

## **Marine Recreational Fishing License/Registry Study Group Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2009**

**Attendees:** Bob Ballou; Jeff Barker; Fred Brown; Mike Bucko; Al Conti; Capt Bruce Getchell; Capt. Ed Kearney; Richard LaFaille; Steve Medeiros; John Mazurak; John Troiano and Robert Ferioli).

**Absent:** Daniel Maia; David Peterson; Frank Blount; Richard Hittinger; Captain John Rainone.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2009 at Misquamicut Fire Department; 67 Crandall Ave; Westerly, RI. The meeting schedule for the subsequent 2 months will be March 9, 2009 location TBA and April 13, 2009 location TBA.

**Key Issue:** Reciprocity

### **Brief Synopsis of Discussion:**

1. "Final Rule" The deadline has been moved to 1/1/2010. Feds want states to enter into a "Memorandum of Agreement" w/NOAA. The Memorandum should be signed by the end of 2009. The Feds don't want a duplication of data collection.
2. Should we take a wait and see attitude and investigate our neighboring states' registries?
3. Maine has an "all waters" license.
4. Allowable Exemptions to the Federal Registry:
  - a. Under 16
  - b. Charter Boat/Party Boat
  - c. Licensed Pier
  - d. Disabled
  - e. Active Military on Leave
5. MA, CT and NY are all moving in the direction of reciprocity for neighboring states.
6. The MA Steering Group is moving towards reciprocity for boats transiting their waters.
7. "Any state that recognizes a RI Salt Water Registry for fishing in their waters would have reciprocity in RI waters"
8. There may be an incentive to keep the fees low and be competitive w/neighboring states. Tourism is a big source of the State's economy.
9. We have to protect the registry funds to be used in the fishery and keep the cost equal to the cost of the program.
10. Poll other states proposed registry fees and how they will handle the funds from being raided by state government.

### **Future of the Study Group:**

1. Assume there will be a RI Saltwater Fishing Registry.
2. Craft an “ideal” Registry

**Next Month’s Discussion:**

1. Invite representatives from MA and CT to discuss reciprocity
2. Who is covered by a saltwater registry?

**Public Comment:** There were 12 members of the fishing community in attendance.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

**Submitted by:** John Troiano