



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Frank W. Dawson III, Acting Secretary

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission
January 29, 2015
Chesapeake Bay Foundation Philip Merrill Environmental Center
6 Herndon Avenue Annapolis, MD 21403

Summary of Motions, Actions and Discussion Items

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Billy Rice, Vice Chairman Moochie Gilmer, Robert T. Brown, Rachel Dean, Ken Jeffries (Proxy for Greg Jetton), Bill Sieling, Richard Young, Gail Sindorf, Bill Goldsborough, Charles Manley, Lee Wilson, Aubrey Vincent

Commissioners absent: John Martin, Mike Benjamin, Dale Dawson

DNR staff attending: Tom O'Connell, Paul Genovese, Mike Luisi, Jacob Holtz, Gina Hunt, Mike Naylor, Steve Vilnit, Lt. Art Windemuth

Members of the public attending: Marty Simounet, Ed O'Brien, Drew Payne, Danny (Cannot read last name on sign in sheet)

Motions: None

Summary of Actions by Agenda Topic:

NRP Activity Report

- Concern about officers performing cold water safety checks multiple times for the same individual over a short period of time. Lt. Windemuth will discuss with their officers.
- Recommended to explore changing the measurement procedure for striped bass from pinching the tail tips together to measuring at the tail 'v'. Size restrictions would need to be adjusted. Reportedly being used in New York. Commissioners agreed to give it more thought, as will Fisheries Service.
- Recommended that NRP break down citation activity reports by sector (commercial and recreational), and see if each category reported can specify if it was a commercial or recreational citation. Fisheries Service is also requesting separation consideration to separate charter and private among sports fishermen citations.
- Recommended that NRP provide the detailed law enforcement report presented at today's meeting once a year.
- Recommended that NRP highlight enforcement areas of concern in their quarterly meeting reports for which TFAC could offer advice on to address.

- Concern expressed with ‘victim’ terminology used on a ticket / summons. Suggested alternative standardized wording (e.g. complainant). Lt. Widnemuth commented that the wording used is the officers ‘impression’ which he / she is held accountable to through the court process.

Legislation Update

- SB83 Vibrio Notice – Require the Department to print information regarding vibrio health risks on recreational license.
- Departmental housekeeping bill.
- Seafood Labeling Bill (has not been filed) – Delegate Leutdke – objective is to address mislabeling of imported blue crab meat. Commission expressed concern with 4-11F-03 (A)(2) and (C)(1), and to add soft crabs. The Commission would like to see the final submitted bill before taking any position. Follow up questions / concerns can be provided to Steve Vilnit at stephen.vilnit@maryland.gov.

Regulatory Updates and Scoping Items

- Invasive Crayfish: Request further consideration for allowing commercial harvest in tidal waters.
- Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission: Agree to modify the TFAC operating guidelines to be consistent with the statute which establishes the TFAC regarding the term limit of a chairperson.
- Seine haul for gizzard shad – What are the existing rules for Baltimore County? Interested in establishing rules which would allow this fishery to occur statewide or in certain counties (specific request for Kent County). Fisheries Service will look into and follow up.

ASMFC Striped Bass 2015 Management

- Recommend Chesapeake Bay Commercial Option 1: 18” minimum size with a 20.5% quota reduction from 2012 harvest. TFAC expressed opposition to increasing the minimum size to 20”.
- Request for TFAC to receive the pre-season catch and release presentation provided to SFAC on 1/27/15.

Blue Crabs

- Request Bill Sieling’s request for eliminating the 5 ¼” minimum size limit and sponge crab importation rules be discussed by the TFAC Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee and reported back to TFAC.

DNR Fresh Shell Policy

- Expressed concern for setting criteria which would restrict a County Oyster Committee from planting fresh shell, if available, on the bottom for increasing natural spat set. The alternative provided was to allow each County the flexibility to use their knowledge and experience for determining placement areas.



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Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None Given

Next Meeting April 30, 2015

Scheduled to be held in Conference Room C-1 from 2:00-5:00 PM