



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
October 1, 2013
Tawes State Office building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Bill Goldsborough, Vice Chair Dave Sikorski, Beverly Fleming, Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, , Kate Chaney, Mark DeHoff, Micah Dammeyer, Phil Langley, Ray Morgan, Roger Trageser, Tim Smith, Val Lynch, Vince Ringgold

Commissioner absent: James Womack

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Dianne Samuels, Karen Knotts, Carrie Hoover, Alexis Maple, Paul Parzynski, Lt. Beth Mauk, Jack Boyson, Jacob Holtz, Joe Evans, Don Cosden, Jim Uphoff, Rick Morin, Margaret McGinty, Nanacy Butowski, Marek Toploski, Keith Lockwood, Sarah Widman, Mike Luisi

Members of the public attending: Ken Hastings, Frank Tuma, Eddie Green, John Page Williams, Ed Liccione, Larry Jennings

Motions: No motions were made at this meeting.

Action Items:

- Chairman Bill Goldsborough recommended the establishment of a sub-committee to determine the role of SFAC on the subject of Habitat Degradation and its impact on Fisheries. The sub-committee will advise SFAC about recommendations on this subject. The sub-committee chairman is Jim Gracie and members include Roger Trageser, Micah Dammeyer, Ray Morgan and Phil Langley.
- Look at dates for the 2014 SFAC meetings. If there are any problems, please contact Noreen ASAP.
- Commissioners Roger Trageser and Tim Smith volunteered for the Penalty Workgroup joining Val Lynch and James Womack. This group will meet only once this fall.

Summary of Discussion Items:

Lt Beth Mauk presented the NRP report and introduced Jack Boyson, NRP Reserve Officer, to discuss outreach to the Latin community. He teaches NRP offices critical phrases in order to speak with Spanish speaking individuals. Karen Knotts discussed the bi-lingual signs with the QR code that is directed to the web site with Spanish information.

Bruce Vogt was not able to give his presentation on Invasive Species – Blue and Flathead Catfish - due to the closure of the federal government. Tom O'Connell gave the presentation in his place. Bill Goldsborough noted that Commissioners should go to the SFAC and read the document with recommendations on the subject.

Karen Knotts discussed the Maryland Fishing Challenge, its associated cost in money and staff time, proposed changes for 2013/2014 season and possible inclusion of new invasive species award category. The Commission did not oppose the proposals.

Jim Uphoff gave his presentation on Land Management and its Impact on Fisheries. See Action Items.

Mike Luisi gave an update on the 2013 Commercial Harvest of Atlantic Menhaden.

Tom discussed the upcoming ASMFC annual meeting. Some important topics will include: discussing development of a draft addendum to establish a commercial yellow eel fishery quota, Striped Bass Board meeting to discuss Striped Bass stock assessment and drafting an addendum to reduce harvest. SFAC comments on Striped Bass issue: 1) Dave Sikorski believes it is in the best interest for Maryland and Striped Bass for immediate reaction. 2) Jim Gracie is worried that a rush to judgment may have undo effect on the trophy season and charter industry. 3) Tom O'Connell believes if a reduction is warranted ASMFC will allow the states to determine the method to achieve the required reduction. 4) Ed O'Brien agrees with Jim Gracie regarding the effect of the trophy season and is concerned with Virginia's commercial season February through April.

Mike Luisi gave a presentation on the Striped Bass Stock Assessment Summary.

Tom O'Connell updated the Commission on the PRFC proposed change in sport fishing license fee structure to be more equitable with MD and VA fees for which they have a reciprocal license agreement with. He gave thanks to Roger Trageser for bring the issue to the attention of SFAC and PRFC.

Sarah Widman presented new Regulations and items for Scoping. The Commission did not have any further requests for Scoping. Due in part to a concern by SFAC voiced at the last meeting the commercial Hook & Line fishing on Friday possibility was taken off the table and will not be scoped.

Karen Knotts presented the 2013 Budget Report. There were some questions, but no suggested changes to the budget report or FY14 priorities.

Tom O'Connell announced the SFAC meeting dates for 2014. February 18, 2014 2-5 PM, April 29, 2014 2-5 PM, July 22, 2014 3-6 PM, and October 14 2-5 PM.

Other Business: Ed O'Brien requested that an agenda item be added to the next SFAC meeting to discuss the potential for allowing one trophy sized red drum per boat. There were no objections.

Working Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Presentation on the science of invasive crayfish, and regulation actions being considered by MD and PA - Jay Kilian, MD DNR Resource Assessment Service
- Red Drum – discussion on allowance of one trophy-sized fish per boat, MD DNR Fisheries Service.
- NRP Strategic Plan – overview of plan, NRP.
- Update on Spot Pots - Sarah Widman, MD DNR
- Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Review – Nancy Butowski, MD DNR