



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SHELLFISHERIES



MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2013

Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway., Dover, DE 19901
Div. of Fish & Wildlife phone: 302-739-9914

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Leonard "Limbo" Voss, Jr., Chairman
Patrick Gaffney
Virgilio Pacelli (*Absent*)
Paul Satterfield
Steven Copp
Richard S. Hand, Jr.
Robert Thompson

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark
Stew Michels
David Saveikis, Director
Rich Wong
Mike Stangl
Jeff Tinsman
Capt. John Rutherford
Kim Stangl

PUBLIC

19 Visitors

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes from 3/9/11 Meeting

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:00 and welcomed everyone. A motion carried to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on March 9, 2011.

Agenda Item 2. Designing a more sustainable bait for regional eel and conch fisheries

Dr. Nancy Targett of the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment (CEOE) gave a presentation summarizing the research to develop synthetic alternatives to using horseshoe crabs (HSC) as eel and conch bait. She explained that they were not able to isolate the chemical, or chemicals, from the HSC that could be artificially replicated to create bait, however, the lab was successful at developing methods to use small portions of a HSC to make multiple synthetic baits that showed similar results to actual HSC bait. This could substantially reduce the demand for HSC as bait. Dr. Targett indicated that there is a NJ firm selling baits made with the UD method.

Mr. Voss recognized Mr. Michels to speak about the recently passed Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) resolution banning Asian horseshoe crabs. **Mr. Michels** explained that the main concern with importation of this non-native species is the risk of parasites and pathogens. He then requested endorsement from the Council for DE DFW to proceed with development of regulations to ban importation of Asian horseshoe crabs in DE. The **Council** passed a motion to approve efforts to ban importation of this species in DE.

Agenda Item 3. Bivalve shellfish aquaculture in Delaware's Inland Bays

Mr. E.J. Chalabala of the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) presented a summary of efforts to allow shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays. He presented information on the increase in shellfish aquaculture in all Atlantic states except for DE and stated that some Delawareans have expressed interest in starting oyster aquaculture in the Inland Bays. He also presented possible economic and environmental benefits to DE. Title 7, Delaware Code currently prohibits the lease of Inland Bay bottom for shellfish aquaculture due to the controversy caused by oyster leases in the 1970s. The CIB assembled a stakeholder group that included DNREC and Department of Agriculture staff to evaluate and develop a method to allow and initiate shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays. The group proposed changes to the Code to allow shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays and to establish DNREC regulatory authority for the program. After Mr.

Chalabala's presentation ended, much discussion followed with those opposing the plan primarily being commercial clambers fearful of being excluded from clamming on any of the leased bottom and with those favoring the plan primarily being individuals that want to culture shellfish in the Inland Bays. The **Council** voted to oppose the plan, with 5 opposing the plan, 0 in favor of the plan, and 1 abstention.

Agenda Item 4. Delaware Bay oyster population assessment

Mr. Wong, Fisheries Biometrician, presented a summary of the 2012 oyster survey. The survey indicated that market-sized oyster abundance was up, so the 2013 oyster quota has been increased. However, because recruitment was poor in 2012, overall abundance may begin to decline.

Agenda Item 5. Director's update

Director Saveikis explained that there is proposed DNREC legislation seeking to increase fine amounts and declassify certain DFW violations. This proposal is currently under legal review. The DFW portion of this legislation may proceed independently from the two other Department Enforcement units. He hopes the bill will be ready for introduction to the General Assembly in the next month.

Agenda Item 6. Topics & Tentative Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Voss stated that in recent years the lack of agenda items has lead to the decision to not schedule a meeting. He said that unless there is good reason to hold a meeting, it makes no sense to do so. He then asked for possible agenda items for a future meeting:

1. Possibility of commercial clamming on Sundays
2. Discussion regarding commercial clamming equipment
3. Discussion – can a crab pot license designee be a non-resident?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Stangl
Recording Secretary

