



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
April 29, 2014
Tawes State Office building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Summary of Motions & Actions

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Bill Goldsborough, Vice Chair Dave Sikorski, Todd Russell (for Beverly Fleming), Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, , Kate Chaney, Mark DeHoff, Micah Dammeyer, Phil Langley, Ray Morgan, Roger Trageser, James Wommack, Frank Tuma (for Tim Smith), TFAC representative Rachel Dean

Commissioner Absent and Not Represented: Val Lynch, Vince Ringgold

DNR Staff Attending: Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Don Cosden, Scott Knoche, Karen Knotts, Joe Evans, Lynn Fegley, Jacob Holtz, Nancy Butowski, Lt. Beth Mauk, Gina Hunt, Alan Heft, Matt Sell, Margaret McGinty, Sarah Widman, Kelly Collins, Jay Killian, Rich Norling

Members of the Public Attending: Larry Jennings, Ken Hastings, Ed Liccione, John Page Williams, Howard King, Ed Green

Motions:

- ❖ Motion by Jim Gracie, Seconded by Phil Langley for SFAC to draft recommendation on Charles County Septic Tier Map before public meeting on May 13th. Motion passed unanimously. Update: Please see 4/30/14 email from Noreen Eberly informing the SFAC that Charles County has withdrawn the issue of concern and the May 13th has been cancelled. The SFAC and its members are still encouraged to send letters, but rather than oppose, express their appreciation for their decision. Details are in email.

Action Items:

- ❖ SFAC members are encouraged to voice their opinion regarding the Charles County Septic Tier Map at the public hearing on May 8th. (information sent in previous e-mail) (see note above)
- ❖ Commissioners are urged to send in their comments, and encourage input from the constituents you represent, regarding License Free Fishing Areas (LFFAs) during the regulatory scoping period. Fisheries Service remains open to receive new suggested areas to achieve its vision to have a network of LFFAs across Maryland. Send to Sarah Widman, swidman@dnr.state.md.us.
- ❖ Encourage Commissioners to distribute information to the constituents you represent and encourage them to make public comment on recreational gear regulatory scoping ideas that includes: rod limits, jugging, trotlining, and traps proposal before final proposal. fisheriespubliccomment@dnr.state.md.us.

Requested the Fisheries Service clearly identify the regulatory ideas by tidal and non-tidal waters to facilitate public understanding.

- ❖ MD DNR Fisheries Service will establish a Public Notice Authority Workgroup in response to 2014 legislation that was withdrawn. The workgroup will meet this summer. SFAC representatives on the workgroup will include: Dave Sikorski (tidal), Jim Gracie (non-tidal), Bill Goldsborough (conservation), and request Beverly Fleming or Val Lynch to represent Coastal.
- ❖ S Send comments on the regulatory ideas discussed to address the spread and to mitigate the impact of Invasive Crayfish to Jay Kilian, jkilian@dnr.state.md.us by May 31. Refer to page 32 in the Maryland Fishing Guide <http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/invasive-species/> for more information and to inform your constituents. Fisheries Service will use this input to develop a regulatory idea that will be scoped later this year.
- ❖ Send comments on potential proposal to NOAA to consider Mallows Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary to <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>. Fisheries Service will keep the SFAC apprised of this issue as the process moves forward.
- ❖ Send comments any allocation request changes for Summer Flounder and/or Mackerel to Nancy Butowski nbutowski@dnr.state.md.us by May 30th.
- ❖ Noreen to send SFAC Blue Crab press release and winter dredge survey results and Gunpowder Tournament information.
- ❖ Establish Workgroup to discuss issues and potential rules for managing fishing tournaments in Maryland. Workgroup members will include Micah Dammeyer as Chair, Roger Trageser (tidal bass), Dave Sikorski (estuarine / marine), Jim Gracie (trout), and Vince Ringgold (estuarine / marine) (added per conversation between Vince and Bill G after the SFAC meeting)..
- ❖ Jim Gracie, Bill Goldsborough, Dave Sikorski, Ed O'Brien to work on a SFAC Resolution to honor Dr. Torrey Brown. (Suggested by Ed O'Brien)

Summary of Discussion:

- ❖ Chairman Bill Goldsborough opened the meeting with a note that a few Commissioners were unable to make it to tonight's meeting but several have their proxies representing them so that shows how important it is to have a proxy to voice your opinion.
- ❖ Tom O'Connell noted that there will be no Blue Crab Update tonight since the 2014 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey results are not available yet. As soon as they are, they will be sent to the Commissioners. The Habitat Workgroup had their first meeting, and the passion of the group was evident. Tom noted that habitat was a common ground issue for all interest groups. They will initially meet every month and Margaret McGinty is the DNR lead person for this group. Please note that the Charles County Septic Tier Map public meeting will be held on May 8th.
- ❖ Public Comment – Ken Hastings feels positive about the Fisheries Habitat Workgroup and was glad to see that DNR is encouraging interest groups to participate in the Charles County Septic Tier Map public meeting. He also noted that while DNR does not have regulatory authority over habitat issues like this, it is part of the Smart Growth Sub-cabinet and thus could potentially influence such decisions that way.

- ❖ Lt. Beth Mauk gave the NRP report. Frank Tuma asked whether the value of fish/shellfish is taken into account when determining penalties. This defines something as a misdemeanor or felony. There are items listed in COMAR with values. Ed O'Brien requested an update on Striped Bass cases, and after checking, Lt. Mauk was able to say that one individual has pleaded guilty and the situation involving the other individuals in this case are still pending.
- ❖ Sarah Widman reviewed scoping and regulatory updates. Please note new items not on your handouts include: Menhaden, Crabbing Charters, Striped Bass Ocean ITQ, and Horseshoe Crabs. Chairman Goldsborough mentioned that only two Commissioners have sent in Comments regarding License Free Fishing Areas and reminded commissioners that they need to be conduits for info between the Department and their constituents. Ray Morgan noted that most of the LFFA appear to be on the Eastern Shore, can other areas be added such as Montgomery, Prince George's or Howard County? Tom O'Connell replied that Fisheries Service remains open to consider additional areas throughout the state as it is our vision to have a geographic network of LFFAs throughout the state. . Recreational gear (rod limits, jugging, trotlining, traps) changes are out for public scoping and available on the website. Now is the time to make public comments before final proposal. Encourage your stakeholders to comment. Frank Tuma recommended distinguishing between tidal and non-tidal regulations on scoping document. Ed O'Brien inquired about the status of Spot Pots. Sarah replied the Fisheries Service staff will be conducting some field work in 2014 to collect data which can be used to define a spot pot (e.g. minimum mesh sizes).
- ❖ Gina Hunt discussed legislation pertinent to DNR. The following bills passed: HB154 – adds TFAC member to SFAC (this will be official on July 1, 2014.), SB93 – recreational Incentive Pilot Program for Hunting & Fishing licenses, HB1148 – recreational Striped Bass Fishing Study on Reporting, and HB1174 – recreational Hunting & Fishing Licenses no longer need to list full SS# just the last four digits (this needs to get waiver from Federal Government first, so not effective yet). In addition, a workgroup needs to be formed for Public Notice Authority Clarification to meet this summer. (see action items)
- ❖ Jay Killian gave a presentation on Invasive crayfish. There is a proposed crayfish regulation that bans live crayfish Pennsylvania, and Maryland is considering similar actions. Public comments for this need to be in by May 31, 2014. Scoping in August, Proposed Regulation in September, and Regulation should go into effect in January, 2015. (see action items)
- ❖ Kelly Collins gave a presentation on the Consideration of Mallows Bay being proposed as a National Marine Sanctuary. Recreational and commercial fishing may be allowed however, gear types that disturb habitat may not be allowed. Specific fishery restrictions are developed after the public scoping period. Any cost is covered by federal funding. (see action items)
- ❖ Alan Heft gave a presentation on Brook Trout Management, and Matt Sell presented Brook Trout Research. If anyone has any Brook Trout information they would like to share with Alan or Matt, please contact them by e-mail: aheft@dnr.state.md.us or msell@dnr.state.md.us. (see action items)
- ❖ Nancy Butowski presented the Brook Trout FMP. Please send comments in to Nancy Butowski by May 15th. Allocation request changes for Summer Flounder and / or Mackerel must be submitted to Nancy by May 30th. (see action items)

- ❖ Lynn Fegley mentioned that the Blue Crab winter dredge survey release is being finalized and should be released this week. The RFP for Electronic Reporting is out to find a vendor to build the Electronic Reporting System. It is on the E-Marketplace. It closes May 5th. (see action items)
- ❖ Don Cosden discussed Largemouth Bass fishing on the tidal Potomac. The last two years of surveying is showing the catch per angler hour is down. Harvest control measures may need to be considered based upon 2014 survey results. Hypothesis: decrease in underwater grasses and predation by Blue Catfish. There will be extra surveys done in 2014. Plan includes: continue to monitor tournament catches, fall sample, outreach information to allay peoples fears and we will distribute to SFAC before the public, potential regulation changes in July but would prefer to wait for fall survey before going forward. Don also touched on the Trout Tournament Issue. There is a request for a tournament on Gunpowder River at York Road on May 24th for 14 contestants. (see action items)
- ❖ Other business: Dave Smith who was not able to attend asked that the Commission discuss Striped Bass allocation recognizing it was reviewed during the Striped Bass FMP review in February 2014. With no objections, the Chair asked that Dave be given an opportunity to discuss at the next SFAC meeting.

Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Update on Spot Pots - Sarah Widman, MD DNR
- Discuss Ken Hastings' January letter to DNR on striped bass allocation and DNR's response.
- 365 Day License idea.
- Fisheries Habitat "stamp" idea
- Recreational and Charter marketing plans by Fisheries Service – Update
- Maryland Sportsmen's Foundation, Sportsmen's Marketing Initiative – Update FY 2015 Budget priorities for Fisheries Service consideration

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2014