



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 16, 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, Rachel Dean, Greg Jetton, John Martin, Bill Sieling, Richard Young, , Gail Sindorf, Bill Goldsborough, Charles and Richard Manley

Commissioners absent: Aubrey Vincent, Dale Dawson, Mike Benjamin, and Lee Wilson

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Noreen Eberly, Mike Luisi, Lynn Fegley, Jacob Holtz, Gina Hunt, Scott Knoche, Nancy Butowski, Rick Morin, Lt. Art Windemuth

Members of the public attending: Ed Liccione

Motions:

- Motion by Richard Young to support 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. The proposed invasive species legislation that was presented by Bevin Buchheister of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Seconded by Bill Sieling. Vote passed unanimously, with no abstentions.
- Motion by Richard Young to support the Blue Crab Design Team's recommendation for DNR to improve recreational crabbing harvest accountability. Seconded by Charles Manley. Vote passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Action Items:

- Tom O'Connell will look into the concern of Richard Young regarding the size of mesh and escape panels for eel traps. The ASMFC regulation will go into affect in 2015.
- Please send any comments to Nancy Butowski regarding the Eel & Croaker/Spot Fishery Management Plans by October 28th.
- Mike Luisi – What would be an appropriate comment to be made during the public comment period regarding summer flounder, specifically what are our thoughts on comment pertaining to allocating recreational quota to commercial quota in Maryland (comments due by October 31)?
- Lynn Fegley will look into conservation equivalency regarding Chesapeake Bay reference points for striped bass. Would an increased size limit for the commercial fishery allow for a lesser decrease in quota?

- Look into requesting of e-mail addresses of commercial watermen when they obtain their new licenses.
- Noreen will e-mail TFAC members the ways to sign up for communication with DNR.
- Mike Naylor will follow up with Moochie Gilmer and Greg Jetton regarding charter boats with out of state divers harvesting oysters.
- Look at the proposed dates for TFAC meetings in 2015 and contact us ASAP if there are any problems.

Summary of Discussion Items:

- Lt. Art Windemuth addressed the Commission with an NRP report. Beginning in 2015, there will be on new on-line system to report citations, Interact System . That will enable NRP officers to pull up specific data immediately.
- 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 Croaker and Spot FMP. Any comments on the Croaker and Spot FMP review should be provided to Nancy Butowski by October 28th.
- Mike Luisi 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 23rd. Important topics to note: the upcoming ASMFC draft addendum for striped bass and summer flounder management changes under consideration, including a regional plan. Also, there is a concern with an increased effort in catch from Chesapeake Bay crabbers crabbing in the Coastal Bays in the spring. Please review the Summer Flounder document that was e-mailed to you with this summary. Public comment is open until October 31st. The next public meeting on summer flounder management will be held on October 21 in Washington, DC. If you have any questions, please call Mike Luisi.
- Mike Luisi gave an update on the e-reporting and haling pilot program. DNR will use the same vendor used in blue crab reporting but will include check stations. Volunteers for the pilot program have been solicited. So far, twenty have volunteered but there is room for 50-70. Robert T. Brown raised the concern of cost recovery for this program. What will the costs be? Mike has plans to discuss this in the future but the pilot program will have no cost to the fishermen.
- 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. Greg Jetton stated preference for tier status of 7% for 3 years and size limits should be equal between commercial and recreational. Robert T. Brown is not in favor of any changes and the individual state should regulate increase in size limits. Bill Goldsborough noted that Chesapeake Bay reference points should be for all Bay users. 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. He has volunteered to draft a statement that Noreen would distribute to TFAC members who would sign as representatives of their respective interest stakeholder group.

- 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, Face book, Twitter, Constant Contact, e-mail blasts, public meetings are in use for scoping and also online surveys are being used to get public opinion. Rachel suggested sending survey to e-mail addresses of commercial license holders. Staff noted that e-mail addresses are not collected from commercial license holders. See Action items. Tom O'Connell commented that the SFAC has requested that DNR "scope" the closure of Catch & Release of striped bass March 1st to 3rd Saturday in April and should off-set Circle Hooks use be required when fishing natural live bait for striped bass.
- 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. See Motions.
- Lynn Fegley discussed the issue of publishing oyster lease coordinates in the oyster closure book. There are tow objectives for this: 1) As a tool to make a case in court and 2) inform harvesters the location of leases so they don't harvest the area. In a survey 54% of lease holder did not want the locations published. This will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Aquaculture Coordinating Council.
- Lynn Fegley discussed the permissible use of county oyster funds. Please see handout in your folder on the TFAC meeting page. For any purchase using state funds, state procurement regulation must be followed and a bidding process must be developed.
- Moochie Gilmer suggests a buffer area between seed planting and oyster wild ground harvesting areas.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None noted.

Meetings for 2015:

January 29, 2015, April 30, 2015, July 16, 2015, and October 15, 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.