



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
May 1, 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, John Martin, Bill Sieling, Gail Sindorf, Richard Young, Aubrey Vincent, and Lee Wilson

Commissioner absent: Mike Benjamin, Charles Richard Manley

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Mike Luisi, Steve Vilnit, Lynn Fegley, Sarah Widman, Jacob Holtz, Karen Knotts, Carrie Kennedy, Gina Hunt, Scott Knoche, Kelly Collins

Members of the public attending: Ken Hastings, Howard King, Rich Norling, Steve Lay

Motions:

- ❖ Motion: To form a workgroup to look at changing the regulations for the commercial Yellow Perch fishery to close by quota rather than date and include potential opening of Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers to commercial fishery. Motion by Robert T. Brown, seconded by Greg Jetton, vote: motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Motion: Offer to give people on LCC waitlist opportunity to obtain male only LCC authorization from the male only LCC that are currently available. Motion by Richard Young, seconded by Rachel Dean, Vote: 11 in favor, one abstained, one opposed. Motion passed.

Action Items:

- ❖ TFAC members to participate in Public Notice Authority Workgroup: Moochie Gilmer (Clams), John Martin (Coastal), Aubrey Vincent (Dealers/Processors), Greg Jetton (Charter Boats), Lee Wilson and Robert T. Brown (Striped Bass, Oyster, Blue Crabs, and other finfish), and Bill Sieling (General).
- ❖ Gina Hunt to follow up with Dale Dawson regarding an issue pertaining to reporting forms.
- ❖ Forward Chesapeake Bay Red Drum FMP to Richard Young.
- ❖ Forward Habitat Workgroup member list to TFAC.

Summary of Discussion Items:

- ❖ Aubrey Vincent was welcomed as a new Commissioner. She resides in Dorchester County and represents the Harvester/Processors.
- ❖ Gina Hunt announced that a follow-up to the last meetings action item: Can a person harvest commercial catch while taking compensation for the trip? Is answered in the handout that is in tab number one of your packet.
- ❖ Steve Lay gave an overview comparison between recreational and commercial Yellow Perch fishing in Maryland. State regulations call for closure of commercial Yellow Perch fishing on March 10. In the past two years, this resulted in catching of 60 and 70% of the total quota. He is proposing a closure of the season when the quota is reached and consideration of opening Choptank and Nanticoke Rivers for commercial Yellow Perch fishing. Mike Luisi said that the end date should be evaluated. There are some fish management tools that can be used to make sure quota is met. (see Motions)
- ❖ NRP – see handout in packet. Lt. Art Windmuth was unable to attend due to NRP activity. There is a report in your packet and also posted on the website.
- ❖ Steve Vilnit updated the Commission on seafood marketing activities.
- ❖ Sarah Widman reviewed Regulatory and Scoping updates. Please not new items not on your handouts include: Menhaden, Crabbing Charters, Striped Bass Ocean ITQ, and Horseshoe Crabs. All Regulations in process and Scoping are on the website: <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp>.
- ❖ Gina Hunt reviewed Legislation in session. 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). Gina also discussed the Commercial Authorization Waitlist. There was discussion regarding the LCC (male only) authorization. (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. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate and request the allowance of compatible commercial harvesting in that area. There may be specific gear restrictions.
- ❖ Brenda Davis discussed the 2014 Winter Dredge Survey. Coastal bays were not included in the survey. It includes Maryland, Virginia and Potomac River portions of Chesapeake Bay. [..\mailings to both\2014 Winter Dredge Survey Rrelease5-1-14.ppt](#)
- ❖ Lynn Fegley updated the Commission on Electronic Reporting. The RFP for Electronic Reporting is out to find a vendor to build the Electronic Reporting System. This is a link to the bid: <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bs0/external/publicBids.sdo> The bid number is MDU1031013748 This closes on May 5th. The start date of the project is July 1st. The Striped Bass fishery is the priority

with other species to follow. By the end of 2015, the system should be completely built and fully available to all fisheries. She also discussed Striped Bass predation on Blue Crabs. Although Stripped Bass eat juvenile Blue Crabs studies do not show a direct correlation between the species. Jim Uphoff is studying to learn the different relationships between species in the Bay.

- ❖ Lynn Fegley responded to a previous TFAC request to discuss striped bass predation interactions with blue crabs. A handout was provided and discussed.
- ❖ Tom O'Connell announced that the Fisheries Habitat Workgroup had their first meeting, and the passion and commitment 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.

Potential agenda Items for Next Meeting on Thursday May 1 from 2:00-5:00:

- Rangia Clam update – response to TFAC request for new fishery consideration
- How a licensee can be assigned to a vessel? – per interest of a TFAC member