

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

October 13, 2022

Department of Natural Resources

Summary of Actions and Motions

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Steve Lay, Vice-chair Moochie Gilmer, Robert T. Brown, Sonny Gwin, Buck Lynch, Brandon Malec, Brian Nesspor, Bubby Powley, Bill Scerbo, Bill Sieling, and Troy Wilkins.

Commissioners Absent and Not Represented: Scott Budden, Russell Dize, and David M. Sutherland.

Participants: Lynn Fegley, Cpt. Matthew Corbin, Maj. Kelley Johnson, Sarah Widman, Genine McClair, Michael Luisi, Matt Fleming, and Paul Genovese.

Action Items:

- Commission requests that future NRP quarterly reports include a breakout listing the number of warnings and citations related to specific finfish species.
- Commission requests the NRP query its field officers on the effectiveness of the recent enforcement actions put in place for the recreational striped bass sector, including the requirement to use circle hooks and the no targeting slot during the summer.
- Additional H2B visas for FY23 were announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):
<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/10/12/dhs-supplement-h-2b-cap-nearly-65000-additional-visas-fiscal-year-2023>.
- The individuals permitted to participate in the commercial shrimp pilot program have been finalized by the department, through next year. The permittees should now be working on securing the proper gear.
- Commissioner Gilmer will continue organizing a workgroup outside of the department on how to address the growing blue catfish population in bay waters and tributaries.
- Names of commissioners in support of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) letter related to blue catfish were sent to Allison Colden for inclusion (with the letter).
- Commissioner Troy Wilkins requests the department increase the annual commercial harvest of yellow perch in the Chester River.
 - *Response: The department will review and report back to commissioners Wilkins and Lay on its findings.*
- The oyster industry committee is scheduled to meet on Nov. 14.
- Commissioner Wilkins asked if those harvesting oysters and reporting electronically are still allowed to start working 30 minutes earlier than those who are not electronically reporting harvest? And if yes, how will enforcement know who is participating?
 - *Response: The department will confirm the status and report back.*

Motions:

- *Commission approves July 21, 2022 meeting summary.* Motion by Moochie Gilmer, seconded by Brian Nesspor. Vote: No objections.
- *The commission motions that the department not support any reduction in the striped bass commercial fishery in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay.* Motion by Brian Nesspor, seconded by Bill Sieling.

- Vote: Yea - 9; Nay - 0; Abstain - 2.
- *Move that the department take action to approve funding for an invasive species program, including a position within the Fishing and Boating Services.* By Bill Scerbo, seconded by Robert T. Brown.
 - Vote: Yea - Unanimous.
- *Move to support the CBF letter to congressional leadership related to FDA inspection of wild caught blue catfish.* By Moochie Gilmer, seconded by Robert T Brown.
 - Vote: No objections; Abstain - 1.

Next Meeting Date:

- January 19, 2023, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Will attach CBF letter to pdf version of outgoing meeting summary.