

The following Mitchell Field Waterfront Survey: A possible opportunity for Harpswell commercial fishermen summary includes responses from 54 fishermen in the Harpswell community surveyed by the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association from 8/1/18 to 9/20/18. This summary report reflects the completion of this survey for use by the Mitchell Field Committee. The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association is committed to helping the Mitchell Field Committee campaign and inform the Harpswell community about this opportunity prior to the 2019 Harpswell Town Meeting.

The demographics of the Mitchell Field Waterfront Survey are as follows:

54 community fishermen / fishing license holders were surveyed from 8/1/18 to 9/20/18

Location of residence

- *16 fishing community members from Cundy's Harbor area*
- *11 fishing community members from Orr's Island & Bailey Island area*
- *8 fishing community members from Harpswell Neck area*
- *18 fishing community members from Great Island area*

Industry/licenses held

- *90.7% lobster*
- *11.1% groundfish*
- *3.7% scallop*
- *13% shellfish*
- *3.7% aquaculture*
- *14.8% tuna*

**As noted earlier: during the administering of the survey there was a high volume of confusion from many members of the fishing community about the association (or lack of) between the Mitchell Field Committee and the ongoing situation with the Friends of Mitchell Field and the Town. This was attributed to the similar name of both groups. MCFA staff were able to communicate the goals of the Mitchell Field Committee and the survey when administering the survey. This seemed to welcome many to take the time to complete the survey.*

Submitted Respectfully on 10/1/18 by Kendra Jo Grindle, MCFA Community Programs Manager

Mitchell Field Waterfront Survey A Possible Opportunity for Harpswell Commercial Fishermen

Now that the removal of the former Navy Pier is complete, the Town is looking at potential opportunities for the use of the waterfront at Mitchell Field. These include the construction of an all-tide boat launch with parking, the development of a seasonal ramp and float system at the end of the causeway that could serve recreational boaters and commercial fishermen, and the provisions of facilities and space for commercial fishermen to work on their boats and gear outside or under cover.

Boat Launch

The Town has completed a preliminary design for an all tides boat launch at Mitchell Field. The launch would be located on the north side of the causeway. It would be a paved two-lane ramp with floats down one side. There would be space for preparing boats prior to launching and cleaning up after they are pulled. The launch would extend so that there is water at the end of the ramp at low tide. There will be lots of parking for trailers at Mitchell Field.

Q1.1. Thinking about the available facilities in Harpswell for launching, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being 'I do not agree' and 5 being 'I completely agree';

1. A launch is needed for recreational boaters	1 3.7%	2 3.7%	3 1.9%	4 7.4%	5 83.3%
2. A launch is needed for commercial fishermen	1 0%	2 1.9%	3 3.7%	4 16.7%	5 77.8%

Q1.2 If a boat launch is developed at Mitchell Field, how likely would you use it?

- 1. Very likely 46.3%
- 2. Somewhat likely 24.1%
- 3. Not sure/depends 9.3%
- 4. Unlikely 11.1%
- 5. Would not use it 9.3%

Q1.3 If a boat launch is built at Mitchell Field, how often would you use it?

- 1. Regularly - more than 5 times a season 22.2%
- 2. Occasionally – 3 to 5 times a season 61.1%
- 3. Rarely – 1 or 2 times a season 9.3%
- 4. Never 7.4%

Q1.4. If a boat launch is built, do you think it would have a positive impact on the local economy?

- 1. Very likely 75.9%
- 2. Somewhat likely 18.5%
- 3. Not very likely 3.7%
- 4. Impact would be negative 1.9%

Seasonal Float and Access Ramp System

The Town has completed a preliminary design for a seasonal ramp and float system to replace the pier at Mitchell Field. The ramp and floats would be installed in the spring and removed in the fall. The outside of the floats would be in deep water with probably 10-15 feet at low tide. The outside of the floats would probably be limited to short term tie-ups.

Q2.1. Thinking about the available facilities in Harpswell for water access, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being ‘I do not agree’ and 5 being ‘I completely agree’;

1. A seasonal float/access ramp system is needed for recreational boaters.	1 0%	2 5.6%	3 7.4%	4 27.8%	5 61.1%
2. A seasonal float/access ramp system is needed for commercial fishermen	1 0%	2 1.9%	3 3.7%	4 38.8%	5 55.6%

Q2.2 If a seasonal float and access ramp system is developed at Mitchell Field, how likely would use you it?

- 1. Very likely 22.2%
- 2. Somewhat likely 31.5%
- 3. Not sure/depends 29.6%
- 4. Unlikely 5.6%
- 5. Would not use it 11.1%

Q2.3 If a seasonal float and access ramp is built, how often would you personally use it?

- 1. Regularly - more than 5 times a season 18.5%
- 2. Occasionally – 3 to 5 times a season 38.9%
- 3. Rarely – 1 or 2 times a season 31.5%
- 4. Never 11.1%

Priorities

The Town has set aside funds in a reserve account and secured grants to build one facility at Mitchell Field. It could build either the boat launch or the seasonal float and access ramp system in the next year or two and then look for funds for the other facility down the road or it could wait until it has enough funding to do both at the same time.

Q3.1 Please choose which infrastructure should have priority for these funds.

- 1. Boat Ramp 68.5%
- 2. Seasonal Float & Access Ramp 13%
- 3. Both are equal priority and should be built once more funds are available 18.5%

Moorings

Q4.1 Do you wish to see a mooring field at Mitchell field? Y 100% N 0%

Q4.2 Is there a need for commercial fishing moorings at Mitchel Field? Y 98.1% N 1.85%

Inside Facilities for Fishermen at Mitchell Field

A recent study by the Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association suggested that there is a need for an indoor facility that fishermen can use to work on their traps and gear. One possibility is to use Mitchell Field for this purpose. Please help us understand better what the fishing community needs or wants and who might use such space if it were available.

Q5.1. Thinking about the type of inside space for working on traps and gear please rate how important the following are on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being ‘not at all important’ and 5 being ‘very important’;

1. Power	1 0%	2 0%	3 3.7%	4 3.7%	5 92.3%
2. Three-phase power	1 0%	2 0%	3 5.6%	4 37%	5 57.4%
3. Lights	1 0%	2 0%	3 5.6%	4 7.4%	5 87%
4. Overhead doors	1 0%	2 1.9%	3 9.3%	4 31.5%	5 57.4%
5. Heat	1 0%	2 3.7%	3 16.7%	4 31.5%	5 28.1%
6. High ceiling (over 10 feet)	1 0%	2 0%	3 5.6%	4 37%	5 57.4%

Q5.2. Thinking about the amount of space that fisherman need for working inside, how much space might each fisherman generally need:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Less than 500 sq.ft. | 0% |
| 2. 500-1,000 sq.ft. | 61.1% |
| 3. 1,000-2,000 sq.ft. | 37% |
| 4. 2,000-5,000 sq.ft. | 1.9% |
| 5. More than 5,000 sq.ft. | 0% |

Q5.3 If an inside facility is developed at Mitchell Field for fishermen, how likely would you use it?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Very likely | 46.3% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 40.7% |
| 3. Not sure/depends | 3.7% |
| 4. Not very likely | 5.5% |
| 5. Would not use it | 3.7% |

Q5.4 If an inside facility is developed at Mitchell Field for fishermen, what would you use it for?
(Choose all that apply)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Work on nets | 35.2% |
| 2. Clean/repair traps | 90.7% |
| 3. Wash bottom | 1.9% |
| 4. Repair boats | 11.1% |
| 5. Store traps and gear | 77.8% |
| 6. Other _____ | 1.9% (would not use) |

Q-5.5. If you would use an indoor facility at Mitchell Field, would you expect yourself and other users to pay a fee for its use?

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 1. Yes | 79.6% |
| 2. No | 20.4% |

Q5.6. If an indoor facility at Mitchell Field were developed at Mitchell Field for fishermen should it be restricted to: (Choose 1)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Fishermen who are residents of Harpswell | 77.8% |
| 2. Fishermen who are residents of the Midcoast and Greater Portland area | 22.2% |
| 3. Fishermen who are residents of Maine | 0% |
| 4. No restrictions | 0% |

Outdoor Facilities for Commercial Fishermen at Mitchell Field

Mitchell Field has paved areas near the waterfront. It has been suggested that these might be a good area for fishermen to use to repair boats if a boat launch were available or to work on nets and gear.

Q6.1. If a paved area at Mitchell Field were designated for fishermen what types of things would you want to use it for: (Choose all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Washing a boat bottom | 27.8% |
| 2. Cleaning but not washing a boat bottom | 66.7% |
| 3. Boat repairs | 72.2% |
| 4. Drying and repairing nets | 59.3% |
| 5. Storing traps and gear | 35.2% |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 6. Repairing traps and gear | 75.9% |
| 7. Other _____ | 5% (would not use) |

Q6.2 -If a paved area was designated for use by commercial fishermen how likely is it that you would use it for any of the purposes in Q6.1?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Very likely | 35.2% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 35.2% |
| 3. Not sure/depends | 18.5% |
| 4. Not very likely | 3.7% |
| 5. Would not use it | 7.4% |

Q6.3. If you would use an outdoor facility at Mitchell Field, when would you use it:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Year-round | 35.2% |
| 2. Seasonally | 57.4% |
| 3. Would not use an outdoor facility | 7.4% |

Q-6.5. If you would use an outdoor facility at Mitchell Field, would you expect yourself and other users to pay a fee for its use?

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 1. Yes | 42.6% |
| 2. No | 57.4% |

Q6.6. If an outdoor facility at Mitchell Field were developed at Mitchell Field for fishermen should it be restricted to: (Choose 1)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Fishermen who are residents of Harpswell | 79.6% |
| 2. Fishermen who are residents of the Midcoast and Greater Portland area | 20.3% |
| 3. Fishermen who are residents of Maine | 0% |
| 4. No restrictions | 0% |