

Coastal Commercial Fisheries Forum Summary

October 16, 2015

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/mgmt-committees/coastal-fisheries-forums.aspx>

The presentation given by Mike Luisi is available online and includes the topics that we did not have time to discuss as a group.

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/management/?com=cff&page=meetings>.

Get involved:

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) – sign up for our email subscription list <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email-contact.aspx>
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) - <http://www.asmfc.org/>
- Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) - <http://www.mafmc.org/> - scroll to the bottom of the page to sign up for email notifications
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Highly Migratory Species (NOAA HMS) - <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> - Look at the lower left corner to sign up for FishNews AND Atlantic HMS News List
- Seafood Harvesters of America - <http://www.seafoodharvesters.org/>

Action items that we are working on:

- Blue crab declaration and hours
- Whelks – girth regulation
- Comprehensive summer flounder amendment
- Female horseshoe crab fishing in Maryland
- Lobster management in response to benchmark assessment
- Striped bass on Saturdays
- Clam rigs – VA style dredge
- Getting the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Risk Policy modified for more flexibility
- Working with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission concerning timely harvest reports (e.g. black sea bass in Massachusetts)

Additionally, we heard:

- 1500 lbs of menhaden bycatch is not sufficient

Action items for you:

- Apply Congressional pressure on other states to report in a timely manner

- Support letters for the Saltonstall Kennedy Grant for electronic reporting. Attached is a draft letter that you can update and sign if you would like to support this initiative. Please address the letter to Lynn Fegley, sign and print your name, and mail it to the following address by **November 1, 2015**:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Service
580 Taylor Ave, B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401
Attn: Carrie Kennedy

Spiny Dogfish Workgroup Meeting

- Increase the state waters vessel trip limit to 10,000 lbs if the absent members are ok with it.
- Set vessel trip limits for Atlantic Striped Bass Permit Owners to be 2,500 lbs if the absent members are ok with it.
- New Entrants – Application with Criteria, ranking could be based on:
 - Owning a vessel (already required to have a spiny dogfish permit)
 - Spiny dogfish bycatch landings
 - Owning a striped bass permit because they are encountering spiny dogfish anyway
 - Number of state or federal permits

Action items that we are working on:

- Calling absent members