

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MEETING OF THE  
TIDAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

HELD AT  
TAWES STATE OFFICE BUILDING

C-1 CONFERENCE ROOM

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

ON

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011

FROM

6:36 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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COMMISSION MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Billy Rice  
Danny Webster  
Steve Gordon  
Bill Goldsborough  
Brian Keehn  
Dale Dawson  
Gail Sindorf  
Larry Sims  
Bill Seiling  
Robert "Moochie" Gilmer  
Mike Benjamin  
Richard Young  
John Motovidlak (proxy for Gibby Dean)  
Robert T. Brown

DNR EMPLOYEES ATTENDING:

Marty Gary  
Lynn Fegley  
Steve Early  
Sarah Widman  
Mike Luisi  
Erik Zlokovitz  
Joe Evans

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. GARY: I just want to let everybody know that Hunt Reporting Company will be providing a verbatim transcript of this mtg and it will be available on the Tidal Fish Advisory Commission website ten working days from tonight.

Are we ready to go? Okay. Welcome Commissioners and Public to the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, and I want to welcome all the Commissioners and Public here tonight, but also a special welcome to five new commissioners that have been appointed for two-year terms, just as everyone else on the Tidal Fish Commission terms are. And I would like to go ahead and introduce them and, if they're amenable to it, have them just say a little bit about themselves, where they're from, what their background is. Just a little; whatever you're comfortable with. And I'm going to start off with Danny Webster from Somerset County. Danny, would you tell us a little bit about yourself?

MR. WEBSTER: You've said it. I'm from Somerset County. I've been on the water for 34 years

now and, for the last 20 years, I've rented a seafood processing plant for the Phillips in Ocean City, and we mostly do soft-shelled crabs down there.

I'm a member of the Maryland Watermen's Association, a member of Somerset County Watermen's Association; I'm treasurer of that.

I don't know, Greg asked me to do this and then I didn't know what this was all about, so I made him come with me tonight so I could be familiar with what was going on. But I see some familiar faces in here that I see at Watermen's meetings and that's good to know and I'm glad to be here.

MR. GARY: Welcome to the Commission and the group speaks very highly of Danny. We're glad to have you aboard and appreciate the long trek up here from Somerset County.

MR. WEBSTER: Yes.

MR. GARY: The next new commissioner we'd like to introduce to the incumbent commissioners is Dale Dawson, from Cordova in Talbot County. Dale and his wife, Theresa, own Tuckahoe Seafood and Dale, tell the Commissioners more about yourself.

MR. DAWSON: I don't know my way around that.

No, I started drift netting with my father at seven years old. I'm 51. Been crabbing since I was 13. My wife and I have taken over her parents' retail seafood business. We've been running it for five years; Tuckahoe Seafood. And she's uptown cooking soft crabs now at the State House for a festival, that's why the walk. And I'm pleased to be asked to be on this Commission.

MR. GARY: And we're happy to have you, Dale. Thank you. Seated just to Dale's left and Lynn Fegley's right is Gail Sindorf, from Queen Anne County and the Kent Island Crab Company.

MS. SINDORF: Kent Island Crab Company.

MR. GARY: Kent Island Crab Company and Gail, can you tell the Commission a little bit about yourself?

MS. SINDORF: Sure. My name is Gail Sindorf. I'm from Kent Island. I have had Kent Island Crab Company, which is in Pasadena, for about 27 years. Like many of you, I got in the business as a youngster and kind of had to stick with it and never got out, and I've grown a fondness for it. So I'm glad to be here. Thanks for having me and I look forward to it.

MR. GARY: Excellent. To my left is Bill Seiling, who anybody's that's been around the Maryland seafood industry has certainly seen Bill at meetings and all different types of functions. He's a fixture in the seafood industry and a lot of experience and knowledge, and we're really glad to have him on board here, though I feel like You've always been a commissioner because You've been at every single meeting.

MR. SEILING: That's right.

MR. GARY: Let the rest of the Commission and the Public know a little bit about you.

MR. SEILING: Well, I finally earned an honest (indiscernible). But seriously, I am very honored to be on the Commission. I have been around the industry all my life. My father was an oyster biologist or a seafood biologist for the State of Maryland for many years, and I actually worked for the Department of Natural Resources for a number of years myself, and with the Department of Agriculture in seafood marketing.

For the last ten years I've been the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood

Industry Association, which is and who represents a wide, diverse group of people that have interest in the Maryland seafood. I do belong to the Maryland Watermen's Association and also to the Chesapeake Bay Commercial Fisherman's Association, and I'm on the Board of Directors of the (indiscernible) and Recovery Partnership. And I am very pleased to be here.

MR. GARY: Excellent. Thank you, Bill. All right. Our fifth and final new appointee to the Commission is no stranger to Maryland seafood, boards and advisory commissions and he's another person that you see commonly at these. He's a very knowledgeable individual from St. Mary's County, he's Robert T. Brown. Robert T., can you introduce yourself to the Public and the Commission.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I've been in the seafood business all my life. I guess I've been into it probably 45 years now. I'm President of the St. Mary's County Board of Association, on the Board of Directors at the MWA. And I'm just glad to be here and hope I can contribute something.

MR. GARY: Excellent. Thank you, Robert T. Appreciate it. And Robert T. was just up here last

week on the commercial striped bass industry workgroup, so he's already giving an awful lot of his time. We appreciate the additional time and You've made the long drive as well.

And I won't waste too much time, but just I know Gail may not be familiar with everybody here, and I will ask the Commissioners to go through the same thing. But Billy Rice from Charles County.

MR. RICE: Yes.

MR. GARY: Steve Gordon, from Gordon Shellfish Company over on the Eastern Shore, on the Coast. Bill Goldsborough from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and one of our board members at the United States Marine Fisheries Commissioner, and probably a hundred other things we could go on.

MR. GORDON: But that's one.

MR. GARY: And liaison. Good point though, Bill. Bill was appointed to the Sport Fish Commission, and so everybody knows, one member of the Sport Fish Commission has a seat on the Tidal Fish Commission. Bill is that designated individual and James Womack is your proxy, correct?

Brian Keehn to Bill's left is President of



the Maryland Charter Boat Association, from Calvert County.

MR. KEEHN: Uh-huh.

MR. GARY: Excellent. And Larry Sims, President of the Maryland Watermen's Association, and he is the incumbent Vice-Chairman. Let's see. Moochie Gilmer for Queen Anne County. Relatively new. I mean he's been for about a year on the Commission? Not quite?

MR. GILMER: Not quite yet.

MR. GARY: Not quite? Richard Young from Baltimore County and Coveside Crabs. And John Motovidlak, John Motovidlak, is proxy for Gibby Dean, who is President -- and I don't want to mess this up again, don't anybody tell him if I do -- Chesapeake Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association of Maryland.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: That's right.

MR. GARY: And Mike Benjamin. I'm sorry, Mike.

MR. BENJAMIN: I've got to remind everybody that I'm here.

MR. GARY: Mike Benjamin from Cecil County. A commercial hook-and-line fisherman. And I've had a

chance to go out with him a couple of times, so I can attest that he's a pretty good one. And your family also owns (indiscernible).

MR. BENJAMIN: Uh-huh.

MR. GARY: Okay. So that concludes everybody's introduction. We have the new commissioners who will be announced, the announcements and welcome and introduction. And I'm going to just go quickly into the announcements.

I passed out for all the commissioners just a short list of some announcements we want to make later this year.

The first one is a big one and I know it weighs heavy on everybody's hearts. J.R. Gross, who was on this Commission for, I don't even remember not having him on, but an all-around waterman that was involved in every aspect of all the different activities that watermen do. Oystering in the winter, gill netting, just about everything. He was a great asset in terms of his knowledge, expertise, and he was very constructive and productive in these meetings and, like all of you, gave freely of his time.

I just can't say enough great things about

J.R. Gross. You know, he passed away a little over a week ago. He had been battling an illness for some time and I don't want to get too emotional and personal about it, but I would profess to know J.R. as well as anybody.

I was lucky enough to make a good decision one night when I was leaving here and I went over to the hospital to visit him. And I only intended to stop by for a few minutes to tell him hi, hey I hope you're doing and feeling better and we're all thinking of you, and I would up being there for three hours. And we had a great conversation and that will never leave me and I was happy I did that. I just wish I'd had more opportunities like that.

J.R. passed away. The funeral service was last Saturday. A few of the people in the room were there. Larry was there. Lynn was there. I was there and some others. And I've got to tell you, and I mentioned this to Larry before the meeting, if you were going to be in the situation that he was in, I only wish I had that kind of support that that guy had. That family, the extended family, the community,

it was all -- I was awestruck by that service.

So it's with some regret that I have to let everybody know that we're going to have a vacancy on this Commission. And I had hoped Bob Evans was going to be here tonight. He told me he was.

VOICE: Yeah. He couldn't make it because his leg was swelled up and so --

MR. GARY: Okay. But I have every intention of passing on the following documents to Bob to provide to Mrs. Gross and it's a commendation from the Governor's Office.

"The Citizens of Maryland offer this memorial tribute to the memory of the life achievements of a beloved Marylander, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of J.R. Gross. This respectful expression of condolence to be presented this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2011."

And if you all would just bow your head for a moment of silence for J.R.'s memory. Know that his good works, everything that we know of him lives on only in our memories, and it's incumbent of us to think of him, remember him, and carry forward as best we can his good intentions. Thank you.

(Moment of silence.)

MR. GARY: All right. With that, just a couple of other announcements. We've had quite a bit of interest from the Sport Fishery Advisory Commission and the Marine Stewardship Council certification process for our commercial striped bass fishery here in Maryland. And Steve Early is our lead staffer who is most familiar in tracking that process, and Steve has agreed to stay a little late tonight to answer any questions you might have.

It's not a formal agenda item, but Moody Marine will be having a public meeting on August the 9<sup>th</sup>, which is a Tuesday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church, which is just a stone's throw from here, right around the corner. And there is a contract, but I'm going to refer to Steve at this point maybe to say a few words about the process and answer any questions you all may have.

MR. EARLY: The Department, through Maryland Environmental Service, has the contract with Moody Marine, who is an agent for the Marine Stewardship Council, to conduct a sustainability evaluation of the Maryland Striped Bass Marine Fishery in five segments

in the Chesapeake Bay hook-and-line, gill net, (indiscernible) net and on the Atlantic fish trawling gill nets.

The agents that conduct the evaluations work with a group of three peers who are considered experts in the three principles, which are basically the species or the stock status, the management and that was the framework for management. In this case, basically the Department of Natural Resources implementing ASMFC, in this case, and the environment.

The process ordinarily takes anywhere from six months to a year, year-and-a-half. There will be a public meeting the evening of August 9<sup>th</sup>, a Tuesday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Calgary United Methodist Church.

In the back to here of the comments, you may as well provide private comments through the process, and all this is the lead for Moody Marine. You all have this contract information. Jay Lugar is Principal directly with the Marine Stewardship Council. You're also welcome to contact Jay. Questions?

MR. GARY: No questions, Steve?

MR. EARLY: No.

MR. GARY: All right. Thank you, Steve. Just a couple other small items. There is a wind energy update in tab six in your binders, and we provided this also to the Sport Fish Commission. And I think the only person from the Coast here is Steve Gordon, and Steve, I'm not sure how much of this concerns you, but I just want to make sure that everybody knows that's interested. I'm inviting any of the associations that may be from the Coast who run into that process is still influx and coming up at a meeting in August there will be some additional information coming out regarding comment periods on some new proposals.

The biggest thing to mention is the area that they're considering wind energy development and the box, for a lack of a better term, has changed. It's gone smaller and there's a second upgrade that goes with the overview that shows you where the current proposed box is. So we're going to keep you aware of that as that progresses.

The first week of August, the first through the fourth in Alexandria will be the Summer meeting

for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and I just wanted you to be aware of that. If you have any questions, certainly Lynn, Bill Goldsborough is one of our Board members, you can talk to them. I just wanted to make sure you knew that was coming up.

And Eric (indiscernible) isn't here, but I wanted to give you a quick update. He is also on the Board of the Sport Fish Commission, but there is a second (indiscernible) update. This is of interest to both Commissions, because it is the old one of four on the Patapsco River that was demolished to clear any impediment for migration for anonymous fish species, and the concrete level is being proposed to be used as substrate for oyster restoration enhancement. And I know Bill would have us ask you (indiscernible), but I think the question in mind is the selection of a priority site. And I think there was a public meeting that was held in Chestertown.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: Yes. That's been the most recent thing. This private was opened to this Commission back in March. I think you all will remember that. I don't mean to go back over it all, but at that time I pointed out three areas.



A (indiscernible) that had come out of the initial screening, using criteria on the substrate from the Bay bottom survey back in the '80's resolved oxygen, spat set and depth. And then what they did was they -- and that's what I presented back in March, but then they were doing the (indiscernible) survey looking at it more precisely and they came up with seven two-acre plots, two of each except three that are in Hickory Pickett that were appropriate sites. And so we held this public meeting in Chestertown and explained all of this and got some more feedback.

Back in March when I presented to you all, the one piece of feedback regarding a site that we heard was from Moochie about the Ferret Point site maybe not being the bottom because there was a lot of activity down there, so that's been part of the decision making process.

And then the feedback was done and Chestertown was also a part of it. We've ended up choosing Swan Point one site above there, which also it meets, met the size span sonar criteria. It turned out to be the best site from the standpoint of substrate. So that's where it is.

MR. GARY: Any comments or feedback from the Commission? I guess the next step, Bill is -- what is the next step?

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: I have a question about that. I was here at that public hearing. Did they ever get

--

MR. GARY: Well, let me -- hold on just for a second, John. Let me just defer to the Commissioners. I'll come to you, all right? Just hold on.

And we don't have a chairman though, we've got a vice-chairman, but Jack Brooks exited. He normally moderates the meeting just so everybody knows.

We continue to have discussion amongst the Commission, public input technically, between the operations (indiscernible) before a vote, after a motion (indiscernible), before and after a discussion and before a vote, and then at the formal comment period at the end. Now, this isn't a formal agenda item, so we'll hit it. We'll go ahead and hit it, but was there any other comment or questions from the Commission?

Okay. I'm sorry, John. Go ahead.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Is all that concrete coming off that, coming out of that dam? Because I understand that some of it come off the Bay Bridge?

MR. GARY: Yes.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Has it been tested for impurities or anything?

MR. GARY: Yeah, it has. It's been used for substrate before in the Severn River.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Well, as of yesterday, Jay Jacobs never got any of that material out. He asked the question and he never got the piece of paper (indiscernible).

MR. GARY: Yes, I sent it to him.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Huh?

MR. GARY: I emailed it to him. Him and (indiscernible) both.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Oh, okay. All right. And the results were?

MR. GARY: The results were no extraneous material.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Okay.

MR. GARY: All right. Any other questions?

Very good. The next item on the agenda and, just so you all know, typically the chairman will moderate this meeting, but we (indiscernible). And so Lynn Fegley and I are sitting at the table. Lynn's the Deputy Director here. She's a senior staff member in Tom O'Connell's absence, so if we get to a high-end policy decision, Lynn has seniority and you must ask her. And I'm sitting in for Tom.

So for this meeting we will prep whoever is elected to take over at the next meeting, in terms of the chairman's role and vice-chairman's role.

So the next item on the agenda is the election of a chairman and a vice-chairman for the Tidal Fish Advisory Commission. This is outlined in the operational guidelines, but in very simplistic terms, the chairman and vice-chairman serve two-year terms. The last two terms expired at the end of June. Jack Brooks was the Chairman. He left the Commission; was rotated off. Larry Sims is the incumbent Vice-Chairman and, per the operational guidelines, not required for the natural consideration for succession to chairmanship is with the vice-chairman. So to refer back to those protocols, Larry, I'll defer to

you. Have you interest in participating as Chairman of this Commission?

MR. SIMS: No, I don't think that I should be Chairman, but if it is your pleasure, I would be willing to serve as vice-chairman or not. It doesn't make any difference. But if it's proper, I'd like to nominate somebody for Chairman at this time. Are you ready for that?

MR. GARY: Yes. Just so we know that you're not that person, so you're going to put your name in if somebody nominates you for vice-chairman?

MR. SIMS: Right.

MR. GARY: All right. So we have a nomination for Chairman?

MR. SIMS: Yeah, I'd like to nominate Billy Rice.

MR. GARY: Just before we go any further with that, what was required to achieve the nomination and bring it to fruition. A nomination, a second, and then simple majority. So we have here tonight, I should have done my math earlier, we have 15 Commissioners here. So if we get a simple majority, so Larry Sims has offered up a nomination for Billy

Rice. Do we have a second?

MR. BROWN: Second.

VOICE: I'll second that.

MR. GARY: I think Robert T. beat you to it, but I really appreciate it. So we have a second to nominate Billy Rice as Chairman of Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, and we'd like to go ahead and take a vote. And what is to happen, Billy, is you would have to abstain from the vote, so it brings us down to 15 members, I believe. Or 13? Thirteen members. So we need seven then?

(Indiscernible discussion.)

MR. GARY: No, because if it doesn't carry a majority, we -- I mean if it's going to carry, it's on its own. Does that make sense to everybody? We'll go to the next person. I'm not trying to -- okay, Billy, don't raise your hand.

Could I see by a show of hands what Commissioners are in favor of electing Billy Rice as Chairman for the next two years, through June 2013, as Chairman of Tidal Fish Advisory Commission. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve. All right. So we have 12 in favor.

Opposed? Abstained? Okay. So the vote is 12 in favor, no opposed, one abstention. Mr. Rice, congratulations. You're the Chairman of the --

MR. RICE: (indiscernible)

MR. GARY: But basically, one of the Chairman's responsibilities is to review the agenda, get items from the Commissioners ahead of time, review those and move those on to me, through our staff, our senior staff for any updates and the rest of the senior staff, and then formulate that agenda. And then at the time of the meeting, the principle job will be sit up with myself, Lynn and Tom and whoever the senior staff member is, and basically run the meeting.

I understand you do a pretty good job at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

MR. RICE: Well, I can run the meeting. I think that should be good.

MR. GARY: Okay. Very good.

MR. RICE: But first, I will tell one quick story. (Indiscernible) but I was vice-chairman of the Potomac Fisheries Commission, that would have been probably in my second year over there, so that would

have been 1995. And Bill Crip was chairman. Well, Bill got a toothache at a meeting and he wouldn't go (indiscernible) get it back out, but this just wasn't a normal meeting. We had us some huge bass and striped bass issues, and I'm telling you right now, if I could make it through this one, I can make it through any of them. I'm here.

MR. GARY: Thank you, Billy. We appreciate your willingness to do that. And with respect to Vice-Chairman Sims' willingness to extend his vice-chairmanship to another two-year term, I would ask any of the Commissioners are you willing to make a nomination to that? And Bill Seiling --

MR. SEILING: I would like to nominate Larry to be Vice-Chairman.

MR. GARY: -- nominates Larry Sims to be continuing for another two years, through June of 2013. And as Vice-Chairman of the Tidal Fish Advisory Commission, do we have a second?

VOICE: I'll second.

MR. GARY: Okay. Can we have a show of hands on the extension of Larry Sims for Vice-Chairman. Thirteen, is that right? Thirteen, no opposed. I'd



say that's it. Thirteen zero goes. Thank you.  
Congratulations, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

MR. SIMS: Thank you.

MR. GARY: All right. I'm finished with the announcements on the election of the chairman and vice-chairman. And Sarah Widman is here; we'll turn it over for a regulatory update.

MS. WIDMAN: Hello and welcome new members and (indiscernible). I work with the (indiscernible) for the Fish and Tidal Fish (indiscernible) workers. I work on all (indiscernible) issues. So (indiscernible).

(Indiscernible). The final schedule, just for (indiscernible) is a regulation made by District Court, (indiscernible). There meeting was in May. (Indiscernible). Most of the changes that they are projecting are just raising the fines for people not having the commercial license (indiscernible), and there was a couple of things that kind of (indiscernible).

(Indiscernible). That is pretty much it. (Indiscernible) a lot of changes (indiscernible). So we don't have to make any suggestions until the first

week of August, so if you guys want to take your time to look at this document and feel free to email me or call me and let me know if you have any concerns or other (indiscernible) that would be good. This is my schedule. (Indiscernible). And we looked at citations that were issued this year that we just (indiscernible).

We came up with this short list of (indiscernible) for the commercial system. It just wasn't clear about (indiscernible). We just want to make sure there was one (indiscernible) and that would be a (indiscernible) penalty. (Indiscernible). Recovery is low, so 50 to 99 percent of your (indiscernible) 180 days, (indiscernible). And then other than that it was just clearing up some citations that had changed numbers and stuff, so there wasn't too much to ask for in our review, but that's what we came up with. (Indiscernible).

So again, it's going to be up on our website. It should be up on our website right now. (Indiscernible) which is everything we're working on (indiscernible). So this is up on our draft page right now. (Indiscernible) comment on it

(indiscernible). That's pretty much (indiscernible).

And the last thing you guys have in your packet is just a follow up (indiscernible) you guys. We had a bill that passed this session that basically (indiscernible) crab authorizations for certain activities. So if you're doing something illegal here, harvesting includes either harvesting (indiscernible) area, violating (indiscernible). So this is what we came up with. (Indiscernible) how to word it, to make sure people were (indiscernible) doing something that was really wrong, or doing the same thing over and over and over again. (Indiscernible).

So this is the (indiscernible). They had it for a week and our team, I think we only had one suggestion on it, like for the (indiscernible) to be reworded or something, and then that (indiscernible) this current Commission (indiscernible)?

MR. GARY: Except Robert T., who had a problem with his email (indiscernible).

MS. WIDMAN: Okay. So this Commission has had it for a week, and then the 4<sup>th</sup> of July once it passed subcommittee that helped pass those, so that

they could review it and you could (indiscernible).  
(Indiscernible) and we didn't have any negative  
comments on it. It went in last Friday and there  
should be a public comment period starting August 12<sup>th</sup>  
through September 12<sup>th</sup>. It's up on our  
(indiscernible). So feel free to send us your  
comments during that public period is the best time to  
make suggestions. (Indiscernible) meantime, feel free  
to email me (indiscernible). Those are your penalty-  
related items (indiscernible). Questions or comments  
on those (indiscernible)?

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'm looking right here on  
the oysters. It says requirement to place shell stock  
into proper containers. Orange fish basket, clam  
crate, standard Maryland tub. This will have to be  
done on the water, prior to leaving the bar.

MS. WIDMAN: Yes. Are you looking, I'm  
sorry. You guys will have the normal rate updating  
here, yes.

MR. BROWN: This is what I'm talking about  
right here.

MS. WIDMAN: Yes.

MR. BROWN: Well, in our area, where a lot of

my hand tonging up there and small skits up in Wicomico. This could cause a little bit of problem. It can be done, but it's going to cause a lot of hassle.

MS. WIDMAN: Okay.

MR. BROWN: Because I know like when I go up there and it's a whole bunch of us, we go up there, we just (indiscernible) out oyster trays in the bottom of the boat.

MS. WIDMAN: Right. Some of the, let me give you guys some background on why we're doing some that way. The FDA, so the Federal group that deals with (indiscernible) issues, had a (indiscernible). They basically give us the requirements that we have to follow, to keep people from being sick from our shellfish. And they have (indiscernible) that we haven't really been following, that we need to start following it or they will come, basically the FDA with threaten to shut us down if you don't comply.

So we're starting with oysters and we're going to follow through with clams, so the tagging stuff that you guys are going to do with the container stuff is all based on the requirements that we have to

follow, the FDA requirements from the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

So I can bring it up with our shellfish folks to consider it, but --

MR. BROWN: The problem I have with it is doing it at the bar. But if you do it where you land your oysters, I don't have no problem with it at all.

MS. WIDMAN: I'll bring it up with them and see if there's a way we can keep that or (indiscernible).

MR. BROWN: But that does make it hard on a man if he's out there working doing it at the oyster bar, because a lot of people cull their oysters right into the bottom of the boat.

MS. WIDMAN: Right.

MR. BROWN: And they shovel them in, you know, when they get out. It should be done at the top is what my opinion.

MS. WIDMAN: Okay. Well, I will (indiscernible) back up with them and let them know that that specific requirement came from some people that (indiscernible). So there may be a (indiscernible).

MR. WEBSTER: When we had the Health Department inspect the oyster bar down in our area in Somerset County, and he told me that they were going to go with the bag instead of the basket or the crate. I went to that meeting. They never said anything about doing the bags. Because it was almost impossible to do that by yourself.

MS. WIDMAN: There's three options I think for the containers. One of them is just this orange (indiscernible) basket that we have. The other one is the metal basket (indiscernible). Anyway, so the two normal baskets people are using, and then the third option maybe we could talk about, if you want to use a different container, you can show us the container and get special approval to use it. So if someone wants to use the bag or something, they could come to us and we could do the (indiscernible).

MR. WEBSTER: The Health Department told him that's what was going to happen.

MS. WIDMAN: The Health Department helped us write these, so I'm not sure what you're talking about.

MR. WEBSTER: Well, that's what I said. I

don't know. I told him I didn't know where he got it or she got that from -- it was a woman who did that -- because we never said a thing about bags. It was too difficult to do.

MS. WIDMAN: Well, I haven't heard anything about it.

MR. WEBSTER: Well that's good. I wanted to clear that up.

MS. WIDMAN: Yeah. No, it's definitely pretty clear the three options that are raised.

MR. GILMER: Yeah, and she never mentioned it that night at the public scoping meeting, you know, because that's when we talked about it.

MS. WIDMAN: Right. Right.

MR. GARY: Billy Rice.

MR. RICE: (indiscernible) oyster bar (indiscernible), so people could change it to be worded before being unloaded from the boat, or as being unloaded. You've got to get people to approve (indiscernible), because this (indiscernible) and they don't have the room (indiscernible).

MS. WIDMAN: Right. I'm hearing you guys. I mean I'll call back (indiscernible) but it may not



(indiscernible).

MR. GARY: All right. Any other questions for Sarah?

MR. YOUNG: On the clams declaration, I got a letter yesterday and it said that this thing was going to be effective on in July.

MS. WIDMAN: It was effective on  
(indiscernible).

MR. YOUNG: Okay. But this thing here says it's going to be effective on 10/17.

MS. WIDMAN: So some of those regs, I think it might say it in here, we put in that emergencies (indiscernible) the proposed regs and emergencies, when we get emergencies, it can only be effective for about six months. If you don't put a permanent proposed package in, then they'll just disappear and they'll revert back to what it was before. So a lot of times we'll put it in like a matching emergency account, so emergency, a legislative committee gets to vote on it. If they vote on it, which they did this week, and approve it, it goes into effect immediately, while the proposed go through the normal process and it will take over when it gets established.

MR. YOUNG: Well, just what is the emergency on the (indiscernible)?

MS. WIDMAN: So the emergency is the exact, the same. It's just asking people to (indiscernible)

--

MR. YOUNG: I understand, but what was the actual emergency where you had to do this and use it?

MS. WIDMAN: Well, we were trying to get it so that when we scoped it, people wanted the declarations carried to be during the renewal period (indiscernible), which is basically now. So in order to get that done in time, we had to do it by emergency. Otherwise they wouldn't have been able to declare (indiscernible).

MR. YOUNG: There are a lot of guys are like, you know, I'm not saying a lot, because I'm not sure a lot of guys harvest clams. But it's just one more of our authorizations that we actually have to declare for.

MS. WIDMAN: No, and I understand.

MR. YOUNG: And you know I mean we have a tidal fish license, I own a tidal fish license and it used to be you got that license and you could do all

this stuff. And you didn't have to declare, you could just, if you had to change, if you felt you had to change a fishery, you could change a fishery like that. (Snaps fingers.)

MS. WIDMAN: The problem with the shellfish, not to interrupt you, is the same as the oysters. It's all part of that Federal shellfish stuff, and we're happy to move the clams, we haven't done anything that in the past or like we're having to starting to move them into the light of what the FDA is requiring us to do.

MR. YOUNG: I understand that it's for like the white clams. But the the razors, the majority of the use of razors is for bait.

MS. WIDMAN: Yeah, I know.

MR. YOUNG: It doesn't have to be under the FDA regulations.

MS. WIDMAN: I understand that. We are, I know our shellfish staff is considering those differences and trying to figure out what to do. But for now, they just need to know who is harvesting them in general to get a feel for what needs to happen. So I know it's complicated, but it's the only way we can

know, because otherwise, you know we have a couple thousand people who could harvest clams, but we don't know who does it and, you know, how much their harvesting or where they're harvesting at or anything like that.

MR. YOUNG: I'm just afraid the bait harvesters are just going to get regulated into the point where the crabbers, the end user, is not going to be able to afford the bait.

MS. WIDMAN: Right.

MR. YOUNG: You know? It's hard now.

MS. WIDMAN: I hear you. And we're considering having more meetings and we'll plan for this (indiscernible).

MR. YOUNG: Yeah, well, okay.

MR. GILMER: We had talked about this at the meeting, and really, from the clamming standpoint, we actually didn't think it was a bad idea, because we wanted to make sure that our bars got notified for being used, and so that we can determine that to know that (indiscernible). So we agreed to determine, you know --

MS. WIDMAN: And this is a protected

(indiscernible).

MR. GILMER: Right, to protect our waters.

MR. YOUNG: To keep them from leasing them to private oyster men or harvesters.

MR. GILMER: Or whatever.

MR. YOUNG: Yes, whatever. Okay.

MS. WIDMAN: Other questions on regs, Mookie? Like I said, feel free to email me whatever questions.

MR. GARY: All right. Thank you, Sarah. Appreciate it. All right. We're pretty much right on time. Before we go to the next item, there is an addition to the agenda we had mentioned a little bit earlier.

When we get to the (indiscernible) for marine update, Mike Luisi will be providing the Commission with an update on the current status of the commercial striped bass hook-and-line fisheries, so you'll be able to address that tonight.

NRP report. Nick Powell is on vacation and Kelly Johnson, as the SFAC's liaison had assured me we'd have NRP here and I don't see them. So we have a handout from your agenda that's also here under tab three, so you can take a moment or two to look at it.

If anybody has any questions, it doesn't appear we'll have the answer here tonight, but I can take it back and ask that Kelly would follow up with you. And I don't know if you've looked at it yet. I was sent out previously. Is everybody okay with the (indiscernible) that's in the report? Okey Dokey.

MR. YOUNG: Marty, every year at this time of year when I question Nick about the lack of enforcement in Baltimore and Anne Arundel County. Lack of citations on the recreational side. Probably no recreational crabbers working in, I say working, but crabbing in Baltimore and Anne Arundel County than are anywhere else in the state, and yet we don't see any enforcements.

I haven't seen an NRP officer in Bear Creek in a month and a half. And I'm not saying that they're not there but, in the mornings when they're out there early starting, and they're doing it every day just like they have in the past, there's never any enforcement. And I wish they were here. I would like to say it to them.

You know, what I've seen here, I've seen in Anne Arundel County a waterman was apprehended for

crabbing at 1:45 in the morning, okay? Well, there's a citation issued to a waterman. You've got a citation for a trot line violation, which is a dispute between two watermen, and You've got one citation for possession of female crabs there, and there's the recreational citation.

In Baltimore County several citations were issued for undersize and possession of female crabs. It doesn't say how many, you know? Was it two? Three? I don't see any, a lack of -- I see a lack of enforcement. I see it.

MR. GARY: For the record --

MR. YOUNG: Well, really for the commercial side also. And I mean it's not an enforcement thing, but it's a lack of presence. There's you know I mean usually by this time of year I've seen an officer four or five times. I've seen him once, and that was the second, the first day I pulled pots the second day I was out and (indiscernible), and they came within 50 feet of me and waved to me from their cabin in their nice warm boat, and you know that was it.

MR. GARY: So Rich, would you like me to go ahead and make Nick aware of this and have him respond

back to you?

MR. YOUNG: Sure. Yes. That's good.

MR. GARY: All right. And at least to provide their side of (indiscernible).

MR. YOUNG: Yeah, I'd just like to see some, I'd like to see a presence. And it's probably the same issue that we're seeing all over, but how can these all these regulations, we keep getting this regulation and that regulation and that regulation, but there's no enforcement.

MR. GARY: Okay. So I will bring that to his attention and again, (indiscernible) if we're going to do that, and provide your side of your explanation of whether (indiscernible). All right. Anything else on the NRP report that, given Nick's absence, I could pass on to him?

All right. Seafood marketing update. This is an item that we hope now to have as a regular fixture. It will come under Tidal Fish Advisory Commission agendas. I think most of you are aware by now that the bill introduced into the General Assembly moved the seafood marketing program from the Department of Agriculture over to DNR. And I think



across the board the response has been positive. Everybody is excited about what can be done and what thing will be done to make things better market wise, and you know I can answer any of your questions.

I had hoped to have Steve Gordon here tonight. Norene Epperling (phonetic) is on medication, but she'll be the person who will be coming, I guess. Bill and some others who are familiar with the Seafood Marketing Commission, (indiscernible), and I think most of the people in the room do it.

So now we've got the best of both worlds. We have Norene's expertise and her significant contacts after more than two decades of work in seafood marketing, coupled with if anybody knows Steve Gordon, a virtual fireball of a guy will be back from J.J. McDonald. We're really lucky. The guy, and I always joke about him, he's like my Jack Russell terrier, I get tired of just watching him, but he's a great asset. He picked up for us and those of you who have seen some of the things he's done early on, in literally less than a year at DNR it's been pretty impressive.

So I think we're in a really exciting position to do some great things with Maryland seafood products, and we will report out each month to you.

Now, Steve did put together a little handout. I don't know if You've seen it or not, it's in one of the tabs. But it's a quick synopsis; it's under tab four. But if there's anything I can pass back on to Steve and Norene before we meet again, because the next meeting won't be until September, I'm happy to hear it now. Bill?

MR. SEILING: Yeah. I was just in Crisfield this week and (indiscernible). I apologize. But the soft crab industry is under really intense pressure from imported crabs, and you know the major crab shedders and people from the (indiscernible) but really are feeling the pinch. I mean they're just getting harder and harder to sell our own soft crabs.

So I mean we can't stop the imports. We know that. We've tried that before and it didn't work. But I hope at least to make people aware that they are a different kind of species of crabs. They're not the same crab and they don't taste quite the same. Obviously, we think ours are better. And

we just need to do a little more awareness, I think with chefs and the servers (indiscernible). Not all crabs are the same and our own crabs are good to go and excellent (indiscernible).

The price is very reasonable right now, but it's something that they're going to get priced out of the market because the imports are just, you know, swamping us.

MR. WEBSTER: Yeah, imports are cheap (indiscernible). It's all about the money. It's nothing about quality at all. Nothing.

MR. GARY: And Bill and Danny, so these are soft crabs that are frozen?

MR. WEBSTER: Fresh or frozen. Now, these from Indonesia, they're frozen. They've got to be.

MR. SEILING: They all come in frozen.

VOICE: Well, they look similar if you hold them side by side, you'll (indiscernible).

MR. SEILING: If you look at them side by side, you can see the difference.

MR. WEBSTER: Oh, yeah, they look like some of them got mumps.

MR. SEILING: Yeah, if you go to the market

or seafood center, you'll be walking around looking at the different importers and you'll see that there's a variety of different kinds of crabs that are being imported. But they do look similar, but they are different. There's definitely a difference in their appearance and I think they're definitely different in taste.

MR. GARY: Yeah, and that imported product is making its way into both the retail outlets, the grocery stores and the restaurants. It's beginning --

MR. WEBSTER: I lost some major customers because of those imports up in Boston (indiscernible). He got, he says he can make twice as much money and get all the product he needs, and he just can't get the Chesapeake Bay products (indiscernible). We're never going to have a -- I would say this year we're down as far as the number of crabs we've usually seen, but the prices are higher.

I was quoted yesterday jumbos in New York for \$38.00, so that's more than it's ever been that I remember. Almost \$15.00 more than they were last year at this time for them so, and that's due to the scarcity of the Maryland crab I would suppose.

MR. SEILING: In the latest issue of *National Fisherman* there's an article about (indiscernible). In the course of the articles they interviewed him and he said he used to be a really big soft crab producer and he got out of it. He said I just can't compete with the imports.

MR. WEBSTER: Uh-huh. You can't, no.

MR. SEILING: He said that he just got out of it. So you know when you're seeing a producer like that who just throws in the towel, so to speak, I mean that's telling you the competition is really terrific. And I know we can't stop the competition, but we can certainly make people aware that there's better products available to us.

MR. WEBSTER: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MR. GARY: I'll wrap, I'll bring this to Steve and Noreen, both of their attentions. I've neglected to say Steve became a dad. His first baby was born a couple of days ago, so he's got all that energy (indiscernible). But anyway, I will return that to his attention and we'll see if we can get some conversations going on there.

One other thing I was going to say before we

move on to Commissioner Brown's requested agenda item is that We've started something internally here in the DNR and we're hoping to get it throughout the Department's (indiscernible) fisheries first and then expanding, and then we hope to be able to take this -- it's something that Secretary Griffin, who was the secretary over at Agriculture to bring down to the Governor's office to really spread this. It's getting off on a really good start when Tom and Larry got early on.

There's -- well for instance, you all have tonight. We changed our protocol which has been in place for two decades, as far as I can tell, where we were just going to get cold cuts or whatever to feed everybody, to vending out to the caterers with exclusively locally produced produce and other food. So the crabmeat and rockfish today are all Maryland. The vegetables, everything sourced here in Maryland. You know, reduce the (indiscernible). We appreciate the carbon footprint and all, but less energy to keep our products here, feed our people food products produced by our people.

So it's going over really well and it's

getting a good head of steam. And I was told by a good friend of mine who has a meat-packing plant up in Baltimore, who is raising Black Angus products that he's selling as a Maryland product for beef, that down at the Governor's mansion they're buying at Costco, you know? And so we're going to hopefully get that package down there and get our seafood and our beef and all of our local products moved into that position, so it will be a good thing.

Our next agenda item is requested by Mr. Brown, and Robert T., I hope I captured somewhat accurately what you were referring to. Obviously, it's a request to modify net requirements for cownosed rays and there is a lot more to that, so --

MR. BROWN: Well, I've got a lease problem in St. Patrick's Creek and I've got some other bottom for that (indiscernible) in St. Clement's Bay, and at times we have problems with a large number of cownosed rays in that area. And while I've got a (indiscernible) and you know aquaculture coming on and, if it develops, you're going to have problems with this predator. And if you see them on your ground on a Saturday or a Sunday, you need to get them

off then. You can't wait till Monday. If you see them on a Saturday, then you can't wait until Monday. A big bunch of them can do a lot of destruction in a short period of time.

There is a little bit of market for some of them. Also like in some of those creeks that we're in, it's very narrow. I got that one piece of ground on there and you're only allowed to go about a third of the way across the place by law to catch fish. Well, when you go down to the boat, you can see the skates. They will just move off the shallow right out in the deep.

So I mean You've got to be able to go right far enough to get them in these creeks and stuff when they're in there. But most of them is for the river. I had a little problem with them there the first part of the year. They came right to the mouth of the creek. I had just planted 2,000 bushel of seed oyster on my ground, and they were probably a quarter of a mile from them but they didn't come all the way up into the creek. But I was looking for them.

I had seen them in there and I had been keeping an eye out looking for them. I haven't seen



them but, when I see them, I'm going to catch them and get them off of it right away. And I don't care if it's on the weekend they're there, I've got to get them off or anybody in the business has to get them off.

I don't care if we have to call the marine police and say look, I've got cow-nosed rays on this piece of ground. I'm going to be getting these predators off of it. This is what I'm going to be doing. I'm going to do it now.

But we need some type of leeway in there. So when you see the problem, You've got to address it then. You can't let them feed for two days then they might be gone.

MR. YOUNG: And so might yours.

MR. BROWN: Well you know they going too, you know? It's for aquiculture to come on and leasing You've got to be able to protect your investment and that's what this is.

MR. GARY: In the current regulations what about the amount of gear you have? That's (indiscernible).

MR. BROWN: Well, no. Most of the place

You've got enough gear, but the problem is you're only allowed to go -- like when you get in a small creek and you're only allowed to go a third of the way across it for fish, that's the way the law reads. Well, if you don't go two-thirds away across these small creeks to get out and all the deep-water equipment, when you go there it rubs more shore to go out to the deep water.

Either that or You've got to sit there and You've got to wait for them two or three hours for them to come back. And if they come back right then, if they're full, they just might just linger around out in the middle for a while. But You've got to catch the predator when he's there.

MR. GARY: And question. What, do you have a market for them? What do you do with them, after You've caught them?

MR. BROWN: Bevans Oyster Company told me that he has a market for them. What we'll have to do is throw them in the vats and stick them in the freezer. It's not very profitable, but it's profitable just from the sense of you're not losing your profits and your investment.

MR. GARY: (indiscernible).

MS. WIDMAN: Yeah, you know what I'd like to do is go back. We had a meeting down at Virginia's Center of Marine Science about a year ago to talk exactly about this issue. And one of the things that fired this off was because there was a petition sent to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissioner to tread carefully on the exploitation of this animal, because they're, they are a slow-growing, delayed-maturing critter.

So you know there's sort of this real interesting dynamic happening where we've got groups of people who specialize and care and want to conserve this type of animal who are watching. But the point is that basically what this problem is a big one. It's a problem for everybody. It's a problem for Virginia and they have been working in Virginia on coming up with some techniques for protecting the grounds.

So what I'd like to do is follow back up with those guys and maybe get you some information, and maybe follow back up with you and talk a little bit more specifically about what, you know, what

exactly you want to do here next.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, okay. And another thing that hasn't been addressed and it's something if the market develops a little bit more for the skates, and if it's not that profitable to do it, the razor clammers -- I'll give you one example. Right where they're in the Patuxent now. When they go right down there, when they drop the rig overboard and they start the rig up and they start boring for clams, you can see them coming by herds and just going right there and eating all the clams up.

Years ago, when you had a load of soft shelled clams, you didn't have hardly any razor clams. They were all soft shelled clams, the white clams, and you had a load of oysters you didn't pay that much attention to the predator. But now everything really hurts.

MR. GILMER: They're devastating.

MR. WEBSTER: They're devastating the oyster bars and the clam bars.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: Yeah, I want to comment about the meeting that they was talking about. It was last year and we were part of that too, and the main

outcome of that meeting was for (indiscernible) to do a study that some of us are involved in on exclusion techniques. Not just fencing in, but also bubble curtains and like strobe lights and sound. Different things like that. I'm not sure what all of them are, but and I think You've just been funded by NOAA to do that. And it worried me about with the public outreach part to try and get the word out about the findings.

MS. WIDMAN: Good. What's the time limit on that, do you know?

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: It would be next Spring when they do it, you know the next wave when they come in next time. They come in the Bay in the Spring.

MS. WIDMAN: In the Spring?

MR. SEILING: Does anybody know if there's any truth to the story that I've heard that one of the reasons we have so many rays now is because the shark population is down and the sharks were one of their primary predators. (Indiscernible) predators on the population they reduced the (indiscernible).

MR. BROWN: That's the most widely-held theory. I mean nobody can prove it.

MR. WEBSTER: Their only natural predator is the shark, and the shark population is down, and so now in the ray population (indiscernible).

MR. GILMER: It's no problem to have three or four hundred around the boat clamming a day. It's definitely an equalized (indiscernible). When you leave a place they devastate it.

MR. WEBSTER: Moochie, you say they're coming on the clam boat? They're coming up the hydraulic (indiscernible)?

MR. GILMER: Not the last three or four days, but I can go up around the boat and it's two or three hundred of them. They'll actually block the head up. When they get in a feeding frenzy, they'll actually block the head up, and you have to lift the head up or you can't catch no clams. They'll just block it up (indiscernible). It's unbelievable.

MR. GARY: All right. So we're going to provide a follow-up to (indiscernible). Our next agenda item is an estuary and marine update, and Mike Luisi will handle that for us.

MR. LUISI: Good evening everybody. Before I get into the item on the agenda, You've already

mentioned it, but I wanted to give you guys a quick update on the hook-and-line fishery, the striped bass hook-and-line fishery.

I'll give you just a little bit of background. The striped bass workgroup, which we are members on the workgroup on this Commission, the striped bass workgroup months ago discussed the ways in which we were, we, the Department, were going to handle the management of the monitoring of the quota in any given month.

The way that it's set up, each month from June through November receives a certain proportion of the overall hook-and-line quota, and we do the best we can to manage each monthly quota to as close as we can, without exceeding it. You know, if any, if there is a quota that is exceeded within any month, it's deducted from the following month and so forth and so forth.

So we've decided or the workgroup recommended, and we all agreed at the table, that the Department would evaluate the quota on a monthly basis around the middle of each month, to determine if any action was necessary.

June was fine. The June catch was kind of slow and just progressed through the month. The June quota actually did not get caught all of it. A couple of thousand pounds remaining, but that's kind of the way that we'd like to see it.

July started up and about half-way through the month we realized, based on the daily catch limits that we were seeing, that the quota was, the July quota would be taken about the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of the month. So we met with the workgroup on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and we discussed, you know, options and things we were going to do. And based on the previous discussion that we would evaluate mid-way and then make a decision based on what the harvest was, in relation to the quota, we decided to reduce the weekly limits from 1500 pounds to 500 pounds.

We thought that taking that drastic step would slow the catch down and not, that the remainder of the July quota would allow the fisheries to carry itself through the rest of the month until we begin August.

After a week of evaluating that management decision that we made, it's apparent that it did



nothing to slow the harvest down. From what I'm hearing, what Matt Lawrence who you guys all know, who manages our permit program, there's just an enormous amount of effort out there. There are a lot of fish. People that aren't typically out there are finding themselves fishing.

The steps that we took were to reduce the catch rate. And with all the extra effort, all the effort that's being placed, we didn't really do anything to monitor or to reduce or eliminate the effort. So with all this effort, the catch is still happening and it's still at the same rate that it was a week ago. And what we found ourselves is we're in the position now where the July quota has been exceeded, and we're actually started to chew into the August quota.

Now, you know, we made it. We did what we could to try to slow it down and it didn't work. If we were to stop it now and, if we were to put a public notice out tomorrow, we wouldn't be able to stop the fishery from operating until about Tuesday. Tuesday would be the last day next week. Thursday of next week is the last day for the month.

So I've spoken with Matt and Lynn and I, and we got together and we've kind of reviewed the situation. So what we're looking at right now, we are almost 30,000 pounds into August's quota, which means that the remaining August quota is about 55,000 pounds at this point.

Based on the catch rate that we're seeing every day of this week and the previous weeks, we're looking at getting right around 60,000 pounds, which would exceed the August quota before August starts. Okay, so that's the situation that we're in.

We've heard from a number of people. Matt's been getting a lot of phone calls and with the request that we leave the fishery open at least through this month, and then we'll have to do something, you know, based on what's the situation that we're in.

So what we intend to do, and I wanted to bring this to your attention tonight, and if you have any thoughts or questions about it, our intention at this point would be to allow the fishery to remain open for the month of July, at the current rate of 500 pounds per week per license, per permit holder.

We would essentially close the fishery on

after the 28<sup>th</sup>, which is next Thursday, and we would not reopen until September 1<sup>st</sup>, which is a Thursday. So the entire month of August we close the quota, and there is no quota in August and all we have left is September, October, November. We're proposing to close the month of August and reopen on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and begin fishing into the September, October, November quotas.

So that's what We've intended to put forward and we wanted to get some feedback from you guys.

MR. RICE: My question would be, historically, do you catch the quota in September, October and November?

MR. LUISI: Yes.

MR. DAWSON: October and November definitely.

MR. LUISI: August and September are the slowest of the months, and that's the most familiar with the (indiscernible). I think that's the general feeling.

MR. DAWSON: Well, I always found that the time to catch the fish was when the fish were there and the market's good. And I'd be reluctant to hold back a whole lot and wait for fish that might come

along, when we're passing up the one that you got.  
That's just my thought.

MR. WEBSTER: It's the same problem with the same (indiscernible). And if they've got a quota, I was asked especially in a lot of meetings, if you get a quota for a monthly catch of 200,000 pounds, and you get a weekly catch of 1,500 pounds, you catch that in one day (indiscernible). That's the question that a lot of people are asking me on the rockfish thing. And we're talking about hook-and-line, it's just the same. I've got (indiscernible). You know, if they could do that.

MR. LUISI: They can do that. The way that it works right now is there's five, well, prior to the change it was a 500 pounds a day, 1,500 pounds a week. But we changed it to just 500 for the week and there's four days open, so you can catch it all in one day. (Indiscernible) was based on a conversation that we had with him with the hook-and-liners. The State is saying you know that's a real good days' work, you know, if you can catch 500 pounds of fish.

MR. WEBSTER: Right. Sure. You can catch it all in one day and be done for a week.

MR. LUISI: Right. And that's the way it is now, and our thought was that, by reducing it to 500 pounds a week and leaving it at that for these last couple of weeks of the month, that people would go out and catch. They would probably catch their weekly limit in the first couple of days, and then we wouldn't see any more fish being caught the rest of the week. Well, that's not the case. It's continuing. Every day it's continuing to actually get larger and larger and larger, as far as what's being caught. So there are also --

MR. WEBSTER: Is that because --

MR. LUISI: I'm sorry.

MR. WEBSTER: Is that because of the increase in the number of people fishing?

MR. LUISI: That's -- yes.

MR. WEBSTER: I mean if you had 1,500 quota a week, and you reduced it to 500 and consistent, it's the same consistent number of fisherman, naturally it has to be a reduced number.

MR. LUISI: Well, that was what, that didn't happen. Well, there's been an increase in the number of people. The effort has changed. See we shut the,

we lowered the limits, but there's been more people doing it, so it didn't have the same results that we intended it to.

MR. KEEHN: Richard, it's also a result of losing that 150,000 pounds to pound netters.

MR. YOUNG: Yeah, I was just going to ask about that. That was the last meeting we talked about that and then that happened.

MR. KEEHN: Yeah.

MR. YOUNG: Why did that happen? I don't understand.

MR. KEEHN: Well, I mean the quota is lower. What is it to 80,000?

MR. LUISI: There was 150,000 pounds transferred from the hook-and-liners to the pounders.

MR. KEEHN: Yeah, and so the quota, that number came down. The monthly quota. We had 80 -- what is it normally a month? We had 80 because of the rollover from June. But normally, it would be more than that, but we took out 150,000 pounds. So the quota is lower. The effort is higher and boom, this is where we are.

MR. YOUNG: But if you reduced it from 1,500

to 500, and you had the same number of fishermen, it would reduce by 1,000 per fisherman, okay?

MR. LUISI: Right.

MR. YOUNG: But if the quota is 500, that means for every fisherman two more came in.

MR. LUISI: Yeah. That's right.

(Indiscernible discussion.)

MR. GARY: Wait. Hold on Mike one second. Just so we can get this. The main concern is making sure the court reporter gets everything and it's all on the record properly. So just if you can, just raise your hand and let's rotate around. Mike. Mike then Larry.

MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah, I want to answer his --

MR. GARY: Mike, Larry and John.

MR. BENJAMIN: I'm out there every day and a couple of weeks ago I had (indiscernible) out there every day, and you're telling me that two-thirds more people are out there fishing? No, I mean but that's what it comes up to. If we cut it by two-thirds, right?

MR. LUISI: Well, right, as far as talking about the numbers. Not everybody catches 500 fish.

MR. BENJAMIN: No. No, yeah. No, but there's more people. There has to be a lot more effort out there than what there was last week, according to your numbers.

MR. LUISI: Based on what we saw for the Wednesday catch --

MR. BENJAMIN: There are not.

MR. LUISI: -- there would probably be more people fishing.

MR. BENJAMIN: There's less people. Am I right or not?

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Well, can I say something? It doesn't seem like there's any more people than what's been out there.

MR. LUISI: All right.

VOICE: John, he's right.

MR. GARY: All right. Did Mike answer your question? Mike Benjamin, did he answer your question?

MR. YOUNG: Yeah. According to your numbers --

MR. LUISI: We don't have the, we don't know who has been out there, so we don't have the information. I don't know. We'll know in a couple of



weeks the people who were harvesting and we can tell you if there were actually more people. But in theory, what we did should have -- so if we had the same number of people, they would have caught their weekly limit within a day or two of the week and they'd have been done, but that is not what we're seeing and being reported.

That's not what the reports are showing. It's continuing. There's continued harvests at these high levels, 10, 12, 13,000 pounds a day on the Bay, and it indicates that more people, I mean and that more people must be involved, in order to catch that many fish and to continue fishing. You told me you had a day and a half this week and you're done.

MR. BENJAMIN: I'm done, yeah.

MR. LUISI: And there are a lot of other guys who had a day and a half and were done. That's what we, that was what the intention was. But because Wednesday's catch was what it was and, from what we've heard going around the Bay, and Matt's been on the phone all day, what was out there today, it's it didn't stop. People are, more people are getting off the, coming out from who knows where they're coming

from? But there are 800 people that have hook-and-line permits.

MR. BENJAMIN: Oh, I understand.

MR. LUISI: And though typically we only have a few hundred who are really active, well if it goes up by 100 or 200 people, you're looking at a lot more pounds.

MR. GARY: All right. Larry?

MR. SIMS: You know, what's happening with the hook-and-line fishing is the exact same thing that happened to us in the commercial (indiscernible) did. You have so many fish and you cut the quota down, you catch your quota and you go call Tom and Dick and Harry to come help you fill your quota up, and so you've given your quota away, just like the gill netters did last winter. We gave, we farmed out quota out to people that wasn't even fishermen. We'd call them, tell them to come take our fish, because we had (indiscernible).

But what you all have done is saying look, we're catching fish here. (Indiscernible) and come out here and catch fish, so You've increased the number of people fishing twice as much, three times as

much as what it was. You've kept the same number but see, everybody is trying to beat the system, okay? So we all got my number, now I'm going to go get Joe Blow or the man with tattoos on him. Then we'll go get another Joe Blow and catch his number and, consequently, you increase the effort.

The same thing happened to us with gill net fishery.

VOICE: Exactly.

MR. SIMS: We've ruined our fishing. Last year we had a total of what, 13 days or 15 days or something for the whole season? We had all these people that wouldn't ordinarily wouldn't be fishing come out there and got a quota.

MR. BENJAMIN: And you're doing the same thing and so I don't know how much what you can do about it this season, but you need to be looking at them for another season of how to regulate it. If not, you're going to wind up with a real short blend of season and nobody's going to do that (indiscernible).

MR. SIMS: We're doing the same thing again next year. If we don't do something about that

problem

we're out of the gill net season, where you can't fish for about ten days. You can't hold a crew that way.

MR. LUISI: Well, I think it's an indication, too, that just the way that the overall way that we would be managing this is something that's -- no, I wouldn't say broken, but it's just not working smoothly and well and we need to address that.

MR. SIMS: It'll work. It'll work and when you didn't have as many fish, but we've just left so many fish and they seem to be active. And even in the gill net fishery, they all want the pleasure to go out there and just set one box net and catch three limits. And you're doing the same thing with hook-and-line. The fish are so thick and are biting so good that there's (indiscernible).

VOICE: That's true, but I do know what Larry is talking about.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Also what's going on is a lot of the crab potters have pulled the pots up and painting them. And they're not making any money, so they're going fishing in the evenings and catching their fill. Same thing the crab potters is not

crabbing, then the (indiscernible) set claims to them, so that the claim was going to be able to fish.

And I mean a lot of the boys home are trot lining for three bushel crabs. They'll go in the morning, catch the three bushel of crabs, leave out of there at noontime, and fish until five o'clock and catch (indiscernible) fish.

And I believe (indiscernible) is inefficient. They're down at the gas stop fishing. They're there at number four, they're up in the Eastern Bay. I understand they're catching them up off the Bay, off Rock Hall. It's a lot of fish around and it's a slow time on the Bay right now and that's what's going on. That's why the quota is being made.

MR. GARY: Richard?

MR. YOUNG: Yeah. In Kent Island I see that happening there too, where it's a lot of people fishing in the evening that are catching, you know going to get extra fish.

MR. GARY: Well, Mike, you're not, you're really just providing the current (indiscernible)? You're not looking for a specific --

MR. LUISI: No. It's our responsibility also

to preserve the length of the season to the best we can. That was something that we try to do. So yeah. What I'm saying is August is going to be done by next week. The August quota will be exhausted, given that it stays the same and it, you know, the catch rates are the same with all these people fishing. And we're going to intend, we intend to put out a public notice that closes it at the end of August, and reopens the fishery on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

MR. GARY: Do I have a comment here?

MR. KEEHN: I was just going to say, Mike, I mean it sounds like that's probably the best course right now. We don't have any choice. But I'm hoping that this isn't a precedent because, you know, especially like Johnny said, it just happened and it's a confluence of events.

And he's right. You know crabs get slow, fishing's good, you know, but I'd hate to see August go by the wayside, because that's kind of you know a lot of people use hook-and-line for insurance policies, you know, when stuff gets slow. And obviously it worked.

But I hate to see guys lose August. You

know I mean they're going to be, you know, say they couldn't go this month or they had, you know, other markets to fill. Well, now they can't go in August. I mean I understand it caught us by surprise, but I'm hoping that we can kind of get ahead of it for September, October and especially November.

MR. LUISI: I've been involved, well and you know we're also faced with when we could have closed the fishery at the beginning of this week, but you know it was argued that the fish are here, let's give these, let these guys have an opportunity. This is the first time in my maybe 10 or 12 years I've been dealing with this on the management of this that it's ever that I've known that the next month is already getting caught.

MR. KEEHN: What we did two years ago down July, remember that, Johnny?

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Yeah, we were shut down.

MR. KEEHN: Yeah, it was shut down. And the other thing that worries me is that, you know, if you keep it open, then you run the risk of crashing your market like it did with the gill net towards the end of the gill net, and that's no good for anybody,

especially with fuel prices being the way they are.

MR. LUISI: Like one of the things that I think we're going to consider for the startup in September is looking at the catch rates, the daily limits, the weekly limits. Maybe using that as a better tool to keep things a little slower.

MR. KEEHN: Yeah, but the only problem is --

MR. LUISI: You can't come down too much on it because of the fuel prices. It's not worth (indiscernible).

MR. KEEHN: Yeah, because of the fuel prices. The only problem, yeah, once it's not worth going.

MR. LUISI: You know there's a fine line and we're trying to balance it the best we can.

MR. GARY: Johnny, Mike, and then Robert T.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: I think you're going to find in August that there's not going to be as many fish caught. When if it stays dry and hot like this you get the bluefish are going to come up here. And in the past years the bluefish have been here by now, and when you're (indiscernible) spot and those bluefish are eating them up as fast as you can put them in the water, people give up. And I think if it stays dry



and hot, these bluefish are going to move up and, in August, you're not going to catch -- you're not going to have people out there fishing. I know I'm not going to waste my time to go out there and pay a dollar a piece for spot and feed them to the bluefish.

So I mean in my opinion is what you're going to do, it sounds like a good idea and just skip August. But even September is a big bluefish month, so you may, they may not catch many rockfish in September.

MR. LUISI: And if there is any quota left, it'll roll into October.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Right. Yeah. I think it's a good idea.

MR. GARY: Mike?

MR. BENJAMIN: Look, we're all talking about closing in August and I said, you know, there's a lot of people out here that actually, I'm one of the few people that actually do this for a living. I don't want to lose the whole month of August, but I, you know, I can see where we'd want to get the quota also.

Why don't we go in this thing cautiously?  
Why don't we just do like every other week 500 pounds?

Five hundred pounds and we can catch them all in one day. And as soon as it starts slowing down and getting under control, you can push it back up to four days a week.

Why don't we take a conservative approach, but still leave a little bit of the market open, 500 pounds a day, 500 pounds a week, and you can catch them all in one day? It also keeps the price good instead of flooding the market, and that gets you a better handle on exactly what's happened.

So you know we'll close the first week of August. The second week of August we'll open back up, 500 pounds per license. You've got just like we did this last week. And then, if you see it, you know you can shut her down the next week. Let's go every other week and throw some quota back in.

MR. LUISI: We don't have the authority to do things that quickly and that's one of the problems too.

MR. BENJAMIN: Well, you can plan it out. You know what you're going to do, you could do it.

MR. LUISI: No, I'm afraid that --

MR. BENJAMIN: Well just shutting down all of

August it hurts everybody. It hurts the seafood dealers, it hurts the hook-and-line guys. It just, you know --

MR. LUISI: Maybe we can consider a short window of some opening you know midway through the month, to allow for a couple of days of fishing. That's something we can take into consideration. But I don't think two weeks --

MR. BENJAMIN: Well, the bluefish are going to be here. He's running bluefish. In two weeks the bluefish are going to be here and this is going to die anyway. Then we're done til, you know, October.

MR. LUISI: I appreciate it.

MR. GARY: All right. Robert T. Go ahead.

MR. BROWN: Mike, didn't we permit the hook-and-liners to start fishing five days a week this year?

MR. LUISI: No, that it's just four days still.

MR. BROWN: Still didn't pass it? It's just four days?

MR. LUISI: Uh-huh.

MR. BROWN: Okay. Because I was saying you

know well maybe you may have to keep them fishing. Maybe you can say they can only fish two days a week.

MR. LUISI: Well, that's the effort control. That stops it from two days, but we wanted to give people the flexibility to pick the days, based on whether --

MR. BROWN: Well, that's fine when you got plenty of quota, but when you're running out of quota then you have to, You've been off fishing two or three days, you know a couple of days a week then shutting it down.

MR. LUISI: Okay. Well, the next time we're faced with this, I think that's probably going to come into play a little bit more than this last time.

MR. GARY: Okay. And now Brian and, unless there's anything compelling, would you like to wrap up?

MR. KEEHN: Yeah. I'm just, I'm with Johnny. I'm thinking that your plan that you had said, Mike, just leave it. It's going to be caught, I mean you haven't tallied today's up, and there was a high effort today out there. I'd say let her run until the end of the month. I mean it's, you got to, you're

going to be hook-and-lining on Monday anyways, so you got today to tally up and Monday. And by that time there ain't going to be much left of August anyways. And it'll probably be so small you wouldn't be you know even if you opened it, you'd by the time you closed it, you'd be cutting into September. I guarantee it. Don't you think, Johnny?

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Right.

MR. BROWN: So you might as well just let it run and keep her closed to the month of August. Don't you think, Larry?

MR. SIMS: Yeah. Yeah, I do think that's the only thing you can do under the circumstances. I hate to see it closed --

MR. BROWN: So do I, but --

MR. SIMS: -- for a month, because you're getting them off the market, but I don't see no alternative in this situation.

MR. KEEHN: I think we went the other route and closed it, you've got to give Monday by law. And then by the time it opened back up, you know, you'd cut into, I know you'd cut into the -- the way fishing's been, you'd cut into September by the first

week of August. And I don't want to see that happen.

MR. BROWN: Yeah. Right.

MR. GARY: All right. I have everything I need.

MR. LUISI: All right. The next item that I'm going to be discussing with you is a summary of the last meeting of the striped bass industry workgroup.

And you have, just so you'll know, there are some slight changes to this, some revisions to this, as to what you have in your binders. They're just when you're looking down, something might be a little different from what I'm saying. (Indiscernible).

But the striped bass industry workgroup met on July 13<sup>th</sup>, and the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the core principles that we manage under, identifying areas of concern and problems that the striped bass industry is facing in its gill net fishery, as well as its summer (indiscernible).

And so what I'm going to do is go through this presentation with you guys tonight. Feel free to ask questions or try to get my attention. Can everyone see this okay without the lights on?

Okay. I just mentioned briefly that, you know, the Department's core fishery management principles are sustainability, harvest accountability, enforceability, and cost recovery. And so what I'm going to do is step through each of these with you guys.

The first one I'm going to identify areas of concern that the Department, in coordination with the Natural Resources have identified. And then I'm going to propose to you some of the options that we feel would go a long way in addressing these concerns.

When we get to the options, you know, I want you guys to be thinking about providing us some thought, some problems we might find if we do move forward with a particular option. But I'm also looking for you guys to maybe present some other alternative that we can consider as we move forward with this.

Okay. Going through each of the management principles one by one, the first is sustainability. This is a good one because current targets indicate that the stock is healthy and sustainable, with spawning stock sufficient, mortality rates are where

they need to be.

However though, if we don't address the concerns regarding harvest accountability, enforceability, and cost recovery, we could find ourselves in a position where we no longer are feeling good about sustainability. So keep that in the back of your mind as we get through this.

MR. GARY: Hey Mike.

MR. LUISI: Yes.

MR. GARY: We've got a question. And just to be sure, Larry has a question on that. Is your preference to go through it and come back? Or do you feel comfortable answering him?

MR. LUISI: Well, you know I don't want to get too sidetracked, so that everyone can kind of see the full picture, but I'll take a question. That's fine.

MR. SIMS: Well, my problem is, and you know you got it all through everything here. Cost recovery (indiscernible) just popped up here, we don't need that on any other fisheries. And I don't know why that we're picking out (indiscernible) fishery to get a cost recovery on it.



And quite frankly, some of the figures you're including a lot of things in there that you already (indiscernible). So I don't think well, just to use a for instance, I don't want to pick on them either, but they were something of a problem too. But if you separated the charter boat people out and said, you've got to have cost recovery of us managing this fishery, ain't no way that that fee that they pay for their charter boat license would cover that. And it shouldn't. It shouldn't have to, no more than we should have to cover the cost of policing and everything else that's going on in fishery.

Recreational fishery. I doubt if you cover that either. With as many people and as many licenses you got, if you really go out there and police the way you're supposed to, you don't recover that either. So I'm having a problem with you singling out the commercial fisherman for cost recovery, and I'd like to see you get rid of that issue right there, because that ain't going to fly. And I don't see how you can ever expect it to be done that way. It's not done at any other fishery, and I don't think we should be trying to do that.

There's not enough money in either one of these fishers, whether it's commercial hook-and-line, the charter boat fisher or the commercial. And I doubt if it's enough in the recreational to cover the cost of managing the biology of it, the policing of it, and everything that goes in it, all your secretary work and all the other stuff that You've got in that number that you put up there. I don't think that that can be done and I'd like for you to do away with that cost recovery, because I just don't think it's possible and I don't think it's feasible and shouldn't even be.

MR. LUISI: And we'll get to a little more of the detail, Larry. You haven't seen his presentation before, so absolutely you're going to have to, but we'll get back into that in just a few minutes.

Let's start with some of the problems associated with harvest accountability and enforceability. Given the situation from last February, the illegal anchored gill nets that were found, the Department made a commitment to looking at the accountability and the enforceability of the commercial striped bass fishery. And staff and

fishery service worked very closely over the last few months with Natural Resources Police, to identify areas of concern and problems, some of which are the use of illegal anchored gill nets.

There is not only are individual fishermen without you know not being playing by the rules or you know not being as accountable as they can be for what they're catching, but the check stations have shown some signs of being involved in this too. I'll give you an example of that in just a second.

There is the under reporting, falsifying of reports. It appears that that's happening. There's illegal misuse of tags. We've talked about a lot of these things around the workgroup and around the Commission table for years.

One of the things that became known more recently, though, was this calling of the check stations and not having actual physical Id of the fish.

If you guys remember back to last February, when we reopened the gill net fishery after it was closed for a couple weeks, and there were a couple of days, I think two or three days that it opened at the

end of the month, but we had Fishery staff and Natural Resource police officers present at the ten, maybe the ten most active check stations during that time.

And they were there from the moment that the doors opened in the morning, to when they closed in the evening. And everybody who came by, whether it be by boat or by truck, the license numbers and information about what they were harvesting was written down by the officers and by our staff. And what we claim to find weeks later when we were receiving the reports from the check stations, was that there were a lot of people on those lists that never came through. They were on the list and had reported that day for gill netting, but they were never physically inspected or seen coming to the check stations.

And that's a problem. That's the checks and balances of the system that we have, and it was something that we feel we need to address.

Cost recovery. This is, you know, Larry just spoke on this for a second and let me quickly go over just a few of the numbers. You know, the estimates that we made coming into this discussion

that we had with the workgroup last week.

But if you look at striped bass permit holders only, that's all that's grouped into this revenue stream here. You take all the striped bass permit holders and you add up their license fees that they pay for whatever kind of license that they have, the TFL, fish and hook-and-line license, okay? You look at all of the permit fees they pay in order to have a striped bass permit, you're looking at a revenue of about \$450,000.00 we'll say. So that's what the Department is getting in from the industry.

The management enforcement costs is more than half of that. And you're looking at a little over \$1 million is what it costs for both biological monitoring, so that we can assess the stock, the permit monitoring costs, including with that are the tags and other staff and other people that are dealing with permit monitoring.

Enforcement estimated that they, on an annual basis, probably spend about a half a million dollars enforcing and working towards the striped bass commercial industry, enforcing the rules, of being at

check stations. That's mostly staff and other time that they spend the resources.

There was also some other miscellaneous management costs that we don't need to get into. But by looking, when you look at this, there's a lot of money going out that isn't being recovered.

And you know, Larry, I understand the concern about this and what I can say is that we're going to take a real hard look at what all, where all the money is coming in and where it's all going out. We've identified this as an area of concern. It's a problem. I can't say whether or not in the immediate real picture we're going to have any answers to what we can do here, but I think this is something that the recreational industry showed much concern.

We met, the Sport Fish Commission met on Tuesday night and saw the same presentation and had a lot of concerns about this, because they're wondering where are the differences coming from? You know, is it moneys that they're taxed for when they're purchasing licenses or when they're buying tackle and so forth?

So you know we're going to get down to the

bottom of this. It's going to take a little time. We're going to go back in time and see what's happening here, and we fully intend to work with the industry through the striped bass workgroup, to identifying ways, potential ways of trying to reduce this delta here. Reduce the difference between what's coming in and what's going out.

MR. SIMS: Yeah. The thought that I have here (indiscernible) They've already been paid. You can't throw a halt on that. You can't say because of the formation of (indiscernible) that that's costing that much more money. It's actually paying them overtime, that's what the overtime is. They are already there. Their staff is already there. They're already being paid. You can't double up and say okay, because they're not there doing their job that they're being paid to do and supposed to do, that it's costing you that much more money.

Now, if you have to pay more money for overtime and that, then that's a cost associated with the fishermen. But your numbers don't reflect that. Your number's reflecting the total cost of operating your whole budget of marine police and buying all the

stuff and everything else. And that's what I have a problem with.

And the other thing is you know I know how these numbers work when the government say there's numbers out there. These numbers get inflated because you throw every secretary and everything else in there that has to pull out of that pool. But they're already getting paid. It ain't like you going out here and saying okay, this is costing extra money. They're already in the budget and they're getting paid for what they're supposed to be doing. So you're double dipping is what I'm trying to say.

MR. LUISI: I understand what you're saying and I certainly agree. You know, enforcement is a very tricky, difficult thing to try to quantify, because they are on the water. They are in their cars. They're, it's happening and We've already discussed this and realized that, you know, this enforcement cost is something that's going to be very difficult to quantify.

Now, what came up in the meeting the other night kind of as a sidebar afterwards, you know, if you were to take enforcement out of the mix, the



difference obviously comes down and gets a lot closer. So we're going to have to think pretty long and hard about how we're going to try to quantify.

And then you make a point; the point you make about overtime. You know, that's a different way of looking at it rather than the amount of money that the guys are getting paid when they're out there. But I do want to say that Fisheries supports NRP by providing them funds so that they can operate under their overall operating budgets. And you know we just need to look at and understand how much we're giving them and what those moneys are being used for so --

Is there any -- I think Lynn had something.

MS. FEGLEY: Yeah, I just want to make a point that, you know, there are a lot of costs that are very specific to the striped bass fishery. We spend somewhere about \$200,000.00 annually just on tags.

As we step through this presentation, there's additional accountability measures we potentially want to put in place that are going to cost more still that are specific to the striped bass fishery. The cost of tags, you know, there is some

money that's coming from our grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The sport fish restoration funds that wind up getting used to fund striped bass tags.

And I would just put it out there that it would behoove the industry to think seriously about covering some costs, because the sooner you have funding sources that are coming from sport fish restoration funds and sport fish licensing, you know, it's a huge point of contention.

So I would just encourage -- and there are many fisheries that do require cost recovery, and it's an important the commercial fishery means to support themselves. So I would just put that out there; you probably want to beef it up a little.

MR. GARY: Mike, this is the last agenda item. Since you're giving a lot of attention over this, a lot of people are going to jump in, I wanted to throw it to you to answer the questions. But if you want to wait, you want to address them on the fly, or continue, it's your call. But I know had his hand up for a second, but I'll let, it's your call.

MR. LUISI: Yeah, I'm looking at the time

too, so I'll make sure we get this, get what needs to be done. Go ahead, Bill, question?

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: I just wanted to say I think cost is an important criteria that the government pay attention to. I mean we all talk about government needing to be efficient. Like if we had a fishery that cost over \$10.00 for every dollar we bring to the dock, we'd all say that makes more sense. But it may not be one look, you know?

I don't know what it might even be. But so I'm not sure I'd call it cost recovery one to one, you know, but I think it's important to be as efficient as you can, to just have support for your fishery. I mean like Lynn says, it behooves people in the fishery to try and make that happen.

But I do want to agree with Larry that, whatever it is you come up with ought to be applied across the board to all fisheries. I mean I thought of that when I first saw this presentation last week. That you know well, I haven't seen the other ones, so I really think it should be. So I'd just leave it at that.

MR. LUISI: Okay. Thanks, Bill. Moving

along here. So what we did, you know, we spent the last few minutes kind of identifying some of the problem areas, areas of concern regarding harvest accountability, enforceability, and cost recovery.

Now what I'm going to do is walk you guys through specific options that we've come up with that we feel would go a long way in addressing these concerns.

I'm going to go through, if you guys can just kind of hang tight for a few minutes and let me get through all the options that we have, we can certainly go back and talk about them at length.

And right at the end, I will give you guys a time line on the implementation of some of these things and, at the same time, get some feedback and other thoughts that you might have.

So let's start walking through these. Again, these are all things that we feel should go a long way in addressing some of the concerns, with the first being the illegal use of anchored gill nets. And we're proposing to require a fishermen's license number identification on all of the net corks, whether it was the net be on the vessel or deployed. All of

the net corks would need to have the license identification number on them.

The second would be to eliminate the net reel use on boats engaging in the gill net fishery, only in the Chesapeake Bay . And Natural Resources police recommended this because of the problems and the concerns that they have when a net is on a school. They can only see the first few feet of it, unless it's unless they pull the whole net through to see what the mesh sizes are. And the other thing, the components of the net within the school.

So I'm not, I don't think this is, I don't think a lot of people use that reel even during gill net season, but it's been noted that there are people out there doing it and our hope would be to eliminate that for just in the Chesapeake Bay though.

We're going to work with NRP. This is we're trying to plan through this, but we're going to work with NRP to give them a more quick way of using technology to identify a fisherman based on the tags that he has with him.

You know, he could pull up and he could look at one tag on one of the fish, and let this serial

number can be punched into a smart phone, let's say. And that officer will know, he will be able to compare the name and to the license holder, the person who's fishing, just to potentially reduce the illegal transfer of tags.

Sarah spoke on this earlier, but increased penalties are creating higher consequences for falsifying reports. Any of the known, knowingly repeat and repeat offenses, these are all in the works. So you know these will also hopefully deter and impose stricter penalties to people who aren't able to comply with the rules.

This hail-in and hail-out system got us a lot more of the attention of the striped bass workgroup, and I'll spend a second to quickly explain what this is. This would be something that would be completely new to Maryland, but it is not a new technique. It's known worldwide that this type of system exists.

And essentially, what it means is that before a fisherman leaves the dock on any given day, he or she would have to supply the Department with that information. It's as simple of that. The day

that they're planning to leave, possibly the time that they're leaving. Where in what general area might they be fishing and what gear are they going to intend to use.

The return on that was that, prior to coming back to the landing area, another call of some kind, another transfer of that information from the fishermen to the Department would be required. So you'd basically be looking at the time of landing, where you might be landing, whether it be at your dock or another commercial dock. What check station you intend to use, and then the estimated pounds or numbers of fish that you have on board.

And what this does is it allows our officers a realtime, it gives them the realtime knowledge to know where the activity is taking place, and where the best places gives them the best opportunity to intercept or be in an area where there's a high volume of fish being taken on any given day, so that they can enforce the rules that we have set forth.

Okay. Before we move on, one of the things that was brought up in the workgroup session was the concern regarding communication between fishermen and

the shore, if they're in a remote area of the Bay. And that we're going to have to think long and hard about how people in areas where cell phones don't receive any, get any coverage, if we're going to be able to do this type of thing.

In addition to what we see there, we're working with NRP at determining a process to have random check station audits. And really what this random check station audit would be, was it would be a very small, it would be a small version of that saturation control that we did at the end of the gill net season last year. They may be on one or two possibly random check stations where an officer or someone from the Department would be present to collect the information on the people coming in, so that you can do, you know, compare it with what is being reported from the check stations. So we're working with NRP on that.

MR. SIMS: Before you get too far, I want to (indiscernible) that we had in rock fishing. A couple things I want to point out. We talked to you about identification on the net pulls, and the way that reads up there, every pull from the net would have to



be identified. (Indiscernible) at least a portion of the pull would have to be identified.

(Indiscernible) because you got a hundred (indiscernible) in a box net, you got six boxes a net, and (indiscernible) ain't got none (indiscernible) he's going to give somebody a ticket and he's liable to lose his license for it. So we need to have a percentage of it (indiscernible) in a box of nets. (Indiscernible).

MR. LUISI: Okay.

MR. SIMS: (indiscernible) the other thing you're talking about the net reels. And are you talking about just in the rockfish fishery or are you talking about all the fisheries? Because we got some gill netters, they use net reels and I don't think we should be knocking them out of business on account of rockfish.

MR. LUISI: No, and I agree. You know, that was something that we thought about. And we didn't put the details in it at this point, but I think, and I think we're leaning in the direction at this point. You know, it was meant to enforce the striped bass fishery, given concerns that they're having during

that time.

So I guess I could say, and you know Lynn may say something else tomorrow, but I would say that we would be moving to have this happen just for the gill net fishery, and so we don't impact the fishermen in the summer that might use it for other fishing. I'm sorry I didn't mention that. That was a point we talked about a lot just in that group.

MR. GARY: Let Mike talk.

MR. BENJAMIN: The net reels, I don't know why that's up there. I just honestly don't. I haven't gill netted or anything else, but I know a couple of guys that do and they made the \$10,000.00 investment on the gill net reel. Look, the man with the net reel is not doing illegal nets. I mean he can't even get the thing off his boat if it's illegal. It's bolted to the boat.

I mean if I was going to do something illegal, I would not put an illegal net on the net reel in my boat that takes two hours, you know, to get it off there. What they need to talk about is using the net reel.

Let me tell you, I don't know a whole bunch

about it but don't they certify nets in certain fisheries? Can't they get the guy that had a net reel, can't they get his net certified, and then let him use that gear? That's a lot of money them people put out for that net reel; it's \$10,000.00. And the reason they do it is because then they don't have to operate a lot of people on the boat.

MR. SIMS: And the gear and the net were similar to the net reel (indiscernible).

MR. BENJAMIN: The gear and the net especially to this have reels and that eliminates that enforcement problem. I don't see where the net reel is really the enforcement problem. I think it's brought up there (indiscernible).

MR. SIMS: Yeah, it is.

MR. BENJAMIN: That makes some of them look like net reels.

MR. LUISI: Okay. You guys just bear with me. Okay. Is it okay to move on and go to some of the --

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: I got --

MR. LUISI: Oh, that's right. John's got one.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Now, you want us to put the TFL numbers down on the (indiscernible). Well, how about people that's fishing float line and lead line? Where are they going to put their number (indiscernible)?

MR. LUISI: Good question.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: And if you remember, a lot of these with the net found up Choptank River was lead line and float lining. And as far as the net reels, you know, I don't have any problem with them. There's only one person that I knew that used the net reel doing the striped bass season, and I don't think there was a problem there.

MR. LUISI: Okay.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: I know they had a problem about three weeks ago with one of the net reelers had rockfish on the boat with hook-and-line tags on it. There was no law saying that he couldn't go hook-and-lining with the net reel on the boat.

Now, if it may be that we're going to deny any hook-and-lining or any rock fishing whatsoever during the summer months, that's an option we can look at, if that was the problem. And the DNR officer that

was here told us that that's what happened and I know the person that it happened to. He was never charged with anything. It might be an option to say okay, if you're spot fishing or (indiscernible) fishing you're not allowed to hook-and-line, have hook-and-line tags on the boat. If you want to go hook-and-lining, you'll have to go on another boat. So that's an option there.

MR. LUISI: Okay. Again the answer, I don't know what hook (indiscernible) are allowed. This is all the purpose of doing this is so that we can consider these things and --

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: (indiscernible) a half inch in diameter (indiscernible), there's no where to put a number.

MR. LUISI: We need the Sharpies that have the real tiny little points.

Okay. Management uncertainty is something that we talked about for quite a while at the workgroup. And what management uncertainty means is that, you know, we're looking at as the managers, based on the problems that have been identified and areas of concern that we have regarding enforceability

and of the harvest accountability, and now the harvest that's being taken.

I would say that we are less certain than we were prior to -- I'm just learning this information that, when we're managing towards a quota, that we're actually, when we achieve that quota, that's exactly what was taken from the Bay.

So what I'm saying I guess is, you know, we manage let's say to 100,000 pounds on any given month, we work with the industry to try to get that harvest as close to, without going over, 100,000 pounds as we can. And we usually feel very certain when we achieve that number.

And what I'm saying here is that, given all of these problems, our certainty is less. We're not as sure when we get to the 100,000 pounds whether or not it was 100,000 pounds or whether it was 150,000 or whether it was 175,000 pounds that was taken, given the problems that we have.

So one of the ways to address uncertainty is to build that uncertainty into the quota management. So instead of managing at 100,000 pounds now, which is what is allowable, if you can quantify that

uncertainty in some way, you would take the quota from the top of the pile, let's say, and you would begin to manage at 80,000 or 90,000 pounds, given that You've quantified in some way the amount of extra fish that you feel may be being harvested, given the problems that we have.

Now, this is something that we're considering doing, given the problems that exist. And what I could say is that, when I mentioned it before, the previous slide that had all the whole list of things that we're thinking about, you know, we feel that by implementing those it's going to go a long way at providing us with more certainty regarding the harvest.

So it's not, and we're certain then the quota can go back up, that's going to take a little time to evaluate and for us to develop a better understanding of what's happening out there. So this is just another management tool we're considering.

Another -- and we did, we got some feedback on this as well and I'll mention that. But the current regulation reads that, when a person checks in their striped bass, that they need to be present when

they check those fish, with their permit card and their licensing card.

And there was a policy that was developed years ago where it was said the policy was that an individual could take any number of permit holder's fish to the check station, as long as they carried the card, the other person's card and license with them to do that. So you know you could put four people's fish in the back of a truck and take them to get checked in.

It's our intention and this point, and enforcement has been pretty clear with this, that they're going to begin enforcing starting, you know, in December of this regulation that goes back that makes people, the actual individual go to the check station.

Now, some of the concerns that We've heard were based on the amount of time that it takes for fish, once they're landed, to get checked in. We had one of the representatives on the workgroup was going through the daily process of what he goes through with his crew to get out and catch the fish, to get back to the dock, only to maybe have to drive a couple hours



away in order to get the fish checked in, and then drive a couple hours home, get a couple hours of sleep, and then start the whole process over again. I guess at this point he would be sending somebody else to do that for him and maybe somebody that wasn't going to be working for him the next day.

And you know there's certainly a concern about the time and the extra time that it would take all of the permit holders. If you're fishing with four guys, all four of you are going to have to go. And I do understand that concern and we'd be happy to consider additional feedback about that.

One of the things that we talked about and discussed at the meeting, and it didn't take very long to stop talking about it, was the state operated check stations. You know, having a state-run check station would allow for that harvest accountability, if the system was tight enough that we knew that all those fishermen planned to use those check stations, which would increase our level of certainty and a much better harvest accountability.

However, in order to do something like that, we're looking at an extremely significant cost. The

example up here would be to have a couple of staff members working at 30 check stations all over Chesapeake Bay for the, we averaged it out to about a 12- or 16-hour day shift work by these staff at almost minimum wage. And you're looking at almost \$2 million and you know again, it comes back to who's going to pay for that, if that's the way we go?

We currently are not considering this. We don't feel it's feasible at this time. But if things don't start to get better, you know, it'll be something that we should talk about again.

A couple of other things here. These are more for just the thought of what we may do to better the data, the information that we get. We would consider mandating the electronic reporting for all dealers and check stations.

Right now any new check station that applies to the Department has to use the safest system, in order to provide the information of what was caught on any given day. Older check stations were kind of grandfathered in and they don't, they can supply us still with the paper reports. The older check stations call us every day and tell us what was

brought to their station that day, but we don't get any information on how many people, you know, who's been out fishing.

It would go a long way to answer the question is that work increasing? You know, it takes weeks for that information to get to us before we can understand it and, if we were able to have that information, we might be able to manage this fishing better so that the electronic reporting is by individual, it's not just by the check stations there were 10,000 pounds today. It's each person and what they caught.

MR. YOUNG: Have you solved the issue you had with signing new people up to the electronic reporting? Because I know that for the past five or six months nobody can even get a return phone call from the people that are supposed to be in charge of the electronic reporting. And I know guys, at least six of them, that wanted to sign up to report their crab catch electronically, and they couldn't do it.

MR. LUISI: Yeah.

MR. YOUNG: Because Tim is no longer with them.

MR. LUISI: Well, Tim's no longer here and you guys that work or own the system know Tim. We have not been able to fill the vacancy that he left when he moved on.

MR. YOUNG: But the new check stations are able to get on. There are no new check stations --

MR. LUISI: We don't have very many. It's not a thing that turns over very often, in terms of these if they're established. We do have someone in the same group of people that Tim worked with who is supposedly handling and dealing with getting people set up individually on the safest system. And if you're having any problems with that at all, just let, tell them to give me a call.

MR. YOUNG: Okay.

MR. LUISI: And I'll be certain to make sure that they get it taken care of.

MR. YOUNG: Okay.

MR. LUISI: We're just, without Tim, we have to balance it. It's not an immediate. Tim was so good, he was right on it because that's what his job was. But other people, we just have to balance it and figure out how else we can support that.

MR. KEEHN: See, Mike, that's the other thing I wanted to add about safety, because that's how I do all of my reporting, it's clunky, man. Some days it works, some days it doesn't. I mean I just did my report the other day, and I know Tim's gone, so who do I call? But you click it and it comes up with an error, and I go back and look and there's no errors. You click it and it comes up with an error and, about the fourth time, then it goes through. It is very -- there's a lot of suggestions I could make. Unfortunately Tim left but there's --

MR. LUISI: We've got a vacancy to fill.

MR. KEEHN: I know it. I'll tell you because there's a lot of things that I could fix. It takes you longer to fill out that safest report than it does to fill out your paper report and fax it in, and that's the that's the anthesis of the safest. Because I've got some ideas on how to make it faster and easier to work, but --

MR. LUISI: You'll have to talk to Bill now.

MR. GARY: Moochie?

MR. GILMER: Mike, before we get to far past, you were talking about the quota and cutting it down

to 80 percent or whatever.

MR. LUISI: No, that was just an example.

MR. GILMER: Right. I know you were just using that for a number.

MR. LUISI: I just had to make that clear.

MR. GILMER: No, yeah, and I understand that. But where does that quota go that's not used?

MR. LUISI: It's part of the built-in buffer.

MR. GILMER: Right. But when you get to the end of the season and that quota's not used, where does it go? Does it roll over to the next year?

MR. LUISI: No, because it's a -- let's just say that you're assuming it got caught and not reported, so we're not, it doesn't go anywhere. That's already been used already, but it was used illegally is what I'm saying. If we can determine and quantify you don't have the legal take, it's we're taking it off the top to assume that's it's happening. Now, as our certainty gets better we can, we start you know putting that back in.

MR. SIMS: Do you know we already have a built-in cushion for that like from whatever we're doing in the rockfish thing. You know, a built in

percentage. I forget what it is, but it's a lot, 10 or 15 percent (indiscernible) for poaching or whatever. It's already built in the quota system. We don't need a double thing here.

MR. LUISI: We're going to look into that. That was, I hadn't gotten to that. I have notes from the other meeting too.

MR. SIMS: Right at the very beginning when they're starting --

MR. LUISI: When they're doing the analysis to determine the stock and divide the quotas up (indiscernible) with all that, yes. But I need to look into that a little bit too.

MR. BROWN: And what this does, you're taking a, you're taking about taking a percentage off on the kind of unknown stuff. All that is doing is punishing the honest man. The man who is out there fishing right. And it's so many laws and so many things happen because of somebody that's doing something wrong.

All the time we are curving our laws to somebody who's done something wrong in the past, instead of protecting the honest man then you've got

to stop looking at it like that. You've got it goes to court, the man pays their fine or goes to jail or whatever it does.

I mean some of these penalties that these men have been getting and time that they've been getting, it should be waking a lot of people up and making them shake their heads and say, you know it's time for us to quit and do it right. You've got to let that system go. You can't penalize the man that's doing right.

MR. LUISI: I understand your point, I just think the man that's not doing it right is becoming a little too common and frequent that it's happening and something needs to be done. We have a responsibility to manage and harvest that (indiscernible) and maybe some of these things will, maybe it will make people think a little bit more about going out there and doing some of this, but it's going to take a little time before we feel like it's having an impact.

MR. BROWN: Well, you know, one of the big things we have is what happened last year with all these anchor, illegal anchor nets. Well, if you were to take a portion of the Bay or the whole Bay and put



in a pilot program and open it up and make them legal, put flags on it, let somebody legally set it, we won't have the illegal red tape. Just an idea to go to the rockfish about.

MR. LUISI: And I think we're going to put that on the agenda as a topic the next time we talk. You just mentioned the pilot program. Something else to think about, something else We've been talking about is potentially developing some type of voluntary pilot program to look into vessel monitoring systems on the boat.

You know, the theory would be that, if you got involved in this program, you could have your own quota. You would follow the hail in/hail out. You'd have a vessel monitoring system. You'd work as a volunteer with the Department to see how the fishery would operate and how it would work, but you would not be bound by some of the other rules, like daily catch limits or weekly limits. You'd have a certain number of fish that you could catch with whatever gear you chose throughout the course of the year.

And you know that's just it's something that we're talking about and considering opening up or

entertaining (indiscernible). So I think that's the last one here.

Another concern raised by the officers was that the hook-and-line fishery can check in their fish in the morning of the next day. It provides a window of time between when the fish get to the dock and when they're taken to the check station that some things could happen.

So we would be considering and proposing that we get all of the check-in rules, whether it be gill net, hook-and-line, pound net, are all the same, and we would have same-day check-ins when fish are caught. And there are concerns about it just because of timing. The hook-and-line fisheries fishes off on into the evening, especially in the summer when it puts it an hour before sunset, so you're looking at, you know, getting probably -- it might be better than what sunset is anymore, but --

MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah, you're likely to quit fishing by 3:00.

MR. LUISI: Right. At 8:00 at night, you know, the concern is trying to get fish to a place that's open still.

MR. BENJAMIN: I mean we sit out there sometime, we sit out there sometimes 3:00-4:00 in the afternoon, you're going to have to have some daylight. He doesn't even get in to fish until 3:00 or 4:00.

MR. LUISI: Right.

MR. BENJAMIN: Then you got like 20 minutes to catch a fish and run them over to a check-in station? Come on, let's get real. It don't work that way. That's something that (indiscernible).

MR. LUISI: I understand. Cost recovery. This is the last of the options. We've got a few minutes left here. If we could get some feedback. We started the conversation kind of on this. But you know the conversation We've already had on this, I think these are just some of the ways in which we can achieve this recovery.

One of the simplest ways would be to increase license fees so the cost will determine what you get. That would be one way to obtain greater revenue to pay for the management of the fisheries.

There could be establishing a landing tax on the number of fish (indiscernible), more accurate or more involved (indiscernible). Because you're going

through very much and you're not very active, you're not paying very much over time.

The third cost recovery option is to require that permit holders purchase the tags that they use. Right now, you know, everyone gets a box of tags, given that They've paid their permit declaration fee. But and you know for the pound netters, they only get like a box and a quarter, maybe for 1,300 tags is what they get. Hook-and-liners and gill net, you know, once you pay and get your declaration done, you can roll through.

I don't know how many boxes you can get yourself through. You know, each one of those is a significant cost. Matt knows better than I do, but it's about \$140.00 each time we get to order one of those boxes of tags for you. It costs \$140.00 to develop them and ship so --

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Will we get a refund for the tags we don't use? I turned more tags back last year than what I used. I mean I got, if I have four licenses, I got four boxes of tags.

MS. FEGLEY: Well, if you paid for your tags, you might be better to just order what you need.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Uh-huh. Well, I got four licenses and they give me a box of tags for each license. I got four boxes of license and I only work so many days, I got a lot of tags left over.

MS. FEGLEY: Right. So what I'm saying is if you were responsible for ordering and paying for your tags, you'd order what you'd need and there would be a lot less extra, which would be good for everyone.

MR. LUISI: And another thing, if we ever get to the point where this fishery is operating in a different manner or more comfortable and confident in it, you know, we might, I don't know maybe you could get away from the idea of you know annual tags. The tags, you purchase them and you know you're fully accountable for them and you know you use them into the next year, you know? You buy what you buy when you need them. You know, this is not something that we think that it could happen any time soon, but it could bring another option down the road.

Okay. The last slide that I have deals with what we intend to put out there for public scoping. Lynn, I think in the next week we're going to try to get it (indiscernible)?

MS. FEGLEY: Yeah, go above the website now. What that means is this is what we're, we're putting this out there for the public to review. It'll be up on our draft page website, so let everybody know. This is the time where nothing's proposed, nothing's been submitted. We simply want feedback on these ideas You've given us. You've given us some good feedback, today we want more. And then we'll come back around with a modified (indiscernible).

MR. LUISI: Based on what we hear --

MR. SIMS: Can you incorporate some of the suggestions already that we have? Like not on every (indiscernible) but on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the (indiscernible), instead of us having to go through the same rigamarole again?

MS. FEGLEY: Yes.

MR. LUISI: Yeah, I think --

MS. FEGLEY: That's why I'm here.

MR. LUISI: Right. That was the purpose, we haven't developed the wording on any of this yet, and that's what the plan would be between now and then.

MS. FEGLEY: Yes. They want to incorporate what We've heard. You know, as for the float lines,

you know I think that we're going to have to find a way to require that nets are marked. So whether or not we're going to have to come up with some sort of mechanism that goes over a float line or prohibit float lines in favor of (indiscernible).

You know, I don't know what the answer is, but it'll be good to get that sort of feedback from you, because I will say that I don't think that this agency is going to let nets go out there unmarked.

MR. LUISI: Let me just run through these so everyone's clear. You know we talked about a lot of things. Not everything is on this list. But these are what we're going to go forward with for this overall general scoping, before we even write and submit the (indiscernible) regulations.

We're going to include the network discussion and option, the net reels. We're going to look at putting in a regulation that would somehow would give the Department authority through a public notice to develop the hail in and hail out system, so that we could adjust as necessary and start it when it's ready to go. That way we're not locked into any effective date or any time line to making it happen.

Lynn and I have talked a lot about this where we want to make sure that we go forward with the hail in/hail out system, that we've thought about all the concerns and we've tested it to the point where it's going to be a system that works, that (indiscernible).

So with that, we've got a penalty clause that we're going to add to this regulation and, basically, what it's going to say is that failure to adhering to the provisions in the striped bass regulations -- which include what we would propose as well as everything else in the actual chapter on striped bass -- may result in a maximum of a two-year suspension of the striped bass permit.

So given the severity of not following what the regulations are in the striped bass fishery, in an administrative way we could suspend your permit for a maximum of two years, because you guys know if you don't declare for it two years in a row, you don't have that anymore. It's a revocation.

We're not looking to revoke it. Things that are important to note here are that it doesn't involve your license at all. It's not a license thing. And



there are no points or anything. None of the point system of the tier system would apply to failing to comply with the regulations.

We're going to move forward with the check station audits, that random auditing that we had talked about and about the same-day check-in.

So these are the things that we're going to focus on now. We want to get as much public and fishery industry feedback as we can. The comments are going to be due by August 8<sup>th</sup>, and you can access all of this as of early next week. This list is going to be written up more specifically, so that people can read about it and get some background on it and be able to provide us comments.

We're going to have to turn those around rather quickly after we get the feedback, and go back out with the proposed regulation by August 17<sup>th</sup>, in order for them to be effective by the start of gill net season.

So that's our time line on all of this. Hopefully, some of you guys have heard this more than once. You know, hopefully you guys can go back, talk to your constituents and the people you represent, and

get them to get on line and tell us what they think.

MR. BROWN: Michael, this elimination of net reels Chesapeake Bay include putting a bracket behind it and put striped bass only?

MR. LUISI: Not yet.

MR. BROWN: That would eliminate. I'm still not going to be in favor of it, but I mean that would eliminate some of it.

MR. LUISI: Okay. We'll take that under consideration.

MR. GARY: All right. Moochie and then we'll come back to you, Matt.

MR. GILMER: On the lead line/float line, I want to ask Dale because Dale fishes on lead line/float line. Is there a way to helping on that cork? I mean I know you put some corks on yours sometime. Or could there be a piece of PVC pipe every 50-60 foot that a number was put on is what --

MR. DAWSON: I've added corks to lead line/float line. You can split them and then slip them on and then put a staple in and draw it up tight. But you know then you're affecting the balance and then it doesn't fish right.

MR. GILMER: Right. You could just leave it next to it I guess.

MR. DAWSON: I don't know if you could put a identifier, a water tag on the end or something, right at the loop.

MR. GILMER: Right. Yeah.

MR. DAWSON: But as far as every fourth cork or every 15 feet or so --

MR. GILMER: Like I said, maybe on that lead line/float line you could do one every 50 foot or --

MR. DAWSON: Unless you could stick an insert in it, if you had an insert you could shove in the case of the float line.

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Where can we put a tag, can you put a tag on the net say every -- well, there's 600 feet in a box. You know, maybe come up with 15 round tags with your number on them? If he go putting cork, he'll be getting tag (indiscernible).

MR. GILMER: Yeah, but how about like a 1/2-inch PVC pipe? We'll slip it right over and just put something on it, just so you had your number on it. Some type of identification.

MR. DAWSON: Well, I mean once the next gear

date, it's kind of hard to add anything, like I said, unless you split a cork and put it on it. But I mean you could put it on each end.

MR. LUISI: What if we were to write something to provide some flexibility and made it -- you know 600 feet is your typical net, you know and you're talking a quarter. So what if we wrote something where you know so many times along the net an identification of some type needs to be there. So you can use, you can mark it on your corks. You could try to feed something around the float line, wherever it might be. But you have to have so many and --

MR. GILMER: Every 50 feet, every 60 feet, you know whatever.

MR. LUISI: Whatever the number would be.

MR. DAWSON: If you spaced them out pretty good they would affect, you know the hanging on the net or anything.

MR. GILMER: It's just to try to put them every six feet or ten foot would be a little -- every 50 foot would be 12 a net, so that's --

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Well, they actually have some wire kinds that you could put on there, cut it

off and still put your number.

MR. GILMER: That would snag them, it would -

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MR. DAWSON: (indiscernible)

MR. MOTOVIDLAK: Well, not if it's trimmed off is what I'm saying.

MR. GILMER: Well, I mean but you could come up with something for them that, it doesn't have to be you know as numerous as you're talking about.

MR. LUISI: Yeah, because I think it could be something that works all along and it's a good point. We need to talk about it and figure out how to achieve what we're looking for, but not affect the way that it is, or make somebody have to purchase something that -

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MR. GILMER: Yeah. Okay. I just wanted to bring that up.

MR. LUISI: I think I'm good, guys.

(Indiscernible). All right.

MR. GARY: All right. Thank you. We're almost done. Just a couple of other things real quick.

There was one other item I skimmed over in

the beginning. I meant to tell you about the, there's some authentic enhancement projects. Another one that I was going to hit was Cook's Point oyster sanctuary. And Erik Zlokovitz came in and, Erik, you want to jump up real quick and I'm going to pop that slide up and you want to talk? He also provided this to the Sport Fish Commission the other day.

MR. ZLOKOVITZ: I just want to give you guys an update on a proposal to place some additional reef balls in the Cook's Point area, which is within the Cook's Point oyster sanctuary.

This has been about a three-year project, where MARI, CBF, and MFSA have been making these planting concrete reef balls, and MARI-sponsored project on a two-acre area that's within the Cook's Point sanctuary, in the Choptank River.

Six hundred reef balls, all set with oysters have been placed on site, and that exceeds the target density of 300 reef balls per acre. This was presented to the Commission back in March. Or actually, was it presented, was it just Sport Fish or both Sport Fish and Tidal Fish?

MR. KEEHN: Both.

MR. ZLOKOVITZ: Both? Okay. Thanks. CBF has proposed shifting the placement this year to another two-acre area which is adjacent to the first two-acre area.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: I can explain that, if you want.

MR. ZLOKOVITZ: Yeah, go ahead Bill.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: That's a little confusing because ORP made that chart and it's got some of that data on it that's extraneous to this point.

But at the top there you see all those green boxes, that's ORP plantings. And within there you see some red dots and those were previous reef ball placements.

And then you see the yellow ones that make a square inside the green? That's the current two-acre area we've been using for the last three years.

And then to the left you see two more yellow ones outside the green boxes? That's where they would extend over to now with the proposal.

MR. ZLOKOVITZ: So the Coast Guard just advised us you know not to try to do the expansion anywhere towards the navigation channel, so we're

trying to stay away from the navigation channel and also maintain the correct minimum depth. So it meets the Coast Guard requirements and it doesn't conflict with the Corps of Engineers, or the ORP work that goes on in the area. So it's basically another two-acre site.

If you have any questions about this, you can contact Bill or myself. And where do we want to go from here? That's it. I just wanted to give you guys basically just a heads-up on this proposal for this additional two-acre area, since that first area is getting pretty crowded with reef balls right now.

MR. GARY: Any questions or comments for Erik before we go? All right. Very good. We typically like to reserve at least 15 minutes at the end of the meeting for public comment. And it's 8:57, but if anybody isn't opposed, I think we will allow everybody to have an opportunity to comment that would like to.

Any members of the public that would like to make comment at this point? No? Okay.

Well, then, two last items for you to consider. I have expense forms. I should have given them to you ahead of time. So please do not leave



without filling these out. New commissioners will have to fill out a little bit more than the incumbent commissioners. Incumbent commissioners just sign, signature only, two copies. Please do that before you leave, so we can get your travel expenses reimbursed.

And then lastly, the next meeting is going to be September 20<sup>th</sup>. Now, I will give all this to you, but please don't get confused. Because we did I think send out a message to you saying we were going to move from Tuesday to Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. It's back to Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, and I will email you again.

And the issue we had was our typical meeting place for our joint meeting, which there will be 30 of us at the table, is the Calvary United Methodist Church and it's unavailable that night, but Bill Goldsborough has been gracious enough with CBF to host us for the joint meeting in September. So it is Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

And I'll go ahead and ask you in advance if you're able to make it. If you're not, and this is also some news for the new commissioners, you're not required, but most of the commissioner exercise the

right to designate a proxy. One proxy, not multiple, so if you can't make it, you can let us know who can sit in for you. If you don't want to do that, that's fine too. I would just like to know if you can or can't make it.

But that is the next meeting and it'll be a joint meeting. We'll call for agenda items several weeks ahead of time, so think about what you'd like to --

We do encourage you, and just as a reminder to reach out to folks you encounter or bump into people that encounter you and so can their ideas and bring them forward to us. We like to have, we want plenty to talk to you about, but if you have things you want to bring to our attention, please do so.

Anything else before we adjourn? Awesome. Thank you all for coming and we're done.

(Whereupon, at 9:00 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

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