



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

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission
October 3, 2013
Tawes State Office building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Billy Rice, Vice Chairman Moochie Gilmer, Robert T. Brown, Dale Dawson, Rachel Dean, Gibby Dean, Bill Goldsborough, Greg Jetton, Charles Manley, John Martin, Bill Sieling, Gail Sindorf, Richard Young

Commissioner absent: Mike Benjamin, Lee Wilson

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Dianne Samuels, Mike Luisi, Lee Karrh, Steve Vilnit, Nancy Butowski, Lynn Fegley, Sarah Widman, Jacob Holtz, Carrie Hoover, Alexis Maple, Paul Parzynski, Rick Morin, Marek Topolski, Josh Hennessey

Members of the public attending: Mike Anderson, Ken Hastings, Victoria Brown, Ed O'Brien

Motions:

- **Request Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission to allow member of Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission an interim seat on the Commission until such time that the legislation can be changed to include a TFAC member on SFAC. Motion by Gibby Dean, Seconded by Bill Sieling. Vote: no opposition, Bill Goldsborough abstained; motion passed.**
- **Nominate Rachel Dean to serve on SFAC as TFAC representative. Motion by Gibby Dean, Seconded by Bill Sieling. Unanimous vote; motion passed.**

Action Items:

- If you have not sent your proxy information to Noreen, please do so. She has received only two as of today.
- Follow up with Lee Karrh and Mike Naylor for Moochie Gilmer to be involved with SAV Clamming Lines.
- If there are any conflicts with the 2014 meeting dates, please contact Noreen ASAP.
- Tom to follow-up with DHMH regarding the DHMH permit to sell oysters in retail stores.
- Provide all presentations in handouts in order to see graphs clearly. The presentations from the October 3rd meeting are now posted on the TFAC web page. Future presentations will be printed out for the meeting.

Summary of Discussion Items:

Chairman Billy Rice thanked the Commission for the 100% response to a letter to the AELR Committee expressing support of the MD DNR 4-day emergency regulation extension request.

NRP Lt. Art Windemuth could not attend. Please see handout for NRP report.

After the SAV presentation by Lee Karrh, there was a discussion regarding the fact that a SFAC sub-committee has been formed to study land management and its effect on fisheries habitat and populations. Bill Goldsborough mentioned that he would welcome TFAC members to join the SFAC sub-committee. Billy Rice and Robert T. Brown will join the sub-committee. In summary, members questioned whether there are opportunities for SAV seeding programs, can TFAC help and is there funding available?

Steve Vilnit updated the Commission on seafood marketing activities.

Richard Young presented the Blue Crab Design Team activity report. The Blue Crab Design Team has met 21 times over the past two and a half years focusing on the long term management of Blue Crabs and looking for a better way for Maryland crabbers to do their job. The pilot program of electronic monitoring has the goal of providing data for DNR to better manage the harvest in a timely manner. The pilot program began with 49 participants and has grown to 131. Electronic harvest works well. They are looking into expanding the program to include all crabbers but that will take some time due to training, etc. There are a lot of decisions to be made but nothing has been decided yet. The Blue Crab Design Team advises the Blue Crab Advisory Committee which then advises TFAC before decisions are made. The Commission did not present any motions on this subject.

Tom discussed the upcoming ASMFC annual meeting which will be held the week of April 27th. Some important topics will include: discussing development of a draft addendum to establish a commercial Yellow Eel fishery quota, The Atlantic Menhaden Board will be examining the by-catch allowance as scheduled. The by-catch allowance will draw increased focus due to the emergency regulations by the Maryland AELR. Striped Bass Board meeting to discuss Striped Bass stock assessment and drafting an addendum to reduce harvest. The Board will review to see if action is necessary. Stock assessment projections have been decreasing for a decade. Most likely, the most aggressive approach will not take place until mid-2014 or a slower approach will take place in January, 2015. The later action may result in a larger decrease in quota. Tom O'Connell believes if a reduction is warranted ASMFC will allow the states to determine the method to achieve the required reduction. Richard Young commented that with the Menhaden season closing without a by-catch allowance would hurt the Blue Crab industry because they would not have any bait.

Mike Luisi gave a presentation on the Striped Bass Stock Assessment Summary. The presentation discussed: fishing mortality, female spawning biomass, outlook for five years and the 2014 quota expectation. Reference points have changed due to change in analysis linked to spawning stock biomass. **Please note that in your handouts the graph and table on page two are represent catches of fish in numbers but the text refers to pounds.**

Nancy Butowski presented the Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan review. TFAC members are asked to provide written comments to Tom O'Connell.

Sarah Widman discussed the study that the regulation Division is doing on Spot Pots. Information will be mailed to TFAC when available. The Penalty Work Group will meet on November 7th and will discuss the possibility of a Dealer Point System. Sarah updated TFAC on Regulations. Moochie Gilmer mentioned that there are some conflicts with proposed aquaculture leases. She will take the information to the Aquaculture Division. Rachel Dean voiced concerns with aquaculture permits: currently every person on-board needs to have a Shellfish Aquaculture Harvesting Permit; this is very difficult and recommends that it should be one permit for the lease owner.

Tom O'Connell announced the SFAC meeting dates for 2014.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Rangia Clam update
- Dealer's Point System – Report from discussions with the Penalty Workgroup. Their meeting is November 7th.