

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Rutgers EcoComplex
Environmental Resource & Extension Center
Florence-Columbus Road, Bordentown, NJ
July 20, 2011

In Attendance were: Chairman Gilbert H. Ewing, Jr.
Councilman Patrick Donnelly
Councilwoman Frances Puskas
Councilman Erling Berg
Councilman Sergio Radossi
Councilman Scott Bailey
Councilman Joseph Rizzo

Absent: Councilman Richard Herb
Councilwoman Eleanor Bochenek
Councilman Walter L. Johnson III

Also in attendance representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

Thomas W. McCloy, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Adm. (MFA)
Brandon Muffley, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries
Russ Babb, Acting Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist, Marine Fisheries Administration
Russ Allen, Principal Biologist, Bureau of Marine Fisheries
Capt. Dominic Fresco, Bureau of Law Enforcement
Capt. Mark Canale, Bureau of Law Enforcement

Mr. McCloy read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on June 24, 2011.

Chairman Ewing began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Ewing gave a warm welcome to new Council Member Sergio Radossi. The Council approved the meeting minutes for the months of March, April and May 2011.

Legislative Report

Mr. McCloy presented Council with the Legislative Report. Copies of marine fisheries related legislation were provided in Handouts #1, #2, #3, & #4. All are sponsored by Senator Van Drew.

Handout #1, S2856, establishes a striped bass motor vehicle license plate. Any monies left over after administrative costs incurred by the Motor Vehicle Commission would go to help fund the free saltwater angler registry program.

Handout #2, S2880, establishes penalties for registration violations occurring under New Jersey's saltwater angler registry program.

Handout #3, S2964, directs DEP to develop and implement an artificial reef management plan for inshore and offshore reef sites.

Handout #4, S2849, provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for fish and wildlife management and conservation.

Mr. Rizzo asked if the Division has taken any position on these bills. Mr. McCloy commented the Division is still reviewing these bills.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Report

Mr. Berg presented Council with Handouts #5a & 5b.

Handout #5a, the Commerce Department announces 2011 regional fishery appointments. The Mid-Atlantic Council fills obligatory seats for Maryland, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania and one at-large seat.

Handout #5b, MAFMC recommends lower 2012 quota for Atlantic mackerel; higher for butterfish.

Committee Reports

Ms. Puskus presented Council with the Spiny Dogfish Committee Report.

The Spiny Dogfish Committee met with the commercial industry to discuss how New Jersey will deal with the recently approved ASMFC Addendum III, which implements annual state-by-state shares for the Southern Region (NY-NC) states. All agreed that it is time for the commercial industry to have the necessary legislation introduced, and ultimately implemented to set up a NJ spiny dogfish management program. Part of the legislation needs to include spiny dogfish harvester and dealer licenses.

Old Business

Mr. Muffley presented Council with an update on the N.J. Angler Registry. As of July 18th, 214,000 individuals and 988 Captains/Boat Owners have registered for the program. As part of the process to move regulations forward a stakeholder meeting was held to review and discuss the proposed angler registry program. Of the 22 invitees to the meeting, eight attended. Most of the regulations that will be developed will remain the same as currently exists with the Administrative Order with some minor revisions; one in particular is on the penalties for not being registered.

Mr. Muffley presented Council with an update on menhaden. A Menhaden Committee Meeting should be held to discuss a few issues that need to be addressed as a result of the legislation passed in 2010 setting up a limited entry fishery.

Mr. Muffley presented Council with an update on the U.S.S. Radford. This destroyer is in its final stages of being approved for sinking to become an artificial reef. Council members have been invited to attend the sinking. A date as to when this will happen should be announced within the next week.

Ms. Puskus asked if the location for this deployment has been approved. Mr. Muffley said that Delaware holds the permit for this reef site called the DELJERSEYLAND. This site was specifically chosen for the deep water necessary to accommodate such large vessels and it's location is accessible from ports in southern NJ, Delaware and Maryland. All three states shared in the costs for the project.

No members of the public had any comments for the Council.
Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting is September 8, 2011 (Second Thursday of the Month)
Galloway Township Library.