



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary

Meeting of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission
July 23, 2013
Tawes State Office building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Jim Gracie, Micah Dammeyer, Ray Morgan, Vince Ringgold, Kate Chaney, Val Lynch, Tim Smith, Dave Sikorski, Phil Langley, Bill Goldsborough, Mark DeHoff, James Womack, Ed O'Brien, Scott Sewell (proxy for Roger Trageser)

Commissioner absent: Beverly Fleming

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Director, Fisheries Service, Lynn Fegley, Deputy Director, Fisheries Service, Gina Hunt, Deputy Director, Fisheries Service, Noreen Eberly, Karen Knotts, Rick Morin, Jacob Holtz, Sarah Widman, Don Cosden, Lt. Beth Mauk, NRP, Marek Topolski, Margaret McGinty

Members of the public attending: Bill Windley, Ken Hastings, Larry Jenkins, Ed Liccione, Howard King and others who were present but did not sign in.

Motions:

- Ed O'Brien nominated Bill Goldsborough for Chair, seconded by Dave Sikorski. Unanimous vote; motion passed.
- Bill Goldsborough nominated Dave Sikorski for Vice Chairman, seconded by Ed O'Brien. Unanimous vote; motion passed.
- Jim Gracie motioned for SFAC to object to opening Striped Bass Individual Transferable Quota hook & line fishery on Friday for participants. Motion was seconded by Mark DeHoff. After discussion was held, with no public comments and no one opposed to the motion, it passed unanimously. Ed O'Brien motioned that the SFAC send a letter to DNR Secretary Joe Gill to oppose allowing Friday fishing in the 2014 ITQ fishery. Motion seconded by Jim Gracie and passed unanimously.

Action Items:

- Fisheries Service (FS) is looking for 3 more SFAC Commission members to serve on the SFAC/TFAC Penalty Workgroup. James Womack is currently on the workgroup to represent SFAC/Tidal; one additional member for each of the following areas is needed: Nontidal, Coastal, and Charter Boat. The workgroup normally meets once annually, in the evening. If interested, please contact Sarah or Bill

Goldsborough. If you have any comments on Regulatory reforms (see Fisheries Regulatory Scoping July 2013 handout), please contact Sarah Widman (swidman@dnr.state.md.us) by August 15th.

- Proxy information for each SFAC member is due to Noreen Eberly by August 15th. Proxies will be added to FS's e-mail list so they receive all SFAC communications.
- SFAC comments on draft Yellow Perch Fisheries Management Plan Review recommendations are due by August 15th. Send comments to Rick Morin rmorin@dnr.state.md.us and copy Bill Goldsborough at bgoldsborough@cbf.org.
- FS will post the Yellow Perch presentation provided at the meeting on SFAC web page. (This has been posted.)
- FS will look into "No Fishing" signs in Severn and Magothy rivers and clarify whether closure areas remain by statute.
- FS will provide the SFAC with a briefing on the NRP Strategic Plan as soon as it becomes available. .
- FS will post the December 2012 NRP Level of Service Standards to the SFAC web page. (This has been posted.)
- Jim Gracie requested FS contact NRP to see if this 13 member cadet class is for this year or multi-year effort. FS followed up with Colonel George Johnson who indicated that he hopes to fill the 13 vacancies by September 2013. These positions are permanent positions and will carry over to the next fiscal year, consistent with other full time position in NRP. As each cadet reaches the age to go into NRP's police academy, it will create a vacancy in the cadet program. At that point, NRP will immediately request that the cadet position be filled to maintain the 13 positions allotted in their budget.

Summary of Discussion Items:

- NRP reviewed Blue Crab patrols. Not finding as many violations as they thought possibly due to a smaller harvest this year. If you would like more in-depth information contact Lt. Mauk at BMcVeigh@dnr.state.md.us.
- Tom O'Connell updated SFAC on ASMFC Benchmark Striped Bass stock assessment study. Not sure when ASMFC will release it for public comment but the timing could affect Management Plans.
- Bill Goldsborough will continue to represent SFAC on TFAC. Vice Chairman Dave Sikorski will serve as his proxy on TFAC.
- Public comment from Ken Hastings regarding how recreational license fees are spent by DNR. Tom O'Connell responded by saying that the 2012 report is on the SFAC web site (October 2012) and the 2013 report will be available in October.
- Don Cosden, Inland Division Manager noted that his Division writes a monthly report that will be e-mailed to SFAC monthly.