

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

July 23, 2020

Location -Teleconference/Meeting Only

3 – 5:15 P.M.

- 3:00 – 3:05 Welcome, Announcements/Updates – Chair Steve Lay and Bill Anderson, MD DNR
- Approve April Meeting Summary
 - CARES Act Update
- 3:05 – 3:15 Natural Resource Police – Lt. Roy Rafter, MD NRP
- Activity Report and Priorities through Current Quarter
- 3:35 – 3:50 Policy Program – Sarah Widman, MD DNR
- Regulatory, Penalty and Scoping Updates
- 3:50 – 4:00 Shellfish Update – Chris Judy, MD DNR
- 4:00 – 4:15 Blue Crab Update – Michael Luisi, MD DNR
- 4:15 – 4:30 Commission, Committee, Subcommittee and Workgroup Reporting
- Oyster Advisory Commission – Chris Judy
 - Striped Bass Workgroup – Steve Lay
- 4:30 – 5:15 Fisheries Management – Michael Luisi, MD DNR
- ASMFC / MAFMC Updates and Announcements
 - Black Sea Bass, Summer Flounder, Scup and Bluefish
 - Shrimp
- 5:15 – 5:20 **Public Comment and Closing Remarks
- 5:20 Adjourn

* Agenda is subject to change

** Public comment as time allows. Public observers will be allowed to address the commission at the designated time period on the agenda for each meeting. For topics on the agenda, the chair will attempt to provide an opportunity for comment during the time allotted for the topic.

Handouts – Agenda, April commission meeting summary, NRP 2nd Quarter Reports, Regulatory – Commercial and Aquaculture Suspensions and Revocations, Regulatory – Penalty Update, Regulatory – Scoping, Regulatory – Recreational Suspensions, Striped Bass Workgroup Summary.

Connection information

Join with Google Meet:

By Internet:

meet.google.com/pxu-dfjk-aja

By Phone

(US) +1 401-753-3367 PIN: 682 910 350#

Previous Meeting (April 23)

Action Items:

- Commission position statement as a follow up to failed motion related to ghost pots – “*Currently there is no science to suggest there is a problem with ghost pots, therefore, we recommend no action to be taken at this time.*”
- Department asks commission members to encourage their seafood buyers to apply for the Retail Buyers Seat on the Blue Crab Advisory Committee. Link to application: [Retail Buyer Seat Application](#).
- Commissioner Robert T. Brown, representing the Maryland Watermen Association, stated the association is opposed to the closure proposal of the commercial hook and line fishery August 16 – 31 (same dates as the recreational closure). Commissioner Bubby Powley, representing the Dorchester County Seafood Heritage Association, also opposed the proposed closure.
- Commissioner request the department give consideration to the August charter boat closure if the Covid-19 related state of emergency continues.
- Commissioner request submission of comment on ghost pot motion (see below), commissioner was unable to be a part of the motion discussion during the meeting and submitted his comments after the meeting adjourned.

Motions:

- *The commission approves the January 23, 2020 meeting summary of actions and motions.*
Motion by David Sutherland, seconded by Ken Jeffries. Vote - Favor: 13, Against: 0, Abstained: 0.
- *There has been a request to the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission from the Secretary of Natural Resources to task the Blue Crab Advisory Committee to meet and discuss elements of a ghost bill which failed in the recent legislative session.*
Motion by Robert T. Brown, seconded by Ken Jeffries. Vote - Favor: 1, Against: 10, Abstained: 0.
- *The commission is against closing the proposed commercial hook and line fishery Aug 16-31.*
Motion by Russell Dize, seconded by Robert T. Brown. Vote - Favor: 12, Against: 0, Abstained: 0.