

Marine Fisheries Council Meeting  
November 5, 2020

**Council Attendees:**

Joe Rizzo	Eleanor Bochenek
John Maxwell	Bob Rush
Dick Herb	Pat Donnelly
Barney Hollinger	Jeff Kaelin
Kevin Wark	

**Council Absentees:**

**DEP and Division of Fish and Wildlife Attendees:**

Ray Bukowski – Assistant Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
Dave Golden – Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources  
Joe Cimino – Administrator, Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA)  
Jeff Brust – Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries (BMF)  
Russ Babb – Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries (BSF)  
John Cianciulli – Chief, Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE)  
Jeff Normant – Supervising Biologist, BSF  
Heather Corbett – Supervising Biologist, BMF  
Mike Celestino – Research Scientist, MFA  
Linda Barry – Senior Biologist, BMF  
Tim Daniels – Assistant Biologist, BMF  
Matt Heyl – Assistant Biologist, BMF  
Jessica Daher – Program Specialist, MFA  
Kelly O'Neill – Program Specialist, MFA  
Laura Versaggi – ACCSP Fisheries Specialist, BMF  
Alissa Wilson - Assistant Biologist, BMF  
Brian Neilan – Senior Biologist, BMF  
Peter Clarke – Senior Biologist, BMF  
Amber Francis – Assistant Biologist, BMF

**Public Attendees:**

Erica Rosina  
Benjie Swan  
David Kielmeier  
James Parker III  
Jim Hutchinson  
John DePersenaire  
Kara Gross

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM. Notice of the Marine Fisheries Council meeting was filed with and posted at the office of the Secretary of State and delivered to the designated newspapers of the Division on October 28, 2020.

J. Brust explained webinar etiquette: all attendees outside of the MFC and presenters remain in “listen only” mode with the option to use a webinar feature to acquire a place in line for public comment and questions. Comments are asked to be kept civil otherwise attendees may be removed from the virtual meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the September 2020 meeting of the Council were approved without revision. Motion made by B. Hollinger and seconded by B. Rush; motion approved.

### **Enforcement Report – J. Cianciulli**

August 22, 2020 CPO’s Moscatiello and Henderson located a group of fishermen on the bridge between Point Pleasant and Brielle. CPO Moscatiello recognized one of the group and made their way down the tracks to inspect the fishermen locating two undersized striped bass in the backpack of one of the fishermen. CPO Henderson located a bag with nine striped bass, eight being undersized on the tracks just passed the location of the fishermen. During the interviews the original fisherman that CPO Moscatiello inspected admitted to keeping all 11 striped bass. He was issued court mandatory summonses for possessing 10 undersized striped bass and 10 over limit striped bass.

While patrolling the Raritan Bay, CPO Klitz boarded the vessel and uncovered several violations. 10 black sea bass fillets were found in a bucket hidden under one of the seats on board. CPO Klitz wrote the operator a summons for the illegal black sea bass filets. Upon reengaging the vessel to issue the summons, CPO Klitz noticed summer flounder belly strips stuck to the gunwale of the boat. The operator of the vessel tried to assure the officers that the fluke parts must have been “spit up” by one of the summer flounder they had boated earlier. The vessel operator received an additional summons for the violation.

CPO Raker, Lieutenant Petruccelli and Detective Harp conducted boat patrols this past month with a focus on inspecting party and charter vessels fishing in Federal waters for Federally managed species. During these patrols, one Ocean County charter boat and one Cape May County party boat was found in violation for not having the appropriate Federal fishing permits. The cases were referred to National Marine Fisheries Service for enforcement action.

Detective Harp and CPO Meyer apprehended a commercial licensed clammer that sold hard clams directly to a Long Beach Island clam bar that did not have the appropriate shellfish dealer certification. Both the commercial harvester and the proprietor of the restaurant confessed to

engaging in the sale/purchase. The CPOs worked in conjunction with the local health department to file the appropriate charges.

Detective Harp and Lieutenant Petruccelli assisted the with outreach and crowd control over a deceased juvenile humpback whale had floating into Absecon Inlet. The whale was towed dragged ashore onto Brigantine Beach where officials from NOAA were able to perform a necropsy. The whale had line commonly found in the commercial fishing industry wrapped around its peduncle. A cause of death will be determined once the results of the necropsy are analyzed.

During the month of September, CPO's engaged in inspecting fixed commercial fishing gear for compliance with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan which requires weak links on all buoy lines. The majority of gear inspected was compliant however multiple lobster pots belonging to a Monmouth County fisherman failed to meet the requirements. The violations were referred to National Marine Fisheries Service for enforcement action.

On September 24th, CPO Raker, Det. Harp and Lt. Petruccelli conducted a boat patrol departing from Cape May and patrolling the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast. On the way out of the inlet the officers observed a small vessel anchored near the rocks with one individual actively engaged in tautog fishing. CPO Raker navigated the patrol vessel towards the small vessel in order to conduct an inspection. The individual, having realized an inspection was imminent, began quickly loading a fish basket with tautog from the deck of his vessel. Det. Harp and Lt. Petruccelli gave multiple commands for the individual to stop and not to discard any fish. The fishermen then dumped the basket partially full of fish off the stern of the vessel. The individual was issued summonses for discarding catch prior to inspection and over limit tautog. CPO's proceeded on patrol to approximately 30 miles southeast of Cape May to the Del-Jersey-land reef site where they located a Delaware based party fishing vessel. The vessel was actively catching black seabass and summer flounder. A later investigation revealed the party vessel did not possess the required federal permits and the case was submitted to NMFS for enforcement action.

October 11th, CPO Raker began making observations of two individuals fishing for tautog in North Wildwood. After observing violations, CPO Raker staged at a location where an apprehension could be made. CPO Raker also located a vehicle belonging to one of the fishermen and a short investigation revealed the owner had multiple, substantial, prior violations involving tautog. CPO Raker observed the individuals running towards the vehicle with a heavy bucket attempting to make a quick exit. CPO Raker apprehended the individuals and found 46 undersized tautog and 3 undersized black sea bass in their possession. The daily possession limit was one per person. Due to the extensive history of violations, all gear was seized, and the individuals are facing in excess of \$9000.00 in fines.

CPO Tomlin and Recruit Szelc conducted an inspection of a Cape May based otter trawl vessel and discovered the operator failed to notify the Department of landing in excess of the daily trip

limit of summer flounder. The vessel was in possession of 13,000 pounds of summer flounder which is 8,000 pounds over New Jersey's 5,000-pound trip limit. Under the Possession in Excess of Daily Limit Vessel License which allows vessels to enter port with another state's black sea bass and summer flounder on board, vessel operators must declare their intentions to enter State waters, identify the time and place of unloading, declare the species and quantity of fish to be unloaded, and the hailing weight and destination of each species to be sold outside of the State. The appropriate summonses were issued.

Enforcement will be transitioning to the Green Bank offices starting in early January. There will no longer be enforcement presence outside of patrol vessels at the Nacote Creek Field Office after the transition.

### **Legislative/Regulatory Report – J. Cimino**

There are a few Bills being reported out of committee by the State Assembly. A4756 requires automatic voter registration at an agency or office providing hunting fishing or trapping licenses and A4799 changes laws regulating size limits for regulating lobster. At the federal level, HR5126 the DESCEND Act is being watched for recreational traction. In addition, a House and Senate Bill to amend the Magnuson Stevenson Act is proposed to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

### **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Report – H. Corbett**

Ms. Corbett gave a presentation to summarize all meetings held during ASMFC's Annual Meeting held in October.

The Atlantic Herring Board reviewed the 2021-2023 Fishery Specifications Package approved through Framework 8 and submitted for review in September. The Board will wait until the final rule is released by NOAA before considering specifications for Area 1A fishery for next year. In the meantime, the Board approved the seasonal quota allocation for 2021 Area 1A which was consistent with 2020. The fishery will close when 92% of the seasonal period's quota has been projected to be harvested. Any underages will be moved into the fall. An update was received on better coordination among state and federal herring management. The Board will continue to review the proposed list of changes to management responsibilities and provide an update at the February meeting.

The Winder Flounder Board reviewed 2020 stock assessment updates for Gulf of Maine and Southern New England stocks. It was determined that in the GOM overfishing was not occurring and stock biomass is unknown. The Board expressed concern that there has not been much of a response to the large reduction in commercial and recreational removals since the 1980s. The SNE/MA stock was determined to be overfished with overfishing not occurring. The SSB and recruitment are at all-time lows, and the Board expressed concern over the depleted stock status

and low probability of rebuilding to the biomass target by 2023. The Board plans to set the state water specifications when it meets in February.

The American Lobster Board approved the stock assessment for management use with new reference points. The Gulf of Maine stock was determined to be not overfished and overfishing not occurring, while the Southern New England stock was significantly depleted. The Lobster Data Elements Work Group recommended a few changes to VTRs that will be provided to the Policy Board who will draft a letter to NOAA. If these changes are accepted, there will be about 1-2 years until implementation. The Board supports the expanded pilot project for the electronic tracking program and will continue to work on testing. The Board approved all FMP reviews for lobster and Jonah crab with recommendations to the Policy Board to draft a letter to New York regarding its implementation of Jonah crab measures.

The Atlantic Menhaden Board approved the TAC for the 2021-2022 fishing season. This is a 10% reduction from the 2018-2020 TAC based on ecological reference points approved by the Board in August.

The South Atlantic Board approved Addendum I to the Cobia FMP which included changes to the calculation of commercial trigger, *de minimis* measures and sector allocation. The Addendum will be implemented by January 1, 2021. For spot and croaker, the Board reviewed the Traffic Light Analysis which triggered for both species at a moderate level of concern. Non *de minimus* states are required to institute a 50 fish bag limit for the recreational fishery and to reduce commercial harvest by 1% average harvest from the previous 10 years. New Jersey is a *de minimus* state, so these reductions are not required. The implementation plans are due to the Technical Committee in February 2021 for Board approval in March. The FMP reviews were approved for red drum, croaker and cobia.

The Horseshoe Crab Board set the 2021 harvest specifications for horseshoe crabs from the Delaware Bay region. The ARM Subcommittee will meet for the Assessment Workshop in early 2021 and the final ARM Framework will go to the Board in August or October 2021 after peer review is completed. The 2019 FMP review was approved for all states. The TC was tasked to evaluate the impact of recent biomedical mortality levels on the stocks.

The Spiny Dogfish Board set the quotas for 2021-2023 fishing seasons. These quotas were revised based on the new MAFMC Risk Policy and are an 8% increase from what was set last year. There is a plan to conduct socioeconomic analysis of potential trip limit changes in 2021.

The Striped Bass Board reviewed the state circle hook implementation plans. All plans were approved with a caveat that no exemptions to requirements will be permitted. The TC was tasked to look at release mortality in the recreational fishery and will provide those estimates for the

Board in February. The Board discussed and provided several changes for the Draft Public Information Document for Draft Amendment 7 to the FMP, and will consider approval for public comment in February 2021.

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council reviewed ranked proposals to allocate funding for FY 2021. The Council opted to fund all the proposals as presented and the ACCSP Leadership Team is working to finalize the grant budget and alternatives for any carry-over or additional funds for consideration in February.

The Executive Committee discussed future annual meetings to be held in NJ in 2021, NC in 2022, MD in 2023 and DE in 2024.

The Policy Board decided to divide the South Atlantic Board into two - Cobia and Spanish mackerel will be one Board, while spot, red drum, black drum, croaker and spotted sea trout are the species included on the second Board.

B. Hollinger questioned the 2021 horseshoe crab specifications and what criteria were used to determine which crabs were from the Delaware Bay region. J. Cimino explained this quota is the same as it has been for several years, and the states of NJ, DE, MD, and VA land DB region crabs, which are identified based on tagging and genetic studies.

J. Kaelin questioned horseshoe crab biomedical mortality levels and reports that it was going to increase related to development of the COVID vaccine. J. Cimino stated that HSC blood has not been requested from the biomedical industry for use in COVID testing, although the vaccine (like all vaccines) will require LAL for quality control testing.

### **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Report – J. Cimino**

J. Cimino gave a presentation to summarize all meetings held during the MAFMC's October meeting.

The Spiny Dogfish specifications for 2021-2022 will be adding 8% to the previous determined ABC and commercial quota based on revisions to the Risk Policy. The new 2021-2022 quotas represent a 27% increase compared to the 2020 quotas.

For chub mackerel, there are no changes in the 2021 specifications from 2020.

The Executive Order from the President on promoting American seafood competitiveness and economic growth that directed the council to prepare recommendations in response to the order. The Mid-Atlantic Council prepared 18 recommendations to streamline the process and to provide

more consistency year-to-year, mainly for commercial items. The recommendations were approved by the Council and provided to NMFS.

The Research Priorities document was updated and provided to the Council.

The Council reviewed progress on the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) that will evaluate biological and economic performance and trade offs of management alternatives to minimize discards in the recreational summer flounder fishery. This MSE includes an extensive management/stakeholder engagement process. There will be a webinar and mock MSE workshop held in September with advisory panel members, as well as stakeholder workshops planned over the next 12-15 months.

There is a collaborative research project between the Council and Rutgers using new methods to predict climate induced movements of summer flounder, dogfish and gray triggerfish that better align with management timescales. Rutgers is working on model development through 2020 with testing scheduled for 2021. The project completion is estimated to occur in 2022.

There is an Amendment for Bluefish that was required following the most recent stock assessment. The Council reviewed FMAT recommendations and approved alternatives for the draft public hearing document. Alternatives were removed that related to regional commercial allocations. The rebuilding plan alternatives span a time period of 4 to 7 years. Alternatives pertaining to sector transfer and *de minimus* will be reviewed for final approval for the public hearing document in February.

The Council discussed the Recreational Management Reform Initiative and agreed to initiate a joint framework/addendum and joint amendment for recreational issues. The framework/addendum will act to develop methods to better incorporate MRIP uncertainty into decision making, to provide guidelines for maintaining status quo recreational measures from year to year, provide a process for setting recreational management measures, change timing for federal waters recreational management measures and a harvest control rule proposal. The Amendment considers options such as species separation, private angler reporting and enhanced trip report requirements for for-hire vessels. The alternatives for framework/addendum and draft scoping document will be considered in 2021.

The Council received a progress update from the Executive Committee meeting. Items discussed by the ExComm included a review of the 2020 Implementation Plan, reviewed a draft list of deliverables for 2021, and a request that additional information on frigate and bullet mackerel be provided during the December meeting which will be held December 14-17.

### **Seafood Website - J. Cimino**

A website was created to help the public find local seafood. It is currently set up as a story map where businesses wishing to be on the map are able to include logos, business information and other store information.

B. Hollinger asked how businesses were contacted to be part of the local seafood map and suggested that licensed dealers received a letter to join. J. Cimino explained that small business received letters and he will look into application process with Jenny Tomko.

### **Shellfish Council - B. Hollinger**

Direct Market Harvest Update – the medium mortality market beds remain open with a regional quota of 16,216 bushels, approximately 6,000 bushels are left to harvest.

A meeting was held on the dredging of Nantuxent Channel. The spoils of the designated channel will be deposited on shore to provide beach. The dredging is expected to begin next fall.

### **Atlantic Coast – J. Maxwell**

George Matthis Jr., representing Burlington County, was appointed as a Council member. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss the leasing committee on November 16.

### **Bureau of Shellfisheries Report – J. Normant**

Lease renewals will no longer be through the Shellfisheries office, everything is being handled by mail.

New leases will be visited in January by appointment only. The hold on lease transfers will be lifted after the new lease application period is ended.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Menhaden Committee - J. Kaelin**

A meeting was held on October 13<sup>th</sup> to inform advisors of the menhaden quota alternatives being considered for the next few fishing seasons. Staff provided an overview of two memos from the ASMFC Menhaden Technical Committee to the Management Board. The first memo provided quota alternatives ranging from 25% to 60% probability of exceeding the ecosystem reference point (ERP) fishing mortality target. Quotas under these scenarios range from 8.7% to 31.5% reductions in 2021 relative to the 2020 quota of 216,000 metric tons. The memo also provided quota options ranging from -10% to +10% of the 2020 quota, which would result in a 58.5% to 70.5% chance of exceeding the ERP fishing mortality target. The second memo provided an estimate of ERP fecundity reference points. ERP fecundity reference points were not developed

during the initial Technical Committee work but were requested by the Management Board during their August meeting.

Chairman Kaelin, who is outgoing chair of the ASMFC Menhaden Advisory Panel, provided an overview of the AP comments on the two memos from their October 8, 2020 meeting. Of the twelve members attending the AP meeting, 7 were in favor of maintaining status quo, while 5 members recommended a quota of 176,800 metric tons, which provides a 50% probability of exceeding the ERP F-target.

Comments from advisors and committee members generally supported maintaining status quo. It was noted that the menhaden stock is healthy, and the single species reference points would allow substantial increases to quota without overfishing occurring. Further, the 50% probability of exceeding the ERP F-target is more restrictive than federal mandates that focus on the probability of exceeding a stock's F-threshold, or overfishing limit. Several attendees commented that there was an apparent mismatch between menhaden population status and the need for harvest reductions. It was also noted that the ERP F-target allows sufficient menhaden to maintain the striped bass population at its target level, but the current striped bass population is below the target, isn't projected to be rebuilt before 2029, and should not need as much forage left in the water today. When asked about forage needs of other species, staff clarified that the model does incorporate forage needs of marine mammals and birds, and that the ERP reference points maintain other finfish predators at current population levels which was a policy decision.

Other topics discussed included projected bait needs (*e.g.* menhaden demand with significant reductions in Atlantic herring quotas), biological sampling, and the 6,000-pound bycatch limit, which is being abused by some states. It was clarified that this is not a concern with the use of the bycatch limit useful.

No action items for the Council.

### **Black Sea Bass Committee**

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2020 black sea bass commercial fishery landings. Based upon the unharvested quota remaining in the 2020 commercial fishery, the Committee recommends adjusting the Season 6 directed trip limits as follows:

- option A- 800-pound trip five times per week or
- option B- 1,000-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 2,000-pound trip two times per week or
- option D- 4,000-pound trip one time per week.

Additionally, Advisors were presented with the preliminary 2021 commercial black sea bass quota for New Jersey. The preliminary quota for New Jersey is 1,218,000 pounds, which

includes a 9% increase relative to the 2020 fishing year. Based upon this preliminary quota for the black sea bass commercial fishery, the Committee's preferred trip limits for the 2021 commercial fishing year are as follows:

Season 1 (January-February):

- option A- 750-pound trip two times per week or
- option B- 1,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 2 (March-April):

- option A- 750-pound trip four times per week or
- option B- 1,500-pound trip two times per week or
- option C- 3,000-pound trip one time per week.

Season 3 (May-June):

- option A- 800-pound trip five times per week or
- option B- 1,000-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 2,000-pound trip two times per week.

Season 4 (July-August):

- option A- 800-pound trip five times per week or
- option B- 1,000-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 2,000-pound trip two times per week.

Season 5 (September-October):

- option A- 1,000-pound trip six times per week or
- option B- 2,000-pound trip three times per week.

Season 6 (November-December):

- option A- 750-pound trip four times per week or
- option B- 1,500-pound trip two times per week or
- option C- 3,000-pound trip one time per week.

Options cannot be combined under any circumstance for a given season. Once a trip has been landed under one option, the vessel is restricted to only that option for the remainder of the fishing week (Sunday-Saturday). Once the following fishing week begins (12:00 a.m. Sunday), the vessel can choose another option under the corresponding season. The Committee recommends the commercial trip limits for the 2021 commercial black sea bass fishing year as provided in this report.

No comments from the Council, motion carries.

No public comments.

## **Commercial Summer Flounder P. Donnelly**

NJDFW staff provided advisors with current 2020 summer flounder commercial fishery landings. Currently there are approximately 436,000 pounds of summer flounder projected to be available for the final season of the 2020 commercial fishery. Despite the 110% increase to the original season 6 quota of 190,000 pounds due to unused rollover from previous seasons, the committee opted to retain the current season 6 trip limits. The explanation for this decision is based around the predicted added effort that will likely occur at the beginning of season 6 which will allow the excessive quota to be harvested. There was concern that if the trip limit was increased with the added vessels re-entering the fishery, the season 6 quota would likely close prematurely and the NJ annual quota could be over harvested.

Additionally, advisors were presented with the preliminary 2021 commercial summer flounder quota for New Jersey. The Preliminary quota for New Jersey is 2,088,951 pounds, which includes an 8% increase relative to the 2020 fishing year. Based upon this preliminary quota for the summer flounder commercial fishery, the Committee's preferred trip limits for the 2021 commercial fishing year are as follows:

### Season 1 (January-February):

- option A- 1,250-pound trip two times per week or
- option B- 2,500-pound trip one time per week.

### Season 2 (March-April):

- option A- 500-pound trip four times a week or
- option B- 1,000-pound trip two times per week or
- option C- 2,000-pound trip one time per week.

### Season 3 (May-June):

- option A- 350-pound trip seven times a week or
- option B- 625-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 1,250-pound trip two times per week.

### Season 4 (July-August):

- option A- 350-pound trip seven times a week or
- option B- 625-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 1,250-pound trip two times per week.

### Season 5 (September-October):

- option A- 350-pound trip seven times a week or
- option B- 625-pound trip four times per week or
- option C- 1,250-pound trip two times per week or

option D- 2,500-pound trip one time per week.

Season 6 (November-December):

option A- 1,000-pound trip two times per week or

option B- 2,000-pound trip one time per week.

Options cannot be combined under any circumstance for a given season. Once a trip has been landed under one option, the vessel is restricted to only that option for the remainder of the fishing week (Sunday-Saturday). Once the following fishing week begins (12:00 a.m. Sunday), the vessel can choose another option under the corresponding season. The Committee recommends the commercial trip limits for the 2021 commercial summer flounder fishing year as provided in this report.

No comments from the Council, motion carries.

No public comments.

A draft Notice of Administrative Change to implement the 2021 commercial trip limits for summer flounder and black seabass was reviewed by Council. The NOAC still needs legal review, but approval by MFC tonight will ensure trip limit changes will be implemented by Jan 1.

Motion to approve trip limit NOAC; Motion by Dr. Bochenek, second by K. Wark. Motion carries unanimously.

## **Old Business**

### **CARES Update J. Cimino**

The application for the federal relief funding went live. The application runs through 11/18/2020. The staff that is involved is reviewing applications have been processing them quickly, but the amount of applications is lower than expected when compared to the known number of license holders in New Jersey.

B. Hollinger asked if there have been any aquaculture applications. J. Cimino confirmed that some have been received, but the majority of applications received have been from the for-hire fleet.

B. Rush commented that some of the feedback he received suggests that the application is not user friendly and may be preventing some people from applying. J. Cimino confirms there are no current outstanding issues or applications that are hung up in the review process.

### **Observer Letters J. Cimino**

Council was provided a copy of the letter from Council to NMFS concerning commercial observer trips. Also included was a response from NMFS to a similar letter from MAFMC.

### **Recreational Flounder Fishing P. Clarke**

There is an 8% recreational target increase from the 2020 fishing season, 1,162,812 fish. Several size and season length options were presented to the Council for consideration. Comments were collected to determine what direction the Council would like to go with these projections. If any of the presented options would like to be put forward, a December meeting will need to be scheduled.

Dr. Bochenek suggested calculating the slot fish be a single fish with the other fish calculated as larger fish to see what happens with the length of season. It was also requested that the harvest be looked at North versus South Jersey for size limit considerations.

P. Donnelly suggested the inland angler should be able to keep a smaller fish, which may help to reduce discard mortality.

B. Rush suggested a smaller size limit to bring down discard mortality.

P. Donnelly would like an advisor meeting for the recreational side to gather more comments on how recreational anglers would prefer to go with the size and season limits. Other Council members agreed and requested staff develop options to evaluate issues such as a north/south split, shore-based opportunity, and inland vs. ocean fisheries. There was discussion regarding a joint fluke and black sea bass meeting to address the fall window when both fisheries are closed. It was agreed that it is important to address the closure as it affects anglers and businesses, but joint meetings in the past have not always been efficient.

J. Hutchinson requests that this information is provided so that he can send it out to coordinate public response.

### **New Business J. Cimino –**

- Black sea bass study on acoustics and possible studies on BSB around windmills
- Delinquent crab harvester letters have been sent to remind harvesters to submit their reports.
- Webinar comments – changes, updates, concerns

### **Public Comments**

J. Hutchinson asked for status updates on filing the two open Council seats.

R. Bukowski/J. Cimino explained the open seats are on their radar and the intentions are to work towards filling these seats. Interested parties should go to their state senator for nominations before the vetting process begins.

The next Council Meeting will be held January 7, 2020 at 5:00PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.