

## Coastal Commercial Fisheries Forum Summary

October 21, 2016

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Presentation available online at URL:

<http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/calendar/v2/event.asp?id=1262>

18 attendees and 5 staff

### Menhaden

- Michael Luisi provided an update on the progress of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Menhaden Amendment 3.
- Several people supported the soft cap idea.
- Attendee's expressed some concern about creating a fishery and gear/regional differences.
- Delegate Carozza is willing to provide public comment when needed.

### Horseshoe Crabs

- Michael Luisi provided an update on horseshoe crabs. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Addendum that was initiated will be postponed until the new index is available in about two years.
- Attendee's indicated:
  - that the season changes we made last year did not help their fishery;
  - frustration with female harvest in Virginia, North Carolina, and New York when spawning;
  - freezers all along the coast are full again;
  - the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Horseshoe Crab Advisory Panel had supported a 50% female reduction but it was never supposed to be 0;
  - horseshoe crabs can't spawn at Stinky Beach anymore because of shoreline stabilization for the development.

### Summer Flounder

- Michael Luisi discussed quota reductions for 2017.
- Attendee's indicated:
  - the Bigelow years, 2005-2010, missed a lot of flounder because it used a rock hopper rather than chain;
  - Bigelow net is small and vessel is too big to come inshore;
  - fishermen should be doing the survey;
  - causing a decrease in income;
  - seeing more summer flounder in pots; and
  - change recreational fish hook size to decrease undersize catch.



## **Spiny Dogfish**

- Six out seven Spiny Dogfish Workgroup members were present. Luisi reviewed the Departments management principals and goals established with the workgroup when it was formed. He then proceeded to discuss potential changes to the eligibility requirement. The Spiny Dogfish Workgroup requested that the 3 year, 15,000 pound harvest requirement be changed to qualifying once. The Department may also scope changing the declaration eligibility requirement to be annual.
- Attendee's indicated:
  - Go forward with regulatory change for one time qualifier and annual declaration for eligibility.
    - Trawlers use more gas and it's not always economical to fish for spiny dogfish.
    - There was a misunderstanding when the 3 year, 15,000 pound qualifier was implemented.
- The Department is in the process of issuing six relinquished permits as previously discussed. We can have another conversation about this in the future.

## **Shoaling**

- Attendee's indicated:
  - boats running aground again;
  - dredging delayed from hurricane and should begin the second week of November;
  - dredge will be in OC for a month; and
  - private dredging may be needed in the future.

## **Striped Bass**

- Attendee's commented that they have to wait until conditions are perfect to catch striped bass in State waters, which is why they haven't caught their quota.

## **Whelk**

- Mike Luisi discussed the recent scoping of a whelk girth. The  $3^{3/8}$  inch girth was supported at the last forum meeting as a compromise but not by all people in the fishery. Instead, industry prefers  $3^{1/8}$  inch girth. Industry does not want to proceed with a girth regulation until we measure more whelk.
- Attendee's indicated:
  - Watermen asked for a whelk size limit years ago and have been asking for the girth for eight years and a tolerance too.
  - Two people volunteered to take a biologist out sampling.

## **NRP**

- Dave Blazer indicated that more NRP officers are coming soon.

**Aquaculture, Karl Rocher presentation**

- The Department was asked to discuss aquaculture at this meeting. Karl Rocher, Director of Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation about aquaculture. He indicated that there is a potential lease application in Chincoteague Bay and he will work with fishermen to avoid peeler pots. An application was also recently received for Sinepuxent Bay. Rocher suggested identifying a point person to receive application notices.