

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

July 21, 2022

Department of Natural Resources

Summary of Actions and Motions

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Steve Lay, Vice-chair Moochie Gilmer, Bill Scerbo, Bubby Powley, Robert T. Brown, Russell Dize, David M. Sutherland, Sonny Gwin, Brandon Malec, Scott Budden, and Brian Nesspor.

Commissioners Absent and Not Represented: Buck Lynch, Bill Sieling, Troy Wilkins.

Participants: Michael Luisi, Jodi Baxter, Sgt. Tyler, Sarah Widman, Lynn Fegley, Genine McClair, Jacob Holtz, Chris Judy, Paul Genovese, and Heather Nelson with MDE.

Action Items:

- Commissioner Anthony Jones contacted the department and has resigned.
- The chair recognizes Carrie Kennedy and her work to secure and place a drop box for upper bay rockfish watermen to place their striped bass tags and cards in Aberdeen.
- The department is requesting the commission for the consideration of a representative at an upcoming Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee workshop dealing with crab reproductive success and recruitment within the Bay. The meeting is being held at Fort Monroe, VA on Sep. 20. The rep would speak for Maryland. Contact Mike or Paul if you have an interest, it does not have to be a commissioner.
- Mike Luisi will step down as Acting Director of Fishing and Boating Service, Lynn Fegley will take on the role starting September 1. Mike will continue with his regular duties on Sep. 1.
- *Motion to name Steve Lay as commission's Liaison on the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission by Moochie Gilmer.* Steve Lay denied the motion and is asking for another individual. Appointment would be valid for up to four years, same as all SFAC appointments.
- *Motion to name Bill Scerbo as commission's Liaison on the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission by Russell Dize.* Bill Scerbo denied the motion.
- Sonny Gwin volunteered to attend the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission until another commissioner accepts a nomination. There were no objections.
- This will probably be Sgt. Brimer's and Sgt. Tyler's last commission meeting. Cpt. Matthew Corbin and Sgt. Sarah Grice will report out at future meetings.
- Director Luisi reported to the NRP that he was informed of a number of boats working/fishing near the bay bridge during the recreational striped bass closer period and asked them to pass it along to the regional officers.
- Commissioners are asked to provide feedback to the department on the draft Oyster Management Plan amendment by August 31. If you have feedback, please email comments to fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov. If you have any questions please contact Jodi Baxter at jodi.baxter@maryland.gov.
- The department is asking the industry to improve their harvest reporting rates, the current rates are unacceptable. The department believes the FACTS program is the best reporting option moving forward. To

listen to the entire discussion on this topic, please submit a request to Paul Genovese at paul.genovese@maryland.gov.

- The department requested comment from the commission on fisheries-related items it is currently scoping, including [commercial crab pot line clarifications](#). Please review your handouts and send comments to Sarah Widman (sarah.widman@maryland.gov), or fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov.
- The chair thanks commissioners Brown, Gwin, and Powley for their time working with him and the department on the Shrimp Workgroup.
- The department will broadcast an announcement requesting applications for the pilot commercial shrimp fishery. The announcement will be made via email and social media.
- The state is expecting a striped bass rebuilding program to be established under ASMFC over the next two years which will call for the reduction in fishing mortality (both recreational and commercial fisheries). Be prepared for a reduction to the states take of the coast wide stock. The state will meet with all stakeholders on this topic after ASMFC's meetings in November.
- The State is expecting a reduction to its commercial menhaden allocation and is attempting to minimize interference with the commercial fishery in Maryland. Be on the lookout for upcoming hearings.
- Commissioner Gilmer announced he is organizing a meeting to hold discussions on how to address the growing blue catfish population in bay waters and tributaries. Various stakeholders were contacted and are willingly to meet to hold conversations on options to control the population. Commissioner Brown volunteered to participate. The department will be brought into future meetings when appropriate.

Motions:

- *Commission approves April 14, 2022 meeting summary.* Motion by Moochie Gilmer, seconded by Brandon Malec. Vote: No objections.
- *Motion to name Steve Lay as Chairperson of the commission until July 2023 by Robert T. Brown.* Vote: No objections.
- *Motion to name Moochie Gilmer as Vice-Chairperson of the commission until July 2023 by Steve Lay.* Vote: No objections.

Next Meeting Date:

- October 13, 2022, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.