



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

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Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission  
February 20, 2014  
Tawes State Office building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### ***Summary of Motions, Actions and Discussion Items***

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

**Commissioner absent:** Mike Benjamin, Gibby Dean

**DNR staff attending:** Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Mike Luisi, Steve Vilnit, Lynn Fegley, Sarah Widman, Jacob Holtz, Karen Knotts, Sarah Rains, Carrie Kennedy, Gina Hunt, Scott Knoche, Steve Early, Jacob Holtz, Lt. Art Windemuth, Adrienne Divertie, Harry Hornick

**Members of the public attending:** Ken Hastings, Victoria Brown, Aubrey Vincent, Jason Krauch, CJ Canbey, Melissa Boe, Irene Oladeinde, John Van Alstine, Hollis Larene

#### **Motions:**

- ❖ Move to support the MD DNR advancing the ecotourism / charter crabbing regulatory idea as described in Scenario 'B' through the regulatory scoping process. Motion by Moochie Gilmer, Seconded by Bill Sieling. Motion carries unanimously.
- ❖ Move to support the MD DNR to also to scope the regulatory idea to prohibit commercial hook and line licensees from taking paying customers during a commercial hook and line trip. Motion by Greg Jetton, Seconded by Richard Manley. Motion carries unanimously.
- ❖ Move to recommend the MD DNR allow counties to purchase more than the current limit of 60,000 bushels of fresh shell with funds allocated to County Oyster Committees. Motion by Robert T. Brown, Seconded by Moochie Gilmer. Motion carries with one abstention (Bill Goldsborough).

#### **Action Items:**

- ❖ Recommendation for the MD DNR to have further discussions on a regulatory scoping idea that would allow appropriately licensed commercial fishermen that opportunity to take paying customers aboard a commercial fishing trip with the exception of commercial hook and line fishing.
- ❖ The MD DNR will provide a written summary of what is currently and not currently allowed in regards to a commercial licensee taking a paying customer aboard their vessel and circulate to TFAC and NRP.

- ❖ Consider opportunities to inform the TFAC of the public comments MD DNR receives from regulatory proposals.

### **Summary of Discussion Items:**

- ❖ Lt. Art Windemuth gave the NRP report. A new computer system has been installed therefore there were no enforcement statistics available for this meeting. He provided a handout based on notable cases.
- ❖ Tom O'Connell gave a summary of the ASMFC Winter 2014 meeting.
  - Striped Bass Management Board – The May 2014 meeting will focus on a review of Coastal and Chesapeake Bay biological reference points, and development of management options for an Addendum to reduce fishing levels to target levels, if needed. Public comment on any potential management changes will occur during the summer, between May and August.
  - Menhaden – For 2014, daily reporting of pound net fishermen will be required; the directed fishery will close upon achievement of quota; and a 6,000 pound per vessel by-catch limit will be in place after the directed fishery is closed. In May, the ASMFC will be evaluating the performance of each States' 2013 management, including issues pertaining to the bycatch provision.
  - The ASMFC approved its Five Year Strategic Plan which is available at [www.ASMFC.org](http://www.ASMFC.org).
  - American Eel – In May, the ASMFC will be considering development of a draft Addendum to examine fishery management options for yellow and glass eels in response to the 2010 stock assessment which determined eels were depleted.
- ❖ The TFAC discussed the MD DNR regulatory scoping idea pertaining to ecotourism / charter crabbing See first and second motions above.
- ❖ Steve Vilnit updated the Commission on seafood marketing activities.
- ❖ Sarah Widman reviewed Regulatory and Scoping updates.
- ❖ Gina Hunt reviewed Legislation in session. There are several bills that have hearings next week that TFAC might be interested in. They include: HB 913 Maryland Seafood Authenticity and Enforcement Act, HB 1104 Prohibition of Striped Bass ITQ, HB 1148 Study on reporting recreational Striped Bass Fishery, and HB 1155 Oyster dredging north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Kent Narrows Bridge.
- ❖ Mike Luisi provided the following Estuarine and Marine Fisheries Division update:
  - Striped Bass Industry Workgroup – It will be re-designed (away from gear specific) to represent the new management system. Members will be nominated by permit holders and represent five geographical regions around the Bay. There will be two votes per region plus one representative from each of the following: MWA, CBCFA, and TFAC.
  - 2014 Commercial Striped Bass Fishing Update – reviewed performance of new management system to date.
- ❖ Agenda Item Added: Tom O'Connell provided an overview and reasoning behind the MD DNR Fresh Shell policy. See third motion item above.
- ❖ Shawn Seaman, Power Plant Research Program of DNR gave a presentation on Conowingo Dam Relicensing. If anyone would like to be on the e-mail list, contact Bruce Michael at [bmichael@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:bmichael@dnr.state.md.us).

- ❖ Brenda Davis noted that the next meeting of the Blue Crab Industry Workgroup will be on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Richard Young indicated that there were no major updates on the Blue Crab Industry Design Team.
- ❖ There was an announcement that the Habitat Committee will be meeting in late March. Margaret McGinty will staff the Committee and Jim Gracie will Chair.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting on Thursday, May 1 from 2:00-5:00:**

- Rangia Clam update
- Striped Bass Predation on Blue Crabs