

Meeting of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

April 12, 2022

Location - Online, see below for details

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

* Preliminary

- 2:00 - 2:20 Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements, Updates – Acting Chair David Sikorski and Acting Director, Michael Luisi, MD DNR
- Welcome new commissioner, Roger Krone
 - Jan 18, 2022 Commission Meeting Summary
 - Desired Outcome - Commission vote
 - Jim Gracie Trail Dedication Update
 - FY21 Budget Report
- 2:20 - 2:30 Natural Resource Police Activities and Upcoming Priorities - Cpt. Stacy Duke and Lt. Brian Noon, MD NRP
- Desired Outcome - Inform and Q & A
- 2:30 - 2:50 Sport Fisheries Award Recommendations - Commissioner Ray Morgan
- Desired Outcome - Commission vote on panel's recommendation(s)
- 2:50 - 3:50 Fishing Management
- ASMFC / MAFMC Updates and Announcements - Michael Luisi and Lynn Fegley, MD DNR
 - Striped Bass Amendment 7 Update on Expected Timeline
 - Desired Outcome - Feedback and inform constituents
 - Recreational Harvest Control Rule
 - Desired Outcome - Feedback and inform
- 3:50 - 4:35 Policy Program – Sarah Widman, MD DNR
- Legislative Summary
 - Regulatory, Penalty, and Scoping Updates
 - Desired Outcome - Feedback and inform constituents
- 4:35 - 4:55 Reporting
- Black Bass Advisory Committee – Commissioner Roger Tragaser
 - Desired Outcome - Apprise commission
 - Coldwater Fisheries Advisory Committee - Commissioner Jason Andrick
 - Desired Outcome - Apprise commission
- 4:55 - 5:00 ** Public Comment
- 5:00 Adjourn

* Subject to change

** For topics on the agenda the chair will attempt to provide an opportunity for public comment during the time allotted for the topic. Additional public comment will be allowed at the designated time period, a maximum of two minutes per individual. Written comments may be emailed to paul.genovese@maryland.gov.

Connection (through CISCO's Webex webinar software application)

Internet or tap to join from a mobile device

<https://marylanddnr.webex.com/marylanddnr/j.php?MTID=m927aa914546b16a76f1796e8949e1da2>

Phone

1-415-655-0001

Access code: 255 974 65302#

Handouts: April 12 SFAC Agenda, Draft-Motions and Actions-01182022 SFAC Meeting, NRP Quarterly Report, Fishing and Boating Services Regulatory Scoping April 2022, Fishing and Boating Services Regulatory and Penalty Update April 2022. Recreational Suspensions, Commercial Suspensions and Revocations, Membership Contact Information.

January 18, 2022 Commission Meeting

Action Items:

- Chair Neely announced he is resigning from the commission at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Chair Neely announced Vice-chair David Sikorski will take on the role as acting chair at the conclusion of this meeting.
- For 2022, the Sport Fisheries Achievement Award panel will include Dr. Ray Morgan (3rd year), Eric Packard (2nd year), and Jason Anderick (1st year). Thank you to Roger Trageser for his involvement during the previous two years, Roger cycles off the panel while Jason cycles on.
- During Mike Luisi's reporting on the shrimp workgroup, commissioners asked:
 - For clarification on the prohibition of trawl gear in Maryland waters.
 - Response: Current law prohibits trawls within 1 mile of the shore in Atlantic waters (and completely in the Bay). The AG determined that the shrimp authority created last year does not allow the department to override that restriction in a pilot program.
 - For an existing report from Virginia on their pilot shrimp program.
 - Does the proposed gear address the by-catch issue associated with the traditional shrimp trawl gear?
- Officer Noon reported a new academy class beginning next month with 16 recruits. Also, 43 promotions and 6 reassignments occurred in December, be on the lookout for new faces in different regions.
- A commissioner asked if the number of officers will increase with the addition of the 16 recruits.
 - Response: There were eight retirements in 2021, with the addition of the planned 16 recruits there should be a net increase of eight officers. There will be more retirements in the future. Proactively, the agency wants to have another recruitment class immediately after this one, if funding allows.
- Committee Reporting
 - Black Bass Advisory Committee
 - Commissioner Trageser will continue as committee chair, Rich Batiuk was named Vice-chair and secretary of the committee.

- The committee supports the proposed Maryland Fly Fishing Trail and will provide fishing sites.
- Maryland Bass Nation supports the proposed Maryland Fly Fishing Trail.
- Notes on the meeting will be made available once approved (a notice will be emailed once approved and posted).
- Chair Neely requested the committee investigate and give the commission an update on the intersex condition known amongst smallmouth bass in the middle and upper Potomac River. Ultimately, give recommendations on how to address this issue.
- Coldwater Fisheries Committee
 - The committee held its first meeting, 14 members and DNR staff attended. Matt Lawrence will be the administrator, Dan Goetz was the administrator for this first meeting.
 - The committee supports the proposed Maryland Fly Fishing Trail and will provide fishing sites.
 - The next meeting is April 7. All commissioners are welcome to attend.
- Tidal and Coastal Recreational Fisheries Committee
 - Erik Zlokovitz has replaced Paul Genovese as the committee administrator.
 - The NOAA Recreational Fisheries Summit is scheduled for March 29-30, more information is coming: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2022-national-saltwater-recreational-fisheries-summit
 - The committee requested further discussion on report titled ‘*Recreational Striped Bass Fishery Study on Harvest Data*’, conducted in response to Senate Bill 882 (MSAR #12764). Specifically, what are the action items and what are the department’s plans to improve their understanding of recreational fishery impacts on the striped bass fishery.
 - Response: Here is a [link to the report, recommendations are found on page 5](#).
 - Concerning the tautog and sheepshead fishery on the coast. The committee may come back with recommendations of its own after further discussions from what they hear on the water.
 - The committee unanimously supports the proposed Maryland fly fishing trail.
- Feedback on the R3 Plan Update Presentation
 - Commissioner Sikorski - There are three committees which report to the commission, they should be tapped for a place to build a short term task force for specific actions. These committees are also places to find partnerships. Committee members should take their roles seriously and engage on the R3 priorities, the department can only do so much.
 - Commissioner Trageser - High on priority list should be getting high school and college teams involved in organized tournaments (black bass tournaments). Commissioner Trageser offered to work with the department on that action item. Some challenges face this particular action.
 - Response: Using this action item as an example, if we have partners on this front, some of these action items may move up on the priority list.
 - Commissioner Frey - A lot of mentoring options are already in place but kids today have other options. Work on mentoring should be increased. Diversity should be addressed.
 - Response: Department did a diversity marketing campaign in 2020, focused on Spanish speaking populations.
- Once available, the department requests the commission review the R3 plan, discuss amongst themselves and then come back with additional feedback, including which action items they feel should be ranked high for 2022 and how they can contribute. Feedback should be provided to the department through the Commission.
 - **Update:** The Angler R3 Plan is approved and will subsequently be made [available online](#).
- Commission members Trageser and Packard will keep SFAC apprised of a request submitted to the department to establish a voluntary contribution fund directed towards habitat restoration and/or stock replenishment, initially for the black bass fishery and possibly expanding to other fisheries. Commissioner Trageser reported that FABS staff is reviewing the request with Matt Fleming and the secretary to determine if the department will recommend the creation of the fund to the legislative body.

Motions:

- *Commission approves October 12, 2021 meeting summary.* Motion by David Sikorski , seconded by Roger Trageser. Vote: Yea - Unanimous.
- *Endorsement of further development and implementation of the Maryland fly fishing trail as developed by the current workgroup.* Motion by David Sikorski, seconded by Toby Frey. Vote: Yea - Unanimous.