dragger?</u>	<u>Early or Late</u>	<u>Days fished this year</u>	<u>Days fished last year</u>	<u>Urchins: More, Fewer or Same?</u>	<u>Zone 2 cutback? (Y or N)</u>	<u>Days next year</u>
1	Y		L	14	45	F	Y	40
2		Y	L	50	50	F	Y	60
3	Y		E	0	68	F	Y	0
4		Y	E	40	75	S	Y	
5	Y		E	30	53	F	Y	48
6	Y		E	0	65	F	Y	15
7		Y	L	0	0	F	Y	0
8	Y			40	60	F	Y	Oct. - Dec.
9	Y		E	1	60	F	Y	15-30 if at all
10		Y	L	30	60	F	Y	60
11	Y		L	0	0	F	Y	0
12	Y		L	30	75	F	Y	88
13	Y		E	43	60	F	Y	50
14	Y		E	26	37	F	Y	75
15	Y		L	60	53	F	Y	
16		Y	L	20	55	F	Y	0
17	Y		L	29	40	F	Y	0
18		Y	L	0	4	F	Y	90days, Nov. 15 - Mar. 15.
19		Y	L	0	1	F	Y	60, Dec. - Mar.
20	Y		E	67	94	F	Y	Dec. only
21	Y		E	40	65	F	Y	75
22	Y		E	4	15	F	Y	50
23	Y		E	20	65	F	Y	?
24	Y		E	30	42	F	Y	
25	Y		L	0	0	F	Y	0
26		Y	L	0	0	F	Y	0
27	Y		E	0		F	Y	0
28		Y	L	10	45	F	Y	0
29		Y	L	0	20	F	Y	0
30	Y		L	1	30	F	Y	80
31	Y		E	10	45	F	Y	0
32		Y	E	0	0	F	Y	30
33		Y	E	20	40	F	Y	60
34	Y		E	60	75	S	N	94
35		Y	L	0	20	F	N	
36	Y		E	38	65	S	N	same
37	Y		E	38	54	F	N	90
38		Y	E	15	8	M	N	94
39	Y		E	15	20	F	Y	50
40	Y		E	48	69	M	N	94
41		Y	E	50		S	N	same
42	Y		E	50	84	S	N	
43	Y		E	54	75	S	N	100
44		Y	L	19	55	S	N	same
45		Y	E	40	0		N	same

46	Y		L	0	0	S	N	
47	Y		L	0	1	F	N	same
48	Y		L	0	47	F	N	same
49		Y	E	67	94	S	N	115
50		Y	E	40	70	S	N	same
51	Y		E	42	60	F	N	same
52	Y		E	45	90	S	N	90
53		Y	E	30	60	S	N	120
54	Y		L	5	25	F	N	same
55	Y			0	0			
56	Y		L	0	0			
57		Y	L			S	N	96
58	Y		L	10	30	S	N	94
59		Y	L	6	45	F	N	Dec. 1 to Apr. 14
60		Y	E	60	70	M	N	120
61		Y	L	0	30	F	N	same
62	Y		L	3	10	S	N	100
63		Y	L	35	75	S	N	same
64		Y	E	50	50	S	N	94
65	Y		E	0	60	F	N	same
66	Y		E	0	0		N	
67		Y	L	10	50	S	N	same
68	Y		L	20	60	M	N	same
69	Y		L	50	50	S	N	same
70	Y		E	43	80		N	94
71	Y		L	30	70	F	N	150
72	Y		L	15	50	S	Y	Dec.1 - Mar. 1
73		Y	E	20	30	S	Y	
74		Y	L	20	0	F	Y	
75	Y		E	19	4	F	Y	70
76	Y		E	32	48	F	Y	50
77	Y		E	0	70	F	Y	50
78	Y		E	0	4	F	Y	0
79	Y		E	25	0	F	Y	70
80	Y		E	0	70	F	Y	
81		Y	L	2	10	F	Y	30
82	Y		E	30	50	F	Y	10-15 less
83		Y	L	0	0	F	Y	0
84	Y		E	35	65	F	Y	80
85	Y		L	18	45	F	Y	0
86		Y	E	24	32	M	Y	35
87		Y	E	15	20	F	Y	open Dec. 1
88	Y		E	10	50	F	Y	0
89	Y		E	52	50	S	Y	70
90	Y	Y	E	6	20	F	Y	0
91	Y		E	25	50	F	Y	60
92	Y		E	60	60	F	Y	60
93	Y		E	0	0	F	Y	0
94	Y		L	20	45	S	N	94
95	Y		E	30	20	F	N	same

96		Y	L	2	0	S	N	
97		Y	L	15	40	S	N	same
98		Y	L	30	60	S	N	94
99		Y	L			S	N	same
100*		Y	E	51	63	M	N	same
102	Y	Y	E	2	20	F	?	?
103		Y	E	10	12	F	Y	30
104		Y	L	15	12	F	Y	80
105	Y		E	20	40	F	Y	1/2 of this year
106		Y	E	0	0	F	Y	0
107	Y		L	30	36	F	Y	75
108	Y		L	10	10	F	Y	10
109	Y		E	30	60	F	Y	0
110	Y		E	47	61	F	Y	20 days less
111		Y	L	2	25	F	Y	
112	Y		E	0	58	F	Y	0
113	Y		L	50	40	F	Y	0
114	Y		L	0	2	F	Y	45
115		Y	E	49	70	S	Y	84
116	Y		L	30	35		Y	70
117	Y		L	20	60	F	Y	60
118		Y	L	0	0	F	Y	0
119		Y	E	34	50	M	N	100
120		Y	E	52	75	M	N	120
121	Y		L	0	0	F	N	same
122		Y	L	16	33	F	N	90
123		Y	E	30	55	S	N	same
124		Y	L	0	30	F	N	same
125	Y		E	0	0	F	?	?
126		Y	L	15	10	S	N	same
127		Y	L	30	30	S	N	more
128	Y		E	30	60	M	N	115
129	Y		E	11	51	S	N	same
130	Y		L	6	20	S	N	same
131		Y	L	10	15	S	N	same
132		Y	E	54	80	S	N	same
133		Y	L	6	2	S	N	same
134	Y		L	20	40	S	N	94
135		Y	E	57	89	S	N	100
136	Y		E	30	60	S	N	100
137	Y		E	35	60	S	N	100
138	Y		L	0	0	?	N	same
139		Y	L	50	90	M	N	120
140	Y		E			M	N	same
141	Y		E			S	N	365
142		Y	E	30	60	S	N	same
143	Y		E	3	10	S	N	130
144	Y		L	2	1	M	N	every day
145	Y		E	0	15	F	Y	20-30
146	Y		L	1	1	F	Y	0

147	Y		L	25	30	F	Y	Nov-Dec
148		Y	E	47	66	S	N	same
149	Y		E	60	60	F	N	90
150		Y	E	0			N	same
151	Y		E	30		F	N	same or more
152		Y	L	0	0	F	Y	0
153	Y		L	12	30	S	N	100
154	Y		E	0	0	F	Y	0
155		Y	L					
156	Y		E	40	50	S	N	same
157		Y	E	52	70	M	N	120
158	Y		E	20	90	F	Y	Nov-Jan
159		Y	E	42	68	M	N	same
160	Y		L	33	50	S	N	same

Note: there was no survey #101.

## Appendix C. Other types of conservation favored.

Survey No.	Other Conservation Suggestions
4	Open urchin season the same as scallop season. That would eliminate Oct. and Nov. and more important it would take pressure off both resources because some would do urchins and some would do scallops. It would also eliminate the conflicts with lobster fishermen. From my conversations with both scallop and urchin people the majority feel this way. As you know in order to get people to give up something they usually want something in return. The people I have talked to mostly agree that if they give up Oct. and Nov. they should be able to drag the other months without skip days. That way they could go out on the good days and stay home on the bad days. I am sure you are aware that Jan. has been a very bad month. We have only worked about 5 days so far because of wind and very cold weather. It would seem much more reasonable and safe to give up Oct. and Nov. and be able to work on the best days. Safety has been stressed more and more the last few years and this could help accomplish that goal. I think if it was done this way we would still be working a less total of days but working on better days. As far as what some day about losing market if we don't open in Oct.-Nov. it doesn't work that way. The buyers will be here when we open no matter what date. I will be on the UHF getting opinions over the next few days and if you want you can call me to check what I get for answers.
5	(7.) open season 4 days a week Oct., Nov., Dec. then close. (?) Have a buy back on the (rights to buy the license) Since I don't own the license you can't buy it. But you could buy my Rights to purchase the license.
6	Conservation areas restricting ALL fishing, except possible lobster/crab trapping.
8	Only have it open the first 3 months then close it Jan. 1.
9	Culling on bottom. Weight limits per season for each Diver, so each person can go when he or she thinks the price is good enough!
11	Shut it down for 4 - 5 years.
12	Bottom culling, 500 lb daily catch limits, spawn monitoring: when the % of spawn reaches 25% close that area, if no bottom culling then bring measures down with harvesters. Lower tolerance of smalls to 2%, logbooks, tags for totes, some means to slow down the slaughter.
13	GET RID OF THE DRAGGERS!!!
15	Tote limit. But not day reduction too. A lot of people wouldn't go anymore if there was a tote limit. So that would help also.
16	Shut it down for a year or two and see if the urchins come back or until the Japanese economy comes up so we can get some money for them.
17	Use money from previous lic. fees to perhaps disperse (replant) spat or babies grown in artificial environments.
18	to help bring the stocks back.
19	Close Diving !! Draggers can't get (pick) EVERY LAST ONE like the divers have.
20	The urchin season should be open the month of DEC. only!! Or open the whole state and put all divers on a 5 tray limit!!! If you don't do one of these there will be no sea urchins in the future.
21	1. Under water culling mandatory. 2. Stop dragging for sea urchins. 3. A calendar allowing open days during peak market times. 4. A 2 day week for 6 months, allowing divers to make a weekly income and to keep processors in business for the whole season.
23	1. Total commercial closure Pen. Bay West, restricted harvest down east. 2. Per day tray cap. 3. License buy back. 4. I.Q. screening for all fishery managers (DMR) and Divers. 5. Sub Zones (1 & 2).
24	Tote limits.
25	for other types of marine resources that are becoming depleted.

26	I don't think the season should open until Dec. 1 and close when they start to melt. I think they should close the state until they come back enough so you can make a winter's wage at it.
27	Possible closure or tote limit.
30	Should be closed for a year or two.
31	I think we should have at least a three year moratorium on fishing, to give the urchins a chance to cluster and possibly get some seed to set in again.
32	Restock areas with small urchins and close them. Limit catch.
33	Not open the season until Dec. 1.
34	Seeding urchins would be good. They are raising them in Lubec, Maine. Some of our surcharge money should be used for something like this! When you take the weather into consideration (especially in the area I fish - Lubec, Cutler, Cobscook Bay) the weather gets quite severe, and we loose A LOT of days to bad weather. So that should be taken into consideration when trying to cut back days. I do not believe that Zone 1 statistics should be used against us. Our numbers are our numbers. If anything seeding is a great alternative to completely shutting down a particular area.
36	eliminate all draggers
37	1. The Draggers do much more damage to the urchins and the ocean bottom than divers do. They should no longer be allowed to drag - urchins should only be hand-raked for a few years to allow for a comeback. 2. Zone 1 & Zone 2 Divers should be made to remain in their own zones, no matter what. I've been diving for 9 years, it's my opinion that without the Draggers, the market, the weather and the current calendar are enough to stabilize the industry.
39	I feel that the season should run from Nov. thru early Jan. The market after the first week of Jan. has been horrible the last few years.
40	1. Limit 1 diver per boat. Eliminate the "cattle boat" divers. 2. Create III Zone and only permit diving out of own harbor. (Dive out of town you live in) Set up local management for each town by requiring 1 diver per boat, you reduce the level of pressure on the areas being fished. The probability of increasing urchin population goes up by reducing the amount of harvesters in a particular area. (207)259-7775
43	Seeding areas with urchins from around the same areas.
44	(1.) Dragger Tender (C:) Killing about 2-4 million pounds of 2-2 1/16 urchins a year, with no gain to the total pound harvested. Urchins do not live well after they are put on a boat and released; it would be better to sell that animal and count it in the harvest than waste it on bottom dead.
48	Shutdown for two years, 2 1/4" egg size after that.
49	Reseeding - either natural spat collection or maybe make use of the urchin hatchery (Bob Peacock & Hank Stence) in Lubec.
51	NO DRAGGING
52	Stopping dragging.
55	No culling on Boat. Hand pick and cull on bottom.
57	A tote limit of 6 or 7 totes, start the season Dec. 1st (Monday thru Friday) and go to April 15. Think about it, it would stop gear conflict, then in turn both scallop and urchin season would open and close the same time, so some would go to scallops and some to urchins which if you think about it would be conservation. Have the same size limits we have now. No early and late season just one. We would start at near peak price, more money same lbs. of product and make the most of what we have.
61	Reseeding programs, more research on reproduction.
63	The weather will take care of it.
64	Daily tote limit or tonnage limit for the year.



65	Eliminate dragging for urchins. The way they grow is from the bottom to the top of the ocean floor. As a diver you are able to pick only the mature urchins from the top of the feed line leaving the smaller, younger ones to complete their growing cycle. When the draggers come in they destroy many of the smaller ones. I truly believe that this is what is depleting the urchin stocks
66	I myself just got my urchin lic. In the lottery last year. But I have been tending for years and so I have a good idea what's going on. I didn't fish this year because everything's messed up. The market's down really low and the urchins aren't there like they were. But I wish I could still enjoy being licensed. I believe in conservation of course and maybe a shorter season too. But Mother Nature has no hold backs on weather and when our days are picked for us some of those days we simply can't go. Or I should say we shouldn't go. That puts our lives in bigger danger going on days that are dangerous because there's no choice. I think there should be a tote limit too. So shorter season, we pick our days, and a tote limit. I think would really help the urchins and people would be forced to get a good Maine product so we would get our reputation back for good Maine product. :-) Thanks.
68	I believe conservation methods already in place are enough and we need to allow new measures to take effect.
70	REQUIRE culling underwater, with 20% leeway underwater, and 5% leeway onboard. I have been culling underwater for 3 years and by leaving undersized and oversized urchins undisturbed, it leaves the beds intact. I can return to those beds the next year and they are healthy and well-populated. I continue to catch 500 to 1000 pounds of urchins every day, because they've been allowed to grow and breed undisturbed. Also, allow a set number of days, to be chosen by the individual diver, either on a punch card or call-in system. This allows divers to fish for better prices, and divers are not forced to work in bad weather.
71	Relocating seed from culled urchins.
72	I realize you can't cut out dragging of urchins, and it may sound (biggoted?) of me, because I don't drag urchins. I feel dragging urchins is improper. It's like serving someone chicken eggs instead of urchin roe. The market wants ROE! Not urchin shells, with a little bit of roe in it. They want mature urchins pumping full of roe grade A. That's what the market wants. It's pretty much common sense nobody will admit! If you want to save this industry you need to work on the draggers. They go every day the season permits. Divers might get out 1/2 of the time. If anything, give everyone a ten tote limit. That would help on quota. What happens is the market gets so flooded with 8 - 10% urchins. When the divers get a chance to go the market is so bad we are lucky to get \$0.90 - \$1.00 a pound for them. I mean this should be common knowledge. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out! I do have another opinion on your season, you start our season when urchins (roe) is (NOT) ready! I realize the market calls for them in Sept. when Zone 1 is open I still think it's too early. Our season starts Oct. because the market calls for them. Our urchins are not ready, or don't fill out till at least Dec. 1 and should be closed Mar. 1st or 15th. Us taking urchins while they are spawning is doing nothing but depleting them greatly. I also feel if you live in the Zone you should fish that Zone. Fishing up here in winter is all we have. If you let Zone 1 divers or draggers come up and fish our waters and deplete our resource, like they did down their way, we will have no resource to harvest. It's a long winter in downeast Maine. We don't have the industry they have in Zone 1. Fishin' is all we have! You take that away and you will see a lot of hands out up here. Fuel assistance, food stamps, welfare checks, bankruptcy. You guys don't realize how hard it is to keep afloat. I realize urchining isn't the income it used to be, but it keeps food in our belly and it keeps the wolf off the door, till lobster season. Dec. to June is a long time! Washington County or Zone 2 is surviving. I think if you take away our winter job I'm afraid people will have to move away for that time. I have mouths to feed and bills to pay, can't do it without a job. Sincerely, Concerned Fisherman
73	Open Dec.1, 2003.
74	Urchin season should be Dec. 1st to Apr. 15th with no days off.
75	Dec. to mid March. One gear type take only for Zone 2 (dragging). Scallop and sea urchin open on same days M-F start in Dec. These fisheries are directly linked, this would relieve each species.

76	1. I've been culling my urchins from the start of urchins in 1980 and have never had a fine. We were told we had to have a culler on board - we got a fine the first month. 2. Urchins live after they are harvested from the water and placed back on ledge. We have dumped eggs and retrieved 90% back, 5% in cracks (1 week later). 3. Would like to place culls in areas with feed, more feed more EGGS!
77	Probably shut the fishery down for a year or three.
78	Close urchin season for at least 3 YEARS.
79	Farm raise them and release the juvenile urchins to the wild.
80	I think the industry should have closed a year to a year and a half ago. Before the total ecosystem started changing
81	U.S. residents only qualified for harvesters.
82	I feel that the draggers are killing as many eggs as they harvest. I have observed this as a diver. Also divers are lucky to dive 50% of their allotted days due to weather. Draggers drag in worse weather probably dragging 75-80% of their allotted days. Drag licenses need to be bought back and draggers eventually stopped. And I propose elimination April and Oct. or part at least, or possibly Nov. as the market is very weak in Nov. generally. I also feel that the size increase was a step in the right direction, but it needs to be followed up with more size increases in order to allow the urchins to spawn at least one year before harvesting. Also bigger urchins fill totes quicker and where I fish, 2 1/16" urchins rarely have roe in them. It seems that the best quality urchins are about 2 1/4" - 2 3/8". Back to dragging - All forms of dragging destroy habitat, but urchin dragging destroys the kelp that urchins feed on plus huge boulders get tumbled around killing thousands daily. Urchins are very fragile and cannot take the constant force of dragging. Also on very cold days eggs on board a dragger deck have no protection and freeze instantly killing many I believe. The state may want to consider outlawing dragging on days that water freezes on deck. Also dive boats that are not covered and heated should not be diving those days either, for the same reason. This would force dive boats to protect their product, and help limit draggers down to fewer days more in line with the amount of days divers get. Also, dive boats should be required to put cull urchins back in shallow water in bunches rather than letting them cull willy-nilly over the side where ever the boat drifts. Sometimes divers are putting urchins in way too deep, where they are never productive. Also if not in bunches they stand no chance against predators like crabs.
83	Season according to markets (prices).
85	Studies/projects to reseed areas with juvenile urchins, closure areas. URCHINS HAVE BEEN OVERHARVESTED. Fishery should be closed or dramatically cut back next year to protect what little stocks are left.
86	Close urchins during main scallop periods in December mainly, give urchins a rest while still allowing a fishery to feed draggers.
87	Oct. and Nov, everybody fishing within two weeks everything depleted! and no money. Good money in Dec. Save two industries - Open both seasons Dec. 1st, that way it divides the boats up.
88	Seeding and buying back all the dragging licenses so there is no dragging and 5 years of no diving. Raise urchin seed and plant it along the coast.
89	Open to other ideas.
90	You should not have given the extra licenses out last year just because a few insisted that they be given licenses. It is immensely overfished. In my opinion you have let some greedy fishermen talk you into destroying a very lucrative fishery.
91	I feel that the season should open in September and close in April. But have a number card that the buyers have to punch and call in when they buy a person's sea urchins from them. Set up like the commercial fishermen. That way we can go when the weather is good and not crazy. And won't put people and boats in jeopardy and we can also get top dollar for the urchins that we do harvest so we won't be forced to sell them for peanuts.
92	So many pounds a day.
93	I have said for years now there should be a weight limit for each diver 600 lbs. Per.

94	I feel that the conservation already in affect, along with the fact that there are fewer divers that ever before, is sufficient. You need to consider that in downeast Maine we have no shelter from the ocean, with so many rivers we seldom have very good visability, if you cut us any more we will probably only get about 20 days. Also you need to consider that our buyers are dropping like flies because with these dictated days and more cutbacks in the future they can't afford to stay in business.
95	I do NOT think combining Zone 1 and 2 would be good. I believe the dragging has caused this serious lack of urchins over the years.
96	I believe each permit holder should be given a certain amount of tags. The tags should represent one day each and the ability to use the tags at leisure from Nov. - April with a call in system. Number the tags so the fishermen can trade them among themselves. Then you would know how many days collectively are being fished and would have a steady supply for market demand.
97	1 boat 1 license per person
100	Scallop, groundfish.
102	Closed spawning areas.
104	Daily tote limit of no more than 7.
105	Tote limit
106	(Closed for 5 yrs.) Spend time to regulate the seasons with a logical plan, study the biomass, and open the areas all at once if there is a biomass or temporary openings and study Quantity and Quality then also limit 10 totes, check with California's and Canada's Departments and compare them to ours
109	Close it before it's too late for them to rebound. There are many people out there that will go until they get the last ones.
110	The surcharge money and any other money available should be used to buy back licenses. The only sure way to conserve urchins is to cut back on harvesters.
112	TOTAL CLOSURE FOR 2(TWO) FULL SEASONS IN THE ENTIRE STATE (Both Zones)!
113	Shut down industry for 3 years and evaluate in a 1 1/2 years.
115	I think you should cut out the month of Jan. because the urchins are freezing before you cull them out. I think it's killing the small ones before they get a chance to become legal size. Sub zero weather is not good for any urchins in open air.
116	Daily pound limits (500)? IFQs?
117	Close areas that still hold urchins, for brood stock. Abolish Zones to allow for fishing around closed areas. 1 season NOV to FEB 60 days fishing, statewide. No dragging west of M.D.I. Increase in fines. Lower smalls/big tolerance to 2%.
119	We need to reseed. I feel it works. We have done it in the past and I feel it works. Some say it doesn't but I say it does.
120	2 1/4 law size has helped conservation.
123	number of trays 10.
125	Whatever it takes.

127	Dear Sea Urchin Council, I am a sea urchin dragger out of Bucks Harbor, Me. I am writing this letter because I have a lot of concerns about the industry. For starters the split season is a joke, at least where I fish it is. During the month of October, my brother and I have lobster traps still in the water. We are not the only ones with this problem. This causes a conflict between the lobstermen and draggers, during the months of October and November. Most of the early season draggers can either stay lobstering or drag for quahogs during this time. Personally I feel that the sea urchin season should open Dec. 1st. Then let us go 5 days a week from Dec. 1st to April 15th. This will solve lobster trap conflict and take pressure off the scallop industry. You might say that 5 days a week is more than we have now. As of Jan 23, 2003 I have only dragged 6 days this month, and two of these days was for scallops. Let Mother Nature help things along. In some places more urchins than ever, but they are not good quality. Other places where quality is good, has had a lot of pressure on it, so that may be why landings are down. Lets not forget the sea urchin market isn't as good as in years past. Sea urchins we could sell last year, we are not able to sell this year because of the market. I cannot fathom the number of days a week we can fish. There have been days we should have stayed home, and not gone out on the boat dragging cause of the weather. If you are to shorten the season, take Nov. and Oct. off. Open it Dec. 1st through April 15th and lets us go 5 days a week during that time. If you have questions pleas contact me.
128	Keep DRAGGERS away from shallow areas such as reefs and ledges where sea urchins propagate, they destroy the bottom tearing kelp and rolling rocks that destroy the habitat they are most vulnerable in.
135	Restocking areas with urchin from same area. We have a lot of good feed beds downeast. One area this was tried in worked well. Note: Divers CLEAN an area top of rocks bottoms and sides - draggers do not. Cut back divers!!! (!) There are more urchin than ever. (2) We have lost a lot of days to weather this year. (3) I think people that are only catchong 1 to 5 totes a day come up with these crazy ideas so you will tell them where we are catching eggs. (4) You should be only able to make any changes every three years so we have stability in our fishery. (5) we would like 10 days at the end of season to restock some areas.
136	(1) Urchin tote limit. (2) Allow divers and draggers to chose their days with cutbacks in days per season. Each diver only allowed 12 totes to harvest each day. If you're going to shorten the season at least give.
140	Culling on bottom, one tender/culler per boat. 6 tray limit per diver per day. Call me if you have further questions - I could talk on this all day.
143	Dear Kerry, Here's a concept: Take one entire bay and have no diving, take one entire bay and have no dragging at all for anything. Take one entire bay and have absolutely no fishing at all for anything. Feed wild stocks just as we feed birds through the winter. Develop wild stock feed methods. Feed the entire ocean just as a giant farm. The largest farm on the planet.
145	Have open season with minimal days, possibly opening for Japanese Holidays. A possibly shutdown may be our best chance of saving what little stock is left.
146	Close it for two years then conservation when opens again.
151	Outlaw urchin draggers. Start intensive aquaculture research/development. Start development of seed stock program.
152	The stock is so depleted that I feel the next 2 seasons should be closed. During these 2 years those who have licenses shouldn't have to pay the state each year for the license gees. On the 3rd year open the season for December & January only and then decide for the following year.
153	Starting the season in December instead October. (No early season)
156	I would like to see a reseeding program of some type at least started.
157	2 1/16" law size has helped.
159	daily catch limit of 8 totes

## Appendix D. Other comments.

Survey No.	Comments
1	(3.)didn't start fishing until Dec. 16th. (C.) I think we should have an open season in Nov., Dec., Jan., part of Feb. and go to 1 Zone that's when the eggs are the best in Sept. and Oct. they aren't ready. I've fished Zone 1 for 12 years.
5	I have been diving for 10 years. If something is not done soon there will be no urchins left, (there have to be enough urchins left to rebuild the stock) we may have gone by that point already. The Draggers are not going to agree on any cutbacks. They can drag longer tows and make more tows to get the same amount of eggs. I have depleted the urchin stocks along with other Divers and Draggers. If you want to see the urchin stocks rebuilt serious cutbacks are needed the sooner the better, If not closed for a few years. (A lot of people that hold urchin diving licenses are not using them and most of them will not take the time to fill this survey out). There used to be about 30 Divers out of my town now maybe there are 8 or 9.
6	Season should be only for two weeks before Christmas, or surrounding Christmas IF AT ALL. Shutdown must last for years. I have seen HUGE decline since '93.
7	(7.) Close next year
9	Why take the resource if the price is way down, let the stock build up for a couple of years. Maybe price will come back and you'll get more \$ for the products.
10	The days should be in Nov. 15 - Jan. 15 any day you can go except weekends and holidays. That is the only time the buyers want them. If a shutdown is needed it should not be for more than 3 years and license holders should not have to keep buying the license for 3 years just to hold it.
12	Maine's coast used to be full of urchins. Now, 15 years since the birth of a fishery, we are SEVERELY DEPLETED! The problem is with so few guys doing it now, there will still be some decent harvests. But the urchins are very vulnerable to disease and complete annihilation. A few conservative regulations, NOW!, could put off a tragedy.
13	I would be willing to take a cut in days, say 50 - but let me pick my own days. The right decisions were never made in the first place regarding regulations, anyway. Our future is slowly being snatched away from us by the state.
15	(7.) Don't know. If there were a tote limit put on a few years ago we wouldn't be having these problems. The market would only want the best, so that's what we would get. And leave all the empty ones to keep growing. (5 - 6 tote limit)
16	(3.) weather has been a factor. (5a.) I have seen some places look better this year. (C:) At the very least make it open for Dec.- 30 days straight not 3 days open 3 days closed - that sucks - you can't pick your weather and it makes it dangerous - you end up going when you shouldn't.
17	I have been diving for 11 years and still rely on urchins as my winter income (Zone 2). It is difficult for me to even write this, PLEASE SHUT IT DOWN! Please stop listening to sea urchin buyers and processors they don't care if the end is near. I can only tell you what I have seen for urchin repopulation, NOTHING!
19	Lack of sea urchins has changed ecosystem in the kelp beds but it has been providing cover for larval lobster and crabs sufficiently. They have done quite well over the last 3 years.
20	Zone 1 diver 10 years; Zone 2 diver 2 years
21	I am seeing lots of undersize urchins in areas that are heavily fished. It may take a few years but eventually we will have a good base stock and hopefully hand harvest ONLY legal size urchins leaving large numbers of smalls to grow.

23	(1a) Penobscot Bay. (C:) Once again greed (fishermen) and stupidity (DMR) win. There is no Penobscot Bay resource left to protect (die off, but mostly overharvested) - we knew it was coming and all we did was maintain status quo. "Less for more" worked until market forces bit us on the ass. So it has come full circle to "take everything left" (small and low %) and hope for \$0.60! The fat lady has sung. All the state needs to hear is "lawsuit" and it is free for all time boys.
25	I think the urchin industry should be closed after this season for a couple of years or more until stocks rebound somewhat. It's sad to see only 5 to 10% urchin stocks remain from when urchining began. It now may be too little too late (conservation) if remaining stocks are continued to be harvested.
26	Living on an island I don't think everybody ought to be able to harvest urchins out from under us. We are lobstering and by the time we get our traps up the good places are caught up. I have had to keep my license up every year and I don't think it would be right to let everybody go when the urchins come back. Thank you.(11) Vinalhaven
28	It should be shut down. The old timers say there is a cycle. Most of the people still urchining are part-time fishermen anyway. Shut it down.
29	I think both Zones should be closed to let the urchins grow, for several years to let the smaller ones grow to legal size.
35	Talking with my 81 year old grandfather who fished his whole life, he tells me that urchins have always gone through cycles. With or without harvesting the urchins thrive and then overnight disappear. The kelp grows back, which is occurring in my area. Then the urchins return, eat the kelp and the cycle continues. (11.) Vinalhaven.
37	Draggers tear up the kelp! This impacts the quality of the urchins.
38	The state of Maine cannot JUSTIFY a Zone 2 closure just because some extremists are also crybabies. Here are some reasons why: 1. Market survival and processing plant survival. 2. Local economic impacts like boat and gear supply stores, dive shops, fuel suppliers and sternmen can't afford losing the business. Things are hard enough already. 3. Survival of fishermen depends on diversification among fisheries. Without 3 or more species we cannot pay our bills. 4. Fishing pressure will ease when fishermen aren't making money because they won't work and wear out their gear for nothing. 5. If a man wants to work, let him. 6. Fishing zones were created because they need to be managed separately, so closing both zones because one is depleted defeats the purpose of having two zones!! 7. And most of all, we have had a great year with a plentiful catch. 8. Between bad weather and bad market, sixty of the 94 days might as well be discounted.
39	A buy back of licenses in the \$5000 value would be good, with no new licenses given. Some of this could be funded thru the license surcharge, and possibly try to get a Gov't grant to help fund this.
42	(7.) leave it alone Mother Nature will take care of it's self. (C:) Should be more days earlier at first less at the end because Jan. and Feb. is harder at this time of year. And it should be 2" up to 3" no more or less. Come down east and see for yourself, lots of small urchins.
43	Zone 1 should NOT be allowed to come to Zone 2 next year. I travel away from home and have been doing so for 10 years. I travel 4 hrs 1 way. It's not fair to allow Zone 1 to come to Zone 2 because they have depleted their area. Leave Zone 2 alone!!!!
45	Markets for urchins seem to be run by just a few buyers and they seem to keep the price at a fixed base, as low as they can. You never know what the price will be from day to day.

47	(4.) found 100 lbs. On 1 site and NO urchins on 6 other sites, deemed it unsuitable for season. (C:) If the buyers can do business with the few divers left actively harvesting, then let them continue to scratch around and keep a paycheck coming in. That's my compassionate opinion, because I know some people who rely heavily on this industry for a living. From a scientific viewpoint, I've seen for myself massive depletion of urchins in the Swans Island area, and I know I can't sustain on harvesting around here. I believe the "paramoeba" theory because 3 yrs. ago the urchins seemed like they were at least maintaining stock from conservation measures and divers'/draggers' attrition. Hopefully it's part of a natural cycle because I miss the activity and income!
48	I live in Stonington, last year we didn't have buyers most of the season which meant we had to drive them to other places. Lack of weather, lack of buyers, eggs, is why I did not go this year.
49	I wish there was more science involved. Can we make the bottom more conducive for small urchins and then close small areas to reseed. Have moorings with cables, buoys, etc. to keep birds out. Maybe 1000 sq. ft.
50	I fish from Lubec to Roque Bluffs, and there are plenty of eggs, but not so good roe, between the windy days and the cutback in days it's getting very hard to do anything at all.
51	The current cutbacks are plenty. Because of the set schedule, I only fish about 2/3 of the given days. Any more cuts would certainly destroy any hopes of SURVIVING the next season.
52	I have dove for urchins in Cobscook bay for 8 years. My tender always dumps the small urchins around a ledge or a place where draggers cannot get them. We return the following year or year after and there is always plenty of legal size urchins. I can show the damage that dragging has on the bottom and urchins. What they don't get they kill. I have gone the following day where they dragged the day before, and the only thing left is broken and crushed urchins. I can show places that have been dragged, and it destroys the kelp beds, and leaves only a hard clay bottom.
53	The weather takes care of the days off. I've missed this whole week because of deep freeze and NW wind. There are plenty of urchins in Zone 2! They just have to catch up with the measure. We still have to support our families! And pay for our boats! Lubec
54	(5a.) fewer by far. (C:) If zone 1 is shut down next year don't let divers jump to Zone 2, it will totally kill the Zone 2. It has been their choice to stay in Zone 1. Don't kill Zone 2 also, Please.
55	I'm not fishing - can't make a living due to depleted stocks.
56	Just got License in 2002 thru lottery.
60	We draggers feel that we are put in danger by the State telling us what days we fish. We make the decision to Drag in weather that is unfit because there are only the day we are told to fish.
61	I believe that not implementing the minimum/maximum size sooner was the major demise. But also Mother Nature, water temp., predators, water currents, etc. all change the bottom constantly.
62	Mother Nature will decide when we can go more than the Department.
64	(4.) I had a leased license couldn't fish after 12-31-01. (C:) I think there needs to be a better system than the current one because we lose days due to the weather that we can't make up.
67	We have a fair amount of urchins. Some places a lot but the percentage is so low they are not worth dragging. In my opinion the Divers can clean the bottom whereas drags are still primitive. We don't catch a fraction of them.

68	(5a.) eggs seen are just below or above new measures. (7.) 94 days or more. (C:) It's my opinion that yields are down for several reasons: conservation methods now push fishermen into going out on days not fit for diving - weather reduces yield on rough days. 2) Weather has driven down yield. 3) There are fewer fishermen now because conservation methods in place hinder fishermen from making a living (i.e. reduced days/larger/smaller legal measurements, etc.) 4) Spend more time picking over eggs. I see a lot of eggs but they are over or under the size limits. Washington/Hancock County
70	Also, allow divers - ALL divers - to vote UNSOLICITED on changes by allowing mail-in ballots. Some divers live more than 200 miles from your chosen meeting places. Those divers want to participate but the hardship of that travel is UNFAIR. I may live far from the coast, but I have a LEGAL RIGHT to be involved in any changes to the annual dive schedule. For example, this year, the season was open on Thanksgiving Day and Valentines Day; this was a hardship for my family that was EASILY preventable through more diver input. By sending out, say, three sample schedules and allowing divers to vote by mail would prevent problems like this. My dive license gives me a legal right to be involved in these decisions without having to travel more than 200 miles to a meeting.
75	If we take care of the resource the resource will take care of us.
76	(4.) 48 days good weather made \$. 12 bad days made NO \$.
79	(4.) I did not start until Nov. 4, 2002.
80	(4.) I fished every day (weather provided) til prices dropped again early Feb. (6.) I think it should be closed for 5 to 7 yr. Session. (C:) We Killed It! How much more damage must ye see!!! Retired sea urchin diver
84	I think the season should open Oct. 1, end Dec. 31, then the urchins would come back. Thank you.
85	(7.) none or just a few. (C:) Don't let greed and shortsightedness destroy yet another fishery on the Maine coast (quahogs, scallops). Diver from Cutler - urchin fishing since licenses have been issued.
86	(5a.) this year only (2002). (C:) This was a good October in my area, but did not sustain into later months.
88	Lack of proper management has cost Maine a very lucrative fishery Don't you think its time we started trying to fix what is broken.
89	I feel the urchin season should begin Oct. and end when the price drops in Jan. Fishing for urchins in extreme cold is detrimental to conservation, all culled urchins die in extreme cold weather. I would be very upset if the urchins season was shortened during the warmer months.
90	Give me a call if I can help in any way.
92	(7.) First three months
93	Your mandatory days off, do little more than make if more dangerous for the diver. By forcing him to dive in days he shouldn't even be on the water.
94	Seems how you got me started. I have been trying to get on the urchin council for a number of years, because we have no diver representing us in downeast Maine, the Zone 2 diver that likes to make our decisions, is really from South Portland. I also know there are openings, but for some reason Maggie Hunter tends to ignore the fact; I am beginning to think she likes to keep the ball in her court. But, I suppose she doesn't have to worry about someone or a group of misinformed people taking her paycheck.
96	I don't fish urchins as a rule but I will be more active in the future.
97	Give the measures that is in place a chance to work. There is no quick fix. The weather this year is keeping boats off the grounds.
98	We have plenty of conservation now. The urchin fishery will level off and be constant in a few years. Leave Zone 2 alone.



99	(3. & 4.) unknown days fishing. (C:) Maybe limiting totes per license holder would help. Divers are a bigger problem than draggers, they over harvest areas - leaving none in the nooks and crannies of the ledges that draggers can't get. If they (urchins) are allowed to "hide" in the ledges then spawning would still be possible and there would be less of a depletion of stock.
100	We need more days to fish from Oct. to Jan. because the weather is bad, the market is bad and by the time Jan. thru March comes around its hard to get a days pay. It's harder to catch as many urchins near the end of the season. From Jan. to March is difficult to make money. With the fishermen limited to the days we can fish really hurts us in the end because the markets are wise to this and will not pay enough money to make it worth doing. The markets know we have to fish or starve so they don't pay the price. We are forced to eat a lot of crow and make less money. The week before X-mas this year, we didn't get out because of market problems and weather. (I think we need more days from Oct. to Jan.) Thank you.
102	(4.) This was for the biological supply market.
105	(7.) 1/2 as many as this year.
107	(7.) from Nov 1 - March 31.
109	Urchin Diver since 1998.
110	(3. & 4.) % of available days, due to weather and market. (C:) This current method of keeping as many harvesters and cutting their days back is the wrong method it is putting us all in the poor house you need to remove harvesters not days out we cannot keep losing days at sea and still make a living at this.
112	Currently with the regulations/conservation efforts that hav been imposed over the last few seasons, with little or no positive results it's pointless to further cut us back in the sizes of urchins, and number of days we can go. Wake the hell up and just close it. Also don't allow dragging for urchins ever again, they kill small urchins and destroy the urchin bottom. Stop Floggin' a dead horse and close it down completely. Thanks.
114	The season is so out of balance, why not make the season before x-mas, when they want to pay a price for them.
116	(4.) However I stop during the first week of march. (5.) Each area is different. Many spots have a substantial number of sub-legals. While other spots are barren. (6.) However, it should be cut back on the beginning and end of the season, so not to have fewer than 4 day weeks. (C:) I believe if you cut the days to less than 4 days a week you will force us to fish regardless of the weather. This would make this a much more dangerous fishery.
117	Areas that still hold urchins need to be closed to allow a sufficient brood stock. It we do not close large areas immediately I feel this fishery will collapse. I began fishing for urchins in 1992 in Casco Bay. For the last 6 years Casco Bay has experienced a 80 - 90% drop in fishing pressure, yet still no recovery. I now fish Penobscot Bay and it now is depleted as Casco Bay was 7 years ago. Soon everyone will be fishing in Lubec and then we will be ALL DONE.
120	Concerns with safety issues. Regulated days chosen by DMR forces fishermen to go fishing in unsafe weather conditions rather than on a weather permitting days. * Concerns with regulated days cause changes with income due to buyers not paying as much for product in previous years causing fishermen to fish more to make the same amount of money.
121	I feel as though everyone has to make a living and by cutting days isn't going to help. Using a tote limit may. Designating a number of days instead of which days of the week may help. Weather conditions hurt many eligible fishing days. The seafood business relies on abundance for price. If there is a shortage on product the price is up. Making the fishing days numbered may keep things evened out.
122	(4.) I lost 10 - 12 day that was workable due to no market and low price. (C:) If days need to be cut take them out of November and leave the season the same.
124	(4.) 1 month.

125	(C:) I am a scallop diver who won an urchin license in the lottery. I have never harvested urchins mainly because I don't know how. However I have paid \$249.00 the last 2 seasons because I believe in the future I may use it. I support your efforts in conservation and replenishment. Please continue correspondence!
126	Keep things the way they always have been.
127	(4.) only until Dec.
128	I would like a days at sea program where I can PICK THE DAYS in the week I can go to work around inclement weather be it Saturday or Sunday or whenever as long as it doesn't go over the limited season days.
130	I think I should be able to trade my diving license for a dragging license.
132	There are many areas around my harbor with harvestable amounts of eggs, but the roe quality has been too poor, in recent years, to make them marketable.
133	Weather and market determine season. We've fished just 2 days this month due to the above. A high and Low measure will protect the urchins if enforced.
134	We only dove 40 days last year. If you cut days back next year we might get 20 days. So I hope you don't cut our days back next year.
135	(3.) all but 10 days (weather) we usually stock 1,000 lb/day. (4.) All but 5 days (weather). (5a.) But we are finding new grounds EVERYWHERE! (6.) No way!!!!!!!
137	Mother Nature controls the number of days so the total number of fishing days is actually only 50 - 60 % of the days allowed. The new 2 1/16 measure will work. There is an abundance of eggs between 1 3/4" and 2".
138	Just leave it alone, the urchins will come back on their own.
139	(5a.) More but smaller ones. (6.) The weather cuts us back enough. (C:) Between the weather and all the conservation there is already, there has been an increase in smaller eggs on all the beds I fish on. I believe there is such a thing as "overkill" when it comes to conservation.
140	New size limit dramatic help - seem to be more juveniles on grounds...those in turn grow to size (legal). Number of totes per day approx. same - 5 - 7 and quality good. Our crew "picks", not bullrake and cull. 85 % of culling is done on bottom, preventing losing eggs to deep water and freezing when brought from harvest areas to boat during culling. Should a cutback in days be mandatory, take JAn. out, (should there be a drastic cut) or a week at end of Jan. beginning of Feb. (Worst fishing months due to weather, price.)
143	(4.) Stopped fishing in 2001 when I could not provide consistently a dive tenders pay. (5a.) to 6 yrs ago - fewer.
149	Rumor has it that some of the Zone 1 divers are pushing for a shutdown in order to attempt to get into Zone 2. IF this was to happen, I believe the extra pressure would crush Zone 2. Nothing would have a chance to recover.
151	No need to limit more days, the industry is weeding out the urchin boats going.
155	You should know what's left, we pay enough for the license \$249.
156	I would favor a call in system, being a captain I feel lives are at risk cause you have to fish. And then for some reason Friday to Sunday is flat calm.
157	The regulated days have made fishing an unsafe hazzard towards weather conditions, Rather than on days it is weather permitting. Limited 90 days promotes unsafe fisheries.
160	I think there's no need for a cutback because the weather limits when you can get out. I think first or second season what you should do is in the beginning of season, give every diver tags for those amount of days of season. When they're used up your season is done.