



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mark Belton, Secretary
Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission
January 26, 2017
C-1 Conference Room
DNR Tawes Office Building
580 Taylor Ave
Annapolis, MD 21403

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman William (Billy) Rice, Vice-Chair Robert (Moochie) Gilmer, Robert T. Brown, David Sikorski, Gale Sindorf, Rachel Dean, Aubrey Vincent, Ken Jeffries, Lee Wilson (proxy for Buddy Carson), William (Bill) Scerbo, William (Troy) Wilkins and Steve Lay.

Commissioner Absent and Not Represented: Charles (Richard) Manley, J.D. Blackwell

DNR Staff Attending: Fisheries Director Dave Blazer, Paul Genovese, Jacob Holtz, Mike Luisi, Lt. Corporal Catherine Medellin, Jodi Baxter, Carrie Kennedy, Lynn Fegley, Nancy Butowski, Sara Dawes and Kelly Collins-Choi.

Members of the Public Attending: Mitch Quillen, Larry Jennings, Susan Langley with Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)

Action Items:

- The department asked members to remind their constituents of an eel pot requirement which went into effect on January 1, 2017 which states an eel pot shall be constructed of wire having a mesh size not less than 1/2 inch when the wire mesh is unstretched - this means the minimum mesh size for the entirety of an eel pot is at least 1/2" x 1/2", the pots can no longer have smaller mesh make up the majority of the pot with a 4" x 4" cull panel of 1/2" x 1/2" mesh, as previously allowed.
- As Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission Chair, David Sikorski now represents the SFAC on the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission.
- Comments accepted through March 31 on proposed Mallows Bay rules, boundary options and management plan. A summary of the proposal was presented to the commission. Public meeting schedule and comments accepted at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/mallows-bay/>
- Commission will write a letter to the Mallows Bay NMS, letter will state commission's position and level of support for the sanctuary. The letter will contain concerns and conditions the commission is requesting in order to maintain its support of the sanctuary. Letter to be written by Robert T Brown, Gail S and Moochie Gilmer with assistance by Dave Blazer.
- Commission requested the department investigate an electronic reporting system which does not contain a hailing in / hailing out component.
- In response to a request from commercial license holder Mitch Quillen to reconsider the loss of his striped bass permit due to it not being renewed - Commission asked the department to abide by the laws/regulations that govern the license renewal process. Commission gave no opinion.

- Commission asked DNR staffer Michael Luisi to speak with his New York counterparts on the ASMFC regarding their seafood importation laws related to fish caught in other states and report out. Currently the state will not allow the importation of striped bass under 28” in length

Motions:

- *TFAC recommends that the Department abide by the laws/regulations that govern license renewal.* This is in response to action item from July meeting - Commission will review the Department’s four options regarding late license renewal requests submitted past the current March 31 cutoff date and report out on their recommendations. Commission recommended option 1: “The Department can choose to maintain our current position and do nothing”. Motion by Moochie Glimer, seconded by Robert T. Brown. 12 in favor, 2 abstained.
- Eliminate TFAC’s support of Mallows Bay proposed boundary options C and D as presented during the meeting. All in favor of motion except for one abstention, motion by Ken Jeffries, seconded by Moochie Gilmer.

Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2017

To be held in the Conference Room C-1 of the Tawes Building from 3:00-6:00 PM.