

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

January 23, 2025

Summary of Actions and Motions

Commissioners in Attendance: Vice-Chair Robert T. Brown, Rachel Dean, Russell Dize, Rachel Fazenbaker, Sonny Gwin, Chair Steve Lay, Brandon Malec, Jeff Pharis, Bubby Powley, Bill Rice, Bill Scerbo, Bill Sieling, David M. Sutherland.

Commissioners Absent and Not Represented: Brian Nessor.

Staff Participating: Lynn Fegley, Paul Genovese, Jacob Holtz, Lieutenant Kevin Kelly, Carrie Kennedy, Michael Luisi, John Mullican, Tony Prochaska, Major Melissa Scarborough, Jim Uphoff, Sarah Widman.

Other Participants and Public Comment: Matt Scales with the Department of Agriculture's Seafood Marketing Program, Yen-Der Cheng with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Jeffrey Roberts and Mary Owens with Brandt Information Systems (time restraints kept Brandt from presenting).

Actions:

- Cynthia Goshorn, a long time Fishing and Boating Services staff member and wife of Deputy Secretary Dave Goshorn, passed away on Jan. 20, 2025. Please find a place in your heart for Dave, his family, and our staff as we process this loss.
- The department requests comment from the commission on fisheries-related items it is currently scoping and proposing. Please review your handouts and send your comments to Jacob Holtz (jacob.holtz@maryland.gov). Additionally, the items reviewed during the meeting will be posted on [the department website](#) requesting public comment, please share with your constituents.
- Chair Lay requests commissioners to review and prepare to discuss the scoping item titled "*Commercial Reporting — Electronic Reporting for Commercial Harvest*" at the next commission meeting. Additionally, please share with your constituents. The scoping items are found in [your handouts](#).
- Legislative-Related - Review your handouts for all unit-related bills, bills can be followed on <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>. Updates will be forwarded from Sarah Widman / Paul Genovese. Commissioners with questions on any of the departmental bills should contact Sarah Widman (sarah.widman@maryland.gov, 410-972-7709).
- Please review the [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Meeting \(Feb. 4-5, 2025\) information](#) for agenda items. Spiny dogfish, horseshoe crab, and striped bass are the species in which actions may be taken.
- Fishing and Boating Services is looking into developing a joint striped bass committee to help with Addendum III guidance. Contact Mike Luisi (michael.luisi@maryland.gov, 410-758-6547) if you are interested or if you have a recommendation. The deadline to submit names is January 31. The work of the committee would include approximately 6-8 in person meetings finishing in May of this year.
- The MAFMC will hold a virtual meeting February 11-12, all meeting information including agenda and how to connect are found through the [MAFMC website](#). The main topic for the commissioners' awareness is the

council's work surrounding sector separation and data collection for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish.

- In the interest of time, Chris Judy did not discuss two topics (shell market price update and the Oyster Advisory Commission 2025 meeting schedule). Please look at the end of [this meeting's handouts](#) found online to review the topics. Please submit comments or questions to Chris Judy (chris.judy@maryland.gov).
- A new chair of the Statewide Oyster Committee is needed, a chair is required for the committee to conduct its business (this is not the department's committee to lead). The department will supply an administrator. Robert T. Brown offered to run the committee if no one else would volunteer.
 - Simon Dean has volunteered to be a candidate for chair of the committee, an election on the chair can take place at the committee's next meeting.
- Per request, the presentation by Michael Luisi on striped bass quota calculations is found online. All meeting presentations are bundled and [found on your website](#).
- Blue Crab
 - The department is looking for more participants for its [Cooperative Data Collection Program](#), particularly in the Upper Bay and Tangier Sound. Contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov) if you or someone you know is interested. Crabbers are compensated \$100-200 per trip to collect data on their catch, which can be used to identify trends in catch composition and crab distribution throughout Maryland. **Please consider participating and share this opportunity with other crabbers in your region.**
 - The department is also looking for more participants for its container sampling program. Biologists sample catch at dealer locations and the data are used to determine appropriate bushel conversions for the various alternative containers now being used in the fishery (e.g., KIBB crate, lug, barrel). **If you are a dealer, please consider participating and share this opportunity with other dealers in Maryland who may be interested.** Contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov).
 - The blue crab stock assessment is due Spring of 2026.
- Commissioner Dean again requests an agenda item at a future meeting to discuss whether or not to remove the prohibition on harvesting razor clam from prohibited (polluted) waters.

Motions:

- *Commission approves October 17, 2024 meeting actions and motions.* Motion by Bill Rice, seconded by David Sutherland. Vote: No objections. Approved.

Awareness:

- Commissioner Lay made a comment that the commercial yellow perch fishery reductions are unfair as compared to the recreational yellow perch fishery (lack of reductions).
- Major Melissa Scarborough (melissa.scarborough@maryland.gov) is the NRP's Field Operations Bureau lead, please contact Melissa if you need assistance.
- Matt Scales with Maryland Seafood Marketing is available at matthew.scales1@maryland.gov and 443-510-0937. Matt is currently looking for candidates for his Seafood Marketing Commission.
- Matt Scales encourages individuals to sign up to become a member of Maryland's Best at <https://marylandsbest.maryland.gov/become-a-marylands-best-producer/>.
- Commissioners should contact Yen-Der Cheng (yen-der.cheng@maryland.gov or 410-537-3363) with the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding questions surrounding his presentation to the commission municipal discharge permitting.
- Maryland Outdoors, the state's new licensing system, was not presented during this meeting as scheduled. Once the system has gone live it is hoped to have a thorough presentation at a future meeting.

- Lieutenant Kevin Kelly is the NRP's new liaison for the commission. Lt. Kelly (kevin.kelly@maryland.gov) encourages commissioners to reach out to their local areas if they have questions regarding their [region/area](#).
- The department is currently recruiting officers with the hope of adding 18 new hires, these would be laterals and new officers (individuals already certified in law enforcement), requiring less training than a cadet.
- The spiny dogfish fishery on the coast has been doing very well. A request for a quota transfer was answered by North Carolina in the amount of 500,000 lb. New York also offered to transfer some poundage of their quota but Carolina was chosen due to the full amount offered.
- A science webinar open to the public will be held online March 6. Topics will include a summary of FACTS charter reporting by Angela Guiliano and a catch and release mortality study of striped bass in the Patuxent River by T. Reid Nelson.
- A Chesapeake Bay Program science workshop will be held on February 13-14 on the status of the department's surveys. The public may connect in listen-only mode. The connection information will be distributed once available.
- Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee - Richard Young, a long time member of the committee has sold his license and retired from the industry. Please contact Mandy Bromilow (mandy.bromilow@maryland.gov) if you or you know someone from Richard's area that may be interested in his seat on the committee.

Meeting Recording:

- <https://archive.org/details/meeting-of-the-tidal-fisheries-advisory-commission-2025-01-23-14-10-est-recording>

Next Scheduled Meeting Date:

- April 20, 2025 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.