

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Galloway Library
Galloway Township, NJ
March 3, 2016

Council Attendees:

Richard Herb (Acting Chairman)
James Alexis
Scott Bailey
Erling Berg
Eleanor Bochenek
John Maxwell
Sergio Radossi
Robert Rush
Joseph Zaborowski

Council Absentees:

Frances Puskas
Joseph Rizzo

Division of Fish and Wildlife Attendees:

Brandon Muffley, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA)
Russ Allen, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries (BMF)
Captain Jason Snellbaker, Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE)
Sean Cianciulli, Acting Deputy Chief, BLE
Tom Baum, Supervising Biologist, BMF
Mike Celestino, Research Scientist, MFA
Heather Corbett, Principal Biologist, BMF
Lindy Barry, Senior Biologist, MFA
Brendon Harrison, Technician 2, BMF
Sherry Bennett, Council Secretary

Ms. Bennett read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of the Marine Fisheries Council (Council) meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on February 4, 2016. Council meeting minutes for January 7, 2016 were approved. Mr. Herb began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Conduct

Mr. Herb reminded the audience to take conversations outside or wait until the end of the meeting and to turn off all cell phones. Individuals wishing to make a public comment will need to sign up.

Mr. Herb welcomed Mr. John Maxwell back to the Council. Mr. Maxwell is the new Chairman of the Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council, replacing Mr. Walter Johnson.

Law Enforcement Report

CO Captain Snellbaker presented the Council with an update of the Law Enforcement Report for January thru February 2106, Handout #1. Highlights include:

- CO charged a Cape May based commercial fisherman for exceeding the black sea bass commercial trip limit by 25%. Written warnings were issued to two additional vessels that landed minor overages.
- The winter fishing season has just begun and 18 safe harbor declarations have already occurred in southern NJ since the beginning of 2016. As of February 24th CO's have conducted boarding's and monitored 27 safe harbor vessels. Three of these safe harbor vessels required a quota transfer where CO monitored and documented the offloads.
- The Marine Enforcement Unit continues to receive complaints of commercial clammers power raking hard clams while participating in the depuration program. Two individuals were apprehended on the same vessel using mechanical propulsion to harvest hard clams in the Sandy Hook Bay. Summonses were issued to both men, and the case is scheduled to be heard in court in late February.

- Following up on a complaint from late December, CO investigated an incident where a local lobsterman reported three of his trawls missing. CO used the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to input the coordinates of the missing trawls along with the date range the trawls disappeared. The operator of the suspect vessel admitted to the CO a lobster pot had come up in his scallop dredge while he was dredging near the area of the missing trawls. The case is being referred to the NMFS for further review since the incident took place in Federal waters approximately 40 miles offshore.
- In the early hours of February 10th, CO found four vessels, all hailing from Belford, in violation of dredging for crabs in Richmond County waters. This area of NY has been closed to dredging crabs for many years. All four captains were issued mandatory court appearance summonses by the NYS Environmental Conservation Officers for dredging in the closed area.
- In direct response to numerous complaints received about harvesting in the condemned waters of Maurice River Cove, and the increasing number of oysters bushels reported by the suspected unlawful harvesters, CO's in District 8 tested and utilized a new method to make apprehensions of the unlawful tongers. On Monday February 1st, CO used new electronic equipment purchased with FDA partnership funds, to determine that 6 fisherman in three separate vessels were harvesting oysters over 200 yards into the condemned waters area. CO's filed charges on 3 harvesters for taking oysters from the condemned waters of Maurice River Cove and charged 3 cullers for possession of oysters taken from condemned waters. Additionally CO's filed for forfeiture of the vessels, motors and tongs

involved in the unlawful harvest. Two of the fisherman apprehended had prior convictions for illegal harvests in the same area and one of them is currently on the revoked list from an apprehension that occurred in 2014. One of the fishermen was arrested and taken to Cumberland County jail for outstanding warrants stemming from controlled dangerous substance charges.

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Mr. Muffley presented Council with the Legislative and Regulatory Report:

- Presented Council with the approved Notice of Administrative Change (Notice) from Council's November 12, 2015 meeting which appeared in the January 19, 2016, NJ Register (Handout #2). The Notice modified American eel commercial regulations and modified commercial trip limits for black sea bass and summer flounder.
- Two bills were heard in Committee today and these two bills will be made available to Council at the next Council meeting. One is in regards to modifications to the minimum size of lobster harvested and possessed in New Jersey and the second is in regards to making terrapins a nongame species.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Report

Mr. Allen and Mr. Baum presented Council with ASMFC Winter Meeting Summary, held in Alexandria, VA February 2-4, 2016. (Handout #3).

Mr. Allen

- **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board initiated the development of the Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The Draft Addendum proposes allowing two individuals who are each authorized by their management jurisdiction to harvest 6,000 pounds of menhaden

bycatch to harvest up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden bycatch when working from the same vessel fishing stationary, multi-species gear –limited to one vessel trip per day. The Addendum will be drafted by the Plan Development Team for the Board’s review at its May meeting. If approved for comment, a public comment period would likely occur over the summer, and the Board would consider taking final action on the draft Addendum at its August meeting.

- **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

The Board received a report on the results of alternative bait trials. The results of the bait trials indicate artificial bait performed similarly to horseshoe crab bait that is currently used. A report will be presented at next meeting comparing the costs between currently used horseshoe crab bait and artificial bait.

- **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

The Board met to consider tabled motions from the November 2015 meeting, consider Conservation Equivalent Management Proposals, and receive an update on the Cooperative Winter Tagging Program.

- **Winter Flounder Management Board**

The Board maintained management measures for the 2016 recreational fishing season.

- **American Eel Management Board**

The Board revisited a discussion about Addendum IV regarding commercial quota allocations. Preliminary 2015 landings show the management trigger for automatic state-by-state allocation will likely not be met for 2015; however, several states are concerned that if allocation triggers are met in a future year it will result in significant challenges to their fisheries. The Board plans to continue to think through alternative quota allocation scenarios to address these concerns.

Mr. Baum

- **American Lobster Management Board**

The Board met to discuss potential management measures to address the declining condition of the Southern New England (SNE) stock. The Board reviewed the Technical Committee's (TC) reports which responded to the tasks assigned at the November meeting. Projections of the SNE stock showed that, under the assumption of constant recruitment, a 90 % reduction in harvest would be needed to stabilize the stock. Under a more optimistic assumption that recruitment is coupled with spawning stock biomass, a 75% reduction in harvest would be needed to stabilize the stock.

The Board also reviewed aspects of the Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including draft Addendum I which addresses incidental bycatch. The Board approved Draft Addendum I to the Jonah Crab FMP for public comment. The Draft Addendum for public comment will be accepted until April 1, 2016.

- **Atlantic Herring Section**

The Atlantic Herring Section met to review and consider final action on Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. The Section selected final measures pertaining to spawning area closures, fixed gear set asides, and emptying fish holds prior to trip departures and recommended to the full Commission approval of the Amendment with an implementation date of June 1, 2016.

- **Summer Flounder, Scup, And Black Sea Bass Management Board**

The Board approved Addendum XXVII to the Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass FMP. The Addendum continues the use of regional management for the 2016 recreational fisheries, with a modification to the summer flounder regions for the 2016 fishing year only. The approved summer flounder regions are MA; RI; CT through NY; NJ; DE through VA; and NC. For black sea bass, the Board approved the continuation of management measures by northern (MA-NJ) and southern regions (DE-NC).

The approval of NJ as its own region will allow NJ to pursue separate management measures in DE Bay in an effort to help address the current size discrepancies between

NJ and DE. Once through its regulatory process, the following will be the management measures for NJ waters west of the COLREGS line in the DE Bay: a 17-inch minimum size, 4 fish possession limit, and a 128 day season. For NJ anglers east of the COLREGS line and north along the NJ coast, the state will maintain 2015 management measures for 2016, namely, an 18-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and a 128 day season. The latter measures are consistent with those of NY and CT.

For black sea bass, the Board approved the continuation of ad hoc regional management measures for the northern (MA-NJ) and southern regions (DE – NC). States in the northern region, which are responsible for approximately 97% of the total recreational harvest, will need to reduce their harvest by 23% to achieve the 2016 recreational harvest limit. Based on the recommendations of the TC, the Board approved management proposals and methodologies submitted by the northern states. The northern states will finalize their black sea bass management measures by spring of 2016.

- **Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

The Board approved a spiny dogfish commercial quota of 40,360,761 pounds for the 2016/2017 fishing season (May 1 – April 30). The Board set commercial trip limits at 5,000 pounds in state waters in the northern region. Also approved an increase in the northern area trip limit to 6,000 pounds contingent on complementary action in federal waters.

- **Coastal Sharks Management Board**

The Board approved a commercial quota 1,201.7 mt dressed weight (dw) for smoothhound sharks (also known as smooth dogfish in the Atlantic) and implemented state-shares for the allocation of the coastwide quota, pursuant to the provisions of the Addendum II to the Interstate FMP for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. The Board's action responds to NOAA Fisheries' final approval of Amendment 9 to the 2006 Consolidation Highly Migratory Species FMP, which brings smoothhound sharks under federal management effective March 15, 2016. In addition, other provisions related to removal of smoothhound shark fins at sea, Amendment 9 requires smoothhound sharks to make

up at least 25% of the retained catch in order for fisherman to be able to remove their fins while at sea.

Mr. Adam Nowalsky updated the Council that Mr. Baum's travel requests to attend the Winter meeting was denied because he would be traveling two consecutive weeks. Such travel is reimbursed by the ASMFC and with staff not being present impacts fisheries.

After some discussion between Council members in regard to this denied travel request a motion was made.

Motion to send a letter to DEP Commissioner and interested politicians regarding travel restrictions on the MFA. Mr. Rush, seconded by Dr. Bochenek. Motion passes unanimously.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Mr. Baum presented Council with the MAFMC Meeting Summary, held in New Bern, NC February 9-11, 2016 (Handout #4). The next MAFMC meeting is April 11-14, 2016 in Montauk, New York. October's meeting will be held at the Stockton Seaview in Galloway, NJ and important action on river herring stocks will be discussed. A public hearing will be held in March for Blueline tilefish.

• Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment

The Council considered recommendations from the Unmanaged Forage Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT), the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning (EOP) Advisory Panel (AP), and the EOP Committee regarding the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment. The Council's decisions and recommendations are summarized below.

- The Council adopted a list of unmanaged forage taxa to be included in the public hearing document for the amendment.
- The Council agreed to strike "recreational: from the goal statement; thus the amendment will henceforth focus on commercial fisheries for unmanaged

forage species. Recreational management measures will be added to the list of items which can be addressed through future framework adjustments.

- The Council passed a motion to develop an alternative that would require vessel and dealer reporting of landings of species included in the amendment. This addition is intended to address data gaps associated with certain forage species which are currently harvested but are not required to be reported.
- The Council recommended that the SSC assist the Council in assessing available scientific information relating to unmanaged forage species.
- The Council will review and approve the public hearing document at the April 2016 meeting. Public hearings to begin in May 2016.

- **Scup Gear Restricted Areas**

The Council reviewed management alternatives and advisor recommendations for a framework action to modify the scup Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs). The Council postponed final action on the framework until April 2016.

- **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management**

The Council received a progress report on development of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Guidance Document. The document is being developed to move from a single species management approach toward development and implementation of assessments and management frameworks that incorporate environmental drivers, habitat and climate change, species interactions, and fleet interactions. As part of the EAFM discussion, Dr. Sarah Gaichas presented a draft white paper on ecosystem interactions. A draft of the EAFM Guidance Document is expected to be available for Council consideration at the April meeting.

- **Omnibus Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment**

The Council adopted preferred alternatives for the omnibus portions of the Industry Funded Monitoring (IFM) Amendment. In April the Council will consider identifying preferred alternatives for IFM specific to the Atlantic mackerel fishery, which will be followed by public hearings in May and final action at the June 2016 Council meeting.

- **Naming the Deep Sea Coral Protection Areas**

The Council voted to name a new deep sea coral protection area in honor of the late Senator Frank Lautenberg, a five-term US senator from NJ who was responsible for several important pieces of ocean conservation legislation.

- **Collaborative Research Committee**

The Collaborative Research Committee met to discuss preliminary alternatives for the Council's long-term involvement in collaborative research (CR). The Committee recommended a hybrid approach which would involve Research Set Aside (RSA), but improve coordination with NEFSC's Northeast Cooperative Research Program (NCRP). The Committee recommended establishing a technical working group with participants for MAFMC, NEFSC, and GARFO to develop an action plan and craft options for Council consideration at a meeting later in 2016, with a proposed timeline of October 2016 being finalized.

- **Spiny Dogfish Trip Limits**

Council voted to consider potential increase in the dogfish trip limit to 6000 lbs. at the April 2016 meeting.

Mr. Nowalsky commented to Council as well as to the public to make yourself available to attend and be present at these meetings. MAFMC only have 6 meetings a year. For 2016 they are: April in Montauk, NY; June Newark, DE; August Virginia Beach, VA; October Galloway, NJ; and December Baltimore, MD.

Shellfish Council Reports

- **Delaware Bay – Mr. Bailey**

Updated the Council on the 2016 Delaware Bay direct market oyster fishery. The 2016 quota recommendations were set with a starting quota allocation, without any transplants, at 91,000 bushels. If the two recommended transplants are completed this

year, the quota could be increased to around 100,000 bushels which would result in the largest direct market harvest since late 1997-1998. The direct market fishery opens April 1 to November 18, 2016.

- **Atlantic Coast – Mr. Maxwell**

There was no formal report, but Mr. Maxwell commented that there are currently a number of different committee meetings taking place – leasing policy and regulatory – and the Council will address at their March meeting.

- **Bureau Report – No report**

Committee Reports

- **Blue Crab and Conch Committee Report**

- Dr. Bochenek presented Council with Blue Crab and Conch Committee Report (Handout #5).

The Marine Fisheries Council Blue Crab and Conch Committee met at the Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office to continue discussions initiated during the August meeting of the Committee concerning dredge season schedules, possible dredge gear modifications, and various issues dealing with the conch fishery.

Possible dredge season modifications discussed at the previous meeting included changing the openings for the crab dredge season in Atlantic Coastal waters (from December 1 to December 15) and Delaware Bay waters (from November 15 to December 1). A review of the commercial harvest data from these fisheries indicated that significant blue crab harvests occurred during the first two weeks of these fisheries' current season dates. Concerns were expressed over the possible loss of market price advantages currently afforded to NJ crab fisherman due to the earlier season openings relative to surrounding states and the loss of available fishing days during a time in which severe weather conditions limit fishing activity. In light of these concerns, the Council members

and industry advisors agreed to maintain current season opening dates for both Atlantic Coastal waters and Delaware Bay.

With increased attention on the late winter and early spring conch fishery in Delaware Bay, the possible extension of the Delaware Bay crab dredge season through the end of April was introduced during the August Committee meeting. Commercial harvest data indicated that a significant portion of the historical April blue crab harvest occurred after the current dredge season closure of April 15 with the use of crab pot gear. In an attempt to allay gear conflict concerns, specific measures for the season extension were discussed. These measures included confining the harvest strictly to conch, and limiting the dredging area to specific grounds outlining deeper portions of the Bay adjacent to the shipping channel. Consensus was not reached amongst industry advisors, and the Committee decided further investigations and analyses were needed on this issue.

Discussions continued on possibly standardizing dredge size and tooth bar requirements for the entire Atlantic Coastal waters portion of the crab dredge fishery. While some support was expressed for allowing fisherman flexibility in configuring the number and size of the dredge gear consensus could not be reached, and current provisions will remain in place.

Conch fishery issues introduced during the August meeting included additional minimum size requirements, imposition of a maximum to the number of set gear, implementation of seasons, and gear tending requirements. The Committee and advisors agreed to not make any changes to the minimum size limit or implement conch pot limits at this time. The Division is currently implementing new mandatory reporting requirements for all gear types and will facilitate the collection of conch specific data necessary for future conch management discussions. The introduction of conch pot seasons and gear tending requirements were discussed with the goal of forcing fisherman to remove inactive or abandoned gear from the water to help address arise in user group conflicts. Industry advisors were supportive of gear tending requirements within time periods ranging from

ten days to three weeks with the Committee recommending a ten-day gear tending requirements for conch pots.

Some new issues were raised as agenda topics for future Committee meetings. Some advisors expressed support for the lifting of a ban on Sunday harvest for crab dredgers fishing n Atlantic Coastal waters south of Rte. 36. Currently only DE Bay and Atlantic Coastal waters north of Rte. 36 are open for crab dredging on Sundays. Another topic of interest was the extension of transferability to non-family members for commercial crab dredge licenses similar to the draft commercial crab pot transferability extensions. Investigations and analyses will be performed on these topics for discussion at a future Committee meeting.

There was no additional comment from the Council on the Committee report.

- **Striped Bass Committee Report**

- Ms. Corbett provided Council with a presentation on the Striped Bass Bonus Program including the pros and cons of the 2015 program and proposed modifications to be implemented for the 2016 program.
- Mr. Radossi presented Council with Striped Bass Committee Report (Handout #6).

The Striped Bass Committee met on February 17 to review the 2015 recreational fishery and Striped Bass Bonus Program (Program) and evaluate any potential modifications to the 2016 striped bass measures and the Program.

The Committee approved continuation of the Program for 2016, consistent with the 2015 Program, with a few administrative modifications. Program specifics include:

- 215,912 pound quota
- Season from September 1 to December 31
- Size limit from 24" to less than 28"

- Open to individuals and Party/Charter Boats

Committee members expressed concerns about funding for the Program and discussed the potential for charging a fee to ensure continuation of the Program into the future. Advisors plan to study the feasibility of a fee by surveying their respective organizations. Results will be presented at a future Committee meeting this spring.

MOTION to approve continuation of the Striped Bass Bonus Program into 2016 with some administrative changes. Motion by Mr. Zaborowski, seconded by Dr. Bochenek. Motion passes unanimously.

Recreational Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Committee Report

- Mr. Herb presented Council with the Recreational Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Committee Report (Handout #7).

A meeting of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council's Recreational Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Committee was held on February 24, 2016 to discuss options for NJ's 2016 recreational summer flounder and black sea bass fisheries regulations.

Summer Flounder

At their February 2016 meeting, the ASMFC's Management Board (Board) approved Addendum XXVII, which continues to use the regional management for the 2016 summer flounder fisheries, with a modification to provide more equity in recreational harvest opportunities between NJ and DE in the DE Bay. NJ was placed in a region of its own, so that specific DE Bay regulations may be implemented. All marine waters other than DE Bay shall retain the 2015 summer flounder measures for 2016 to remain consistent with CT and NY.

The Committee chose to advance the following options for 2016:

1. For the DE Bay; a 17 inch minimum size limit, 4 fish possession limit, and a season from May 21 to September 25. This includes waters west of the COLREGS line in the DE Bay and its tributaries but does not include the

areas within the Cape May Canal. The Committee agreed to allow transport of these fish through the Canal as far north to the Route 47 Bridge as long as all gear is stowed with rigs removed and the vessel does not stop to fish for any species.

2. All other NJ waters east of the COLREGS line and north along the NJ coast, shall maintain an 18 inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and a season from May 21 to September 25.
3. Continue the Shore Based Enhanced Fishing Opportunity Program at Island Beach State Park, especially with the Barnegat Inlet jetty now open.

Public Comment

Mr. Dave Showell – Wishes to start earlier in May vs late September, for the main purpose that May brings in more money than September.

Mr. Mike Clark – Make valid arguments between north and south. Why not have two seasons. Why not split the state north vs south.

- Mr. Herb commented that we tried to split the state and it was not successful at the ASMFC. May 17 is the earliest the season could open, mandated by the ASMFC.

Mr. Eddie Yates – approves the recommendations by Committee

Mr. George Bachert – approves as recommended.

Mr. Paul Haertel – supported later ending, however good compromise and approves the recommendation.

Mr. Tom Daffin – asks Council to keep fighting to split the state.

Mr. Mike Rothman – Strictly a DE Bay fisherman. Need a DE Bay option. Prefers to be closer to DE size limits. Supports the recommendation.

Mr. Fran Verdi – wonders where this will lead us to next year.

MOTION – the Committee recommendation for Summer Flounder stands as motion and second. Motion passed unanimously.

Black Sea Bass

Also at their February 2016 meeting, the Board approved the continuation of ad hoc regional management for black sea bass requiring NJ, as part of the Northern Region (consisting of the states from NJ to MA), to implement regulations that would reduce the 2016 recreational harvest of black sea bass by 23 percent compared to the 2015 recreational harvest.

In order to achieve this target the Committee chose to advance the following option for the 2016 season:

1. May 23 to June 19- a 10 fish possession limit and a 12.5 inch size limit,
2. July 1 to August 31 – a 2 fish possession limit and a 12.5 inch size limit, and
3. October 22 to December 31 – a 15 fish possession limit and a 13 inch size limit.

Public Comment

Mr. Victor Hartley – More people need to be present at the ASMFC/MAFMC meetings. There are many fish available out there and the ASMFC/MAFMC needs to hear from the public.

- Mr. Herb commented that the data is flawed, yet some improvements are on the way.

Mr. Eddie Yates – Too many people’s lives are being impacted. Need to increase fisherman presence to get out of southern region.

Mr. Adam Nowalsky – The system for measuring recreational species is broken. Need public to stand up and take a stand not to accept these regulations. Every time we approve these regulations is just another nail in the coffin to the end of this fishery.

Mr. Paul Haertel – So many sea bass exist, the data is flawed.

- Mr. Radossi commented that the data system is broken, but the methodology is sound. The politics involved are the issue. ASMFC/MAFMC needs to hear from the public the impact these regulations have on your lives.

Mr. Goldman – commented that the Magnuson Act is the issue. Must get a hold of our federal legislators to make changes to this law.

Mr. Paul Haertel commented we need a huge turnout at the October MAFMC meeting in Galloway.

MOTION – the Committee recommendation for Black Sea Bass stands as motion and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Regulatory Actions

- **Mr. Allen** presented Council with Handout #8 (Notice of Administrative Change) which modifies Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass Recreational Season, Size and Possession Limits and Modifications of the Striped Bass Bonus Program.

Motion to move forward with a Notice of Administrative Change for the modifications to summer flounder, black sea bass, striped bass and hybrid striped bass as approved tonight. Motion by Rush, second by Bochenek. Motion carries unanimous, no abstentions.

Old Business

- **Mr. Muffley** presented Council with Handout #9a, Administrative Order 2016-02 which closed the remaining 2016 commercial harvest season for protection of the diamondback terrapin and Handout #9b, DEP News Release regarding the

administrative order closing the diamondback terrapin season to ease harvesting pressures on species.

- Mr. Muffley then presented Council with Handout #10, which provides details on the Marine Fisheries Administration Budget listing staff, salary, funding information for the Fiscal Year of 2016 and state appropriation for Marine Fisheries, Shellfisheries and Marine Law Bureau's. State appropriation funding has essentially remained flat over the last 30 years. The state appropriation was cut in 2011 and the Nuclear Emergency Response (NER) Fund has provided \$1.1 million in funds each year over the last five years including the 2015 fiscal year. The NER Fund was no longer available for the current 2016 fiscal year, and various Bureau of Shellfisheries dedicated accounts were used to address the \$1.1 million budget deficit needed to cover salaries.

Motion to send a letter to Senate and Assembly Budget Committees to make them understand the funding problems and potential solutions for the MFA. Motion made by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Rush. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to send a letter to Senator Sweeney and any appropriate members of the Legislature in charge of budgetary Committees to move DFW out of DEP and into Dept of Agriculture. Motion by Mr. Rush. Motion dies for a lack of a second.

Mr. Bailey requested to discuss this issue through a legislator/executive committee.

New Business

Mr. Muffley brought Council's attention to Handouts #11-13.

- Handout #11a is public notice for application for a waterfront development individual permit.
- Handout #11 b is a letter to provide legal notification that an application will be submitted for an individual in-water waterfront development permit. The project is for sand mining in the Ambrose Federal Navigation Channel to a depth of 90 feet below mean low water.
- Handout #12 is a letter addressed to Council from Point Lobster Company in regards to modifications to lobster size limits.

- Handout #13 Marine Fisheries Council members contact information

Committee Meetings- a reminder that advisors join the various committees through a formal process and interested advisors need to apply and get approved by the Council to serve as an advisor. The following is a list of committee meetings that are in the queue to be held:

- Legislative committee to discuss budget
- Commercial black sea bass regarding change of quota structure
- Lobster regarding minimum size issues and recent legislation
- Regulatory regarding landing license
- Regulatory regarding bow fishing for rays proposals

Public Comment

Mr. Fred Akers - send letters to Van Drew, Kaelin, and DiDomenico in regards to funding.

Mr. Ken Warschal – Thanked those involved in approving more artificial reefs. Still an issue on the Axel Carlson reef with pots still in the middle of the reef.

Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting May 12, 2016, Galloway Township.