

**Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission**

July 23, 2020

Department of Natural Resources

**Summary of Actions and Motions**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Chair Steve Lay, Bill Sieling, Robert T. Brown, Ken Jeffries, Lee Wilson – proxy for Buddy Carson, David M. Sutherland, William Scerbo, Bubby Powley, Rachel Dean - proxy for J.D. Blackwell, Sonny Gwin.

**Commissioners Absent and Not Represented:** Moochie Gilmer, James Lynch, Gail Sindorf, Troy Wilkens, Russell Dize, Anthony Jones.

**Department of Natural Resources Staff Attending/Presenting:** Michael Luisi, Chris Judy, Lt. Roy Rafter, George O'Donnell, Sarah Widman, Paul Genovese, Bill Anderson, Carrie Kennedy, Jodi Baxter.

**Action Items:**

- Department was asked to clarify the recreational striped bass catch limit (difference between charter boat and sport fishing boat decals). *DNR response; recreational sport fishing boat decals have a one fish/person/day limit. Charter boats that sign up for the FACTS reporting system have a two fish/person/day limit (for individuals fishing while chartering that boat).*
- The Penalty Workgroup, generally composed of 3-4 commissioners each from both the Sport Fisheries and Tidal Fisheries Advisory commissions, requested new volunteers. Commissioners Robert T. Brown, Bill Scerbo and Bill Sieling volunteered to sit on the workgroup.
- Questions asked during a discussion on plastic alternatives to wooden bushel baskets for blue crabs.
  - What is the cost of the plastic alternative? *DNR response: Three times the cost of the typical wooden basket (as of July 2020), the vendor that would produce the plastic containers also said they would have a typical life span of 10 years.*
  - How many baskets would the vendor need to produce in order to sell them at the estimated price?
  - Currently, can the plastic baskets be used to move blue crabs? Males vs. Females? *DNR response: Males can be moved with the plastic baskets but not the females.*
- Questions asked during a discussion on shrimp in Maryland waters
  - Some northern states utilize pots and traps to catch shrimp commercially, can Maryland use this gear type? Can scrapes be used, can skimmers be used to catch shrimp? *DNR response: Gear that is legal under law or regulation and used in the legal manner and in legal areas, can be used to land shrimp, as a bycatch. Statement is under review with the Attorney General's Office.*
  - Can a 'recreational trawl' be utilized to catch shrimp? *DNR Response: We believe trawls have been outlawed in Maryland since the 1920's, we suggest not moving forward with this gear option.*
  - Are there any laws or regulations currently in place that would prohibit the selling of shrimp landed Maryland? *DNR Response: Not to our knowledge, under review with the Attorney General's Office.*
  - What commercial license type would allow the landing of shrimp in Maryland? *DNR Response: The TFL would allow the landing of shrimp, as a bycatch, we are confirming with the Attorney General's Office.*

- o What does Virginia do to allow an experimental shrimp fishery? *DNR response: Virginia has a FMP for shrimp, Maryland does not, a FMP would be required to develop a shrimp fishery in Maryland.*

**Motions:**

- *Motion to approve the April 23, 2020 Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting summary.* Motion by Bubby Powley, seconded by Lee Wilson. Vote, In Favor: Unanimous.

**Next Meeting Date:**

- October 15, 2020 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.