

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 rebuild 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

proud of the service these recipients have given to the people of the City of Worcester.

Mr. Speaker, the Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC), created in 1965, serves as an umbrella organization for 20 education and social service programs. It includes Energy Assistance, Head Start, Healthy Families, Training and Youth Education Mediation, Consumer Council, and Community Connections. WCAC's mission is "to stimulate change in the fundamental causes of poverty and to create and provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency through services, partnership, and advocacy."

Mr. Speaker, this ceremony honors organizations and individuals who promote economic self-sufficiency and work tirelessly on behalf of those less fortunate in our society. The following recipients are being honored today for their commitment to the education of all of our children: Allmerica Financial, for their support of WCAC's Cityworks Program; Anne Quinne for her work to develop programs for at-risk youth; and Lisa Perez for her efforts to encourage parent involvement in Worcester's schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge the contributions of the following organizations: Nstar Gas for its support of weatherization services for families; University Home Improvement and Ken Martinetty for their services as weatherization contractors; and Amara Thomas for her participation in the Cityworks corps member and current IDA participant.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we are also honoring the contributions of the following community leaders: State Representative Robert Spellane for his service on behalf of families in need; Worcester County Treasurer Michael Donoghue for his exemplary community service; Mike Keegan for his leadership of WCAC; Winifred Octave for her parent leadership efforts; Dr. James Ostromecky for his free dental services for Head Start children; Christopher and Laura Pallotta for their support of WCAC's mediation services; Marge Perves for her community involvement and volunteer mediation services; Larry Raymond for his commitment to family and self sufficiency; and Steve Teasdale for his efforts to revitalize the Main South neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker these individuals are the embodiment of our collective common good, and I am sure that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in extending sincere thanks to the recipients of WCAC's Warm Friends Awards.

THE GLOBAL PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Global Pathogen Surveillance Act of 2003 with my colleague, Congressman MARK KIRK. This important bipartisan legislation mirrors legislation offered by Senators BIDEN and LUGAR, and will reduce the risk of infectious diseases entering this country.

As we have learned from the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and the anthrax attacks, nature and terrorists

do not stand still while the world finds ways to improve its preparedness against biological threats.

Indeed, new diseases—no matter where they start—can spread to the United States in days or even hours. Many of them, including smallpox, SARS and the plague have lengthy incubation times, lasting two to twelve days.

The flight time between any two cities, however, is under 36 hours. Any of the 140 million people who enter the United States by air each year can, unknowingly, carry these dangerous pathogens with them.

SARS, for example, came to the world's attention in East Asia in March. Today, there are over eight thousand cases worldwide, with the highest number of cases in the United States occurring in my home state of California.

Because it was not reported immediately and a strong international network was not in place to monitor and control it, SARS has become a worldwide epidemic.

It has put a severe strain on hospitals and health care systems and caused financial chaos in dozens of countries.

While Congress has been generous in funding measures to improve domestic bio-preparedness, rapid detection of outbreaks requires significant improvements in international disease surveillance.

While developing nations are most likely to experience rapid disease outbreak, they don't have the trained personnel, the laboratory equipment or the public health infrastructure to deal with epidemics—much less warn the rest of the world.

Our bill would help train public health professionals in developing countries to use electronic syndrome surveillance systems and traditional epidemiology methods to better detect, diagnose and contain infectious disease outbreaks.

Our bill would also help developing countries purchase public health laboratory equipment for health surveillance and diagnosis as well as communications technology to transmit information about infectious diseases.

This legislation would also develop and enhance existing regional health networks and establish lab-to-lab cooperative relationships between the United States and public health laboratories and foreign counterparts.

It would also strengthen the reporting capabilities of the World Health Organization, whose decision to issue a global alert in March allowed health officials around the world to take appropriate measures to control the spread of SARS.

All these provisions strengthen a global surveillance network which will detect the unique symptoms of an epidemic before it spreads and allow earlier diagnosis and better containment measures.

I call on my colleagues to support this important bill and help us close the huge gaps in our defense against emerging diseases.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 4, a constitutional amendment to restore protections for the most widely recognized symbol of our nation and our traditions, the flag of the United States of America.

Some would call stuffing an American flag in a toilet or a trash can a work of art. I would call it a disgrace. Too many brave Americans have fought and died in defense of our flag to allow it to be soiled. In fact, they're fighting even today in Afghanistan, Iraq and all over the globe to secure the ideals for which the flag stands.

Mr. Speaker, I spent this past weekend in my home state of Wyoming to celebrate Memorial Day. I spoke to a veteran there who wore a shirt with a picture of our flag and the legend, "This flag wasn't earned to be burned."

Over the course of our history, more than a million brave Americans have given their lives in defense of our flag. We should honor their sacrifice by defending the flag with the same conviction they did. I urge the passage of this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall 234 on H.J. Res. 4, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, I inadvertently voted "yea" but I meant to vote "nay." Although I abhor desecration of our flag, I believe it is a form of political expression and dissent protected under the First Amendment. I would like the record to reflect that my intended vote was "nay"

ASSURED FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2003

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, on behalf of myself and 72 of my colleagues, I am introducing H.R. 2318 the "Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2003." Starting in Fiscal Year 2005, the bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System based on the number of enrollees in the system and the consumer price