

Meeting of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

October 12, 2023

Online and in-person at
Tawes State Office Building
C-1 Conference Room
Annapolis, MD 21401

(See below for connection information)

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

* Agenda

- 2:00 - 2:30 Administrative, Updates, and Announcements – Chair Steve Lay and Lynn Fegley, Director, MD DNR
- **Public Comment - Two minutes allowed per speaker
 - Desired Outcome - Public's opportunity to speak to the commission
 - Roll Call - Steve Lay
 - Desired Outcome - A quorum
 - Welcome New Commissioners - Steve Lay
 - Desired Outcome - Introduction of new members and acknowledgement of reappointments
 - Commission Officer (Vice-Chair) Voting - Lynn Fegley
 - Desired Outcome - Decision on Vice-Chair thru July 2024
 - April 20, 2023 Commission Meeting Summary Approval
 - Desired Outcome - Commission vote
 - 2024 Commission Meeting Dates - Paul Genovese
 - Desired Outcome - Inform and Feedback from commission
- 2:30 - 2:40 Natural Resource Police Activities and Upcoming Priorities - Cpt. Matthew Corbin, MD NRP
- Desired Outcome - Inform and Q & A
- 2:40 - 2:50 Commercial Reporting - Carrie Kennedy, MD DNR
- Compliance Update
 - Desired Outcome - Commissioners disseminate information to their stakeholders
 - FACTS Shellfish Harvester Pilot Program - Early Start Flexibility
 - Desired Outcome - Commissioners disseminate information to their stakeholders
- 2:50 - 3:45 Regulatory and Legislative Review – Sarah Widman, MD DNR
- Fisheries Management Plan Legislative Report - Tamara O'Connell, MD DNR
 - Desired Outcome - Inform and feedback from commission
 - Regulatory and Penalty Update, Scoping Update
 - Desired Outcome - Inform and feedback from commission
- 3:45 - 4:30 Interjurisdictional Management - Lynn Fegley and Michael Luisi, MD DNR
- ASMFC / MAFMC Updates and Announcements

- Desired Outcome - Inform and feedback from commission
- Eels - Lynn Fegley
 - Desired Outcome - Inform

4:30 - 4:40 Committee / Workgroup Reporting

- Shrimp Update - Michael Luisi
 - Desired Outcome - Inform
- Blue Catfish Update - TBD
 - Desired Outcome - Inform

4:40 - 4:50 New Business - Commissioners

- Desired Outcome - Opportunity for commissioners to discuss items not on agenda.

4:50 Adjourn

* Agenda is subject to change

** For topics on the agenda the chair will attempt to provide an opportunity for public comment during the time allotted for the topic. Additional public comment will be allowed at the designated time period, a maximum of two minutes per individual. Written comments may be emailed to paul.genovese@maryland.gov.

Connection (through Google Meet)

By internet

<https://meet.google.com/wat-oxqt-icj>

By Phone

1-754-702-3165 PIN: 653 528 134#

MD DNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Draft of July 20, 2023 Meeting

Action Items:

- Director Lynn Fegley reminded the commission of its importance and the role they serve: Public input process is key. You carry the charge of bringing the perspectives with you of the people you represent.
- The department will be science and data driven in guiding our decision making. We have many different ways to manage our species, including the importance of the commission's input from around the state.
- The Fishing and Boating Service is down-staffed, we have a lot to do to get our house in order. Getting up to speed is a priority of the director in order to better serve the public.
- Another key priority is addressing invasive species. The department is in the process of recruiting a new biologist to focus solely on invasive fishes.

- The director encourages the commissioners to review our website, specifically our programs which are [found under the Programs Tab](#).
- Paul Genovese will share Director Fegley's contact information with all commissioners in an effort to stay transparent and please reach out anytime.
- If you see any violations or concerns while on the water, the NRP encourages you to call/text message 443-433-4112. You can also email to mwc.dnr@maryland.gov.
- The department stresses the importance of commercial reporting, the department encourages commissioners to remind folks to report and the importance of it.
- The department plans to have commercial reporting updates be a regular component of the commission agenda moving forward.
- The department uses reporting data to manage better and to solve problems, please report as accurately as possible.
- Commissioner Scerbo voiced some concerns regarding the commercial reporting hotline, the department acknowledges it is not perfect and will work to improve. Regarding reporting options, the department would like to work towards moving past the FAX option, other options are available, contact Carrie Kennedy if you are interested.
- The department requests comment from the commission on fisheries-related items it is currently proposing and scoping. Please review your handouts and send your comments to Sarah Widman (sarah.widman@maryland.gov) or Jacob Holtz (jacob.holtz@maryland.gov). Additionally, the items reviewed during the meeting will be posted on the department website, beginning a 15 day public comment period on these items at that time, please share with your constituents.
- Link to the document Mike and Lynn referenced regarding the Atlantic States Fisheries Commissions striped bass board, including the August meeting agenda and draft addendum II (page 85 of the full document) http://asmfc.org/files/2023SummerMeeting/AtlStripedBassBoard_August2023.pdf. During the August ASMFC meeting there will be a vote on the draft.
 - This commission and the public will have the opportunity to comment during the comment period that should open between August-October, on the approved options within Addendum II. Conservation equivalent options will not be available.
- The commission advises the department to wait on taking any action on the idea of proposing restrictions on haul seines on the Chicamuxen Creek until further evidence is gathered (see if this is more than a single incident).
- Additional Business topics brought up (not on agenda/no voting).
 - Commissioner Scerbo discussed recreational/charter fishing out of pounds net has become a larger problem and wants to let the NRP know.
 - NRP reminds folks to call in violations when observed, 443-433-4112.
 - Commissioner Sieling's proxy Jack Brooks wants to make everyone aware of the cheap imported crab meat coming into the state, which has led to extremely low dockside prices. Local picking houses have slowed work due to pricing.
 - Commissioner Gwin informed the commission that State Senator Carozza has an open invite to DNR leadership to attend a boat ride to see and discuss ongoing shoaling issues near the Ocean City inlet.
 - Lynn Fegley will inform the correct staff and send them Sonny's contact info.
 - Vice-Chair Gilmer will attempt to set up another blue catfish meeting to discuss alternate ways to catch the fish, including watermen. He will inform the commission and Paul when a meeting is set up.
 - Commissioner Brown commented that the reference points/target for striped bass are too high and should be addressed/lowered.

- Public comment - Bill Paulshott and Allison Colden commented that the MDA will have a listening session to discuss federal funding and how it can be dispersed, it has to do with food resiliency and blue catfish could be incorporated. Paul Genovese will share the listening session information with the commissioners (once Allison forwards to Paul).

Motions:

- *Commission approves April 20, 2023 meeting summary.* Motion by Brandon Malec, seconded by Moochie Gilmer. Vote: No objections. Approved.
- *Steve Lay as commission's Chairperson for the next 12 months.* Motion by Robert T. Brown, seconded by Moochie Gilmer. Vote: No objections. Approved.
- *Moochie Gilmer as commission's Vice-Chairperson for the next 12 months.* Motion by Robert T. Brown, seconded by Sonny Gwin. Vote: No objections. Approved.
- *Sonny Gwin as commission's liaison to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission for the next 12 months.* Motion by Robert T. Brown, seconded by Steve Lay. Vote: No objections. Approved.