



*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 14, 2014  
Tawes State Office building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### ***Summary of Motions & Actions***

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Chairman Bill Goldsborough, Ed O'Brien, Jim Gracie, Mark DeHoff, Micah Dammeyer, Phil Langley, Roger Trageser, Shawn Kimbro (for Dave Sikorski), Rachel Dean, Val Lynch, Vince Ringgold, Kate Chaney, Ray Morgan, James Wommack, John Welch (for Beverly Fleming)

**Commissioner Absent and Not Represented:** Tim Smith, and Kate Chaney

**DNR Staff Attending:** Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Don Cosden, Scott Knoche, Karen Knotts, Lynn Fegley, Jacob Holtz, Nancy Butowski, Lt. Beth Mauk, Gina Hunt, Margaret McGinty

**Members of the Public Attending:** Larry Jennings, Greg Schildwachter, Eddie Green, Kenneth Lewis, Ed Liccione

**Motions:** None

#### **Action Items:**

- Fisheries Service will notify SFAC members about public outreach surveys that they conduct pertaining to fisheries management issues.
- SFAC requested that Fisheries Service scope the following regulatory ideas to obtain further public input before deciding whether or not to submit a regulatory proposal: 1) Prohibit the catch and release of striped bass from March 1 to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April; and 2) Require the use of circle hooks when fishing with live bait for striped bass. SFAC members should provide any additional comments on the Croaker and Spot FMP review to Nancy Butowski by October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Lynn Fegley encouraged SFAC members to review the ASMFC & MAFMC Summer Flounder Scoping and Public Information Document:  
<http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file//5420721eScopingDocumentSummerFlounderAmendment.pdf>
- SFAC supports the legislative idea presented by the Chesapeake Bay Commission that would establish a reward for people providing information about individuals illegally transporting and introducing invasive species into another water body that leads to a conviction.

#### **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; Shawn Kimbro is here for Dave Sikorski, John Welch for Beverly Fleming, Tim Smith and Kate Chaney are unable to be present and under New Business Greg Schildwachter will address the Commission.

Lt. Beth Mauk addressed the Commission with an NRP report. Of note: there is an increase in recreational crab citations, this may be due to the NRP's "Don't Get Pinched" efforts, note the one incident of a recreational fisherman being cited for possession of 66 undersized striped bass, and there was a citation for crab pot theft in Northern Anne Arundel County.

Jacob Holtz reviewed regulatory updates and scoping items. See handout. Jacob requests that if Commissioners feel there is a need for more ways to scope the presented regulatory ideas to make him aware. Currently, Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact, e-mail blasts, public meetings are in use for scoping and also online surveys are being used to get public opinion. Mark DeHoff suggested contacting Andy Noble at The Baltimore Sun for placement on the Outdoor Calendar and Chris Dollar as he writes several columns. James Womack suggested contacting Andrew Tawes from Channel 16, WBOC.

Tom O'Connell asked the Commission to consider the following: Should DNR "scope" the closure of Catch & Release of striped bass March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April and should Circle Hooks use be required when fishing live bait for striped bass? The SFAC discussed these issues. The Commission concurred that scoping of these issues is important. (See Action Items)

Nancy Butowski presented the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Review for American eels and croaker/spot. Tom mentioned that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife was petitioned to list eels as threatened or endangered and this determination is to be announced this fall. Croakers and spot will undergo the Traffic Light Approach (TLA) Management in the interim until stock assessment is determined to see if management is necessary. This approach is consistent with ASMFC's roaker and Spot FMP. Spot Pot field study should be available in 2015. Any comments on the Croaker and Spot FMP review should be provided to Nancy Butowski by October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn Fegley advised the Commission that the Coastal Fisheries Advisory Commission has been replaced by the Coastal Fisheries Forum and they will hold meetings twice a year. The first meeting was September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Important topics to note: the upcoming ASMFC draft addendum for striped bass and summer flounder management changes under consideration, including a regional plan. The link to the report is above in the Action Items. Public comment is open until October 31<sup>st</sup>. The next public meeting on summer flounder management will be held on October 21 in Washington, DC.

Tom O'Connell gave an overview of the upcoming ASMFC meeting October 27-30. The two major action items of the meeting are on American eel and striped bass. Discussion points for striped bass: adopting new reference points that exclude a Chesapeake Bay reference point, timeframe to decrease fishing mortality to the target level, and management options to achieve harvest reduction. 1 year = 25% reduction in 2015 that will most likely remain in place for 3 years, 3 year = 17% reduction first year for 3 years, or 3 year tier reduction of 7% for each of three years through quota reductions for commercial and minimum size increase for recreational. Ed Liccione suggested that all interested stakeholders should present a unified request to ASMFC asking what they need to close the data gaps to develop Bay reference points.

Don Cosden discussed the Angler Preference Study and Fall Sample Results for tidal largemouth bass. There is a public meeting with the Potomac River Fisheries Commission in Colonial Beach, VA on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential management options for 2015. Index of abundance is down for the fifth year in a row. Possible changes would include limit of 3-fish creel, increasing minimum size to 15 inches or limit the number of tournaments allowed. There will be a meeting with the Maryland Department of Environment in a few weeks regarding the North Branch of the Potomac River wastewater treatment discharge.

Jim Gracie provided updates of the Habitat Workgroup. They have had four meetings and are considering opening up the group to others that have an interest in the subject. They have developed the following vision statement: Vision: Protect and restore fisheries habitat, using ecosystem-based management and practical understanding of watershed ecology, to educate and engage people and influence decisions and policies, respecting all voices. Proposed Goals: Restore riparian habitat in streams; engage private sector to create viable economic plans that promote clean water; Legislate carbon credits for farming oysters, seaweed and other fishery habitat improvements; and promote the need to study carbon dynamics in the Bay to understand how land use changes and restoration practices are impacting them. SFAC members may encourage people who are passionate about habitat issues to contact Fisheries Service for consideration in becoming a member of the workgroup.

Bevin Buchheister of the Chesapeake Bay Program addressed the SFAC with potential legislation to be submitted in the 2015 session. The bill allows for a reward for turning in violators of the invasive species possession law. The SFAC agreed to support this legislation.

Greg Schildwachter discussed a free app for Smart Phones that was developed to assist anglers in reporting their catch voluntarily. The information is compiled on the Chesapeake Catch website. If you would like more information, please e-mail Greg at [greg@watershedresults.com](mailto:greg@watershedresults.com)

Tom O'Connell discussed the Annual Budget Report to SFAC. Highlights include: License sales have increased, revenue has increased, expenditures for Special Funds are stable for the first time since 2010, and in the Appendix you will find a list of priorities and major accomplishments.

**Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None**

**Meeting Dates for 2015:**

January 27, 2015, April 28, 2015, July 21, 2015, and October 13, 2015

All meetings will be held in Conference Room C-1 from 2:00-5:00 PM except the July meeting which will be held from 3:00-6:00.

If there is a problem with any of these dates please notify us ASAP.