



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Mark J. Belton, Secretary  
Frank W. Dawson, III, Deputy Secretary

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission  
April 30, 2015  
C-1 Conference Room  
DNR Tawes Office Building  
580 Taylor Ave  
Annapolis, MD 21403

### *Summary of Motions & Actions*

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Chairman Billy Rice, Vice-Chair Moochie Gilmer, Robert T. Brown, Rachel Dean, , Bill Sieling, Mike Anderson (for Richard Young), Gail Sindorf, Bill Goldsborough, Lee Wilson and Richard Manley

**Commissioner Absent and Not Represented:** Aubrey Vincent, Mike Benjamin, John Martin, Greg Jetton, Dale Dawson

**DNR Staff Attending:** Secretary Mark Belton, Assistant Secretary David Goshorn, Director Tom O'Connell, Rich Norling, Brenda Davis, Erik Zlokovitz, Paul Genovese, Gina Hunt, Lynn Fegley, Carrie Kennedy, Sara Widman, Nancy Butowski, Mike Luisi and Jody Baxter.

**Members of the Public Attending:** Jim Porter, Jonathan Harvey, Jed Miller (MDE), Steve Lay

**Summary:** Secretary Mark Belton was introduced to the commission and staff in attendance, and participated in a question & answer session. The Secretary also spoke on his 'Top Ten' list of priorities for the Department.

In addition to the action (items listed below) and agenda items the commission discussed the following topics; a reminder to the Department to follow standardized fish measurement methods and to continue training NRP, clarification on crayfish harvest and which tidal areas have restrictions in place and concern about the increased federal oversight on fisheries management contained in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

#### **Action Items:**

- Based on Rachel Dean's discussion on harvester registration fees, staff will send commission information on the number of permanent transfers performed from September through March. *Update: last year 108 individuals purchased a harvester registration the same day as initiating a permanent transfer. If a waiver to the harvester registration was provided and they were during the late renewal period, the fiscal impact of the waiver would be \$17,820. That is (\$215 registration fee - \$50 late fee) \* 108 = 17,820.*
- Commissioners Gilmer and Brown will participate in discussions with coastal bay clammers and Fisheries Service to review background information on the coastal bays clam fishery including the current fishery management plan, legislation which closed the fishery, and potential pathways forward to request re-establishment of a clam fishery. Jody Baxter (DNR staff) will be lead between Department and interested parties.

- Staff will prepare a proposal for modifying the individual yellow perch harvest tag system to a box tag system for review by the Commission at the July meeting. Consideration for initiating regulatory scoping of a box tag system will be discussed at this meeting.
- The Commission's Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> to review the blue crab winter dredge survey results and provide advice on a management response for the next fishing season which begins on July 1.
- On behalf of the commission, Commissioner Sindorf will write a letter of public comment on the Chesapeake Bay Program draft management strategies related to the Blue Crab Abundance and Management Outcomes in the 2014 Bay Agreement. A draft letter will be distributed to Commission members for review. Public comment due on May 11.
- On behalf of the commission, Commissioner Robert T. Brown will write a letter of public comment on the Chesapeake Bay Program management strategies related to the Oyster Restoration Outcome in the 2014 Bay Agreement. A draft letter will be distributed to Commission members for review. Public comment due on May 11.

**Motions:** None

**Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** July 16, 2015

To be held in the Conference Room C-1 of the Tawes Building from 3:00-6:00 PM.