



Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

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MEETING SUMMARY

October 15, 2019

Chairperson: *B. Ballou (DEM)*

RIMFC members present: *A. Dangelo, K. Eagan, J. Jarvis, D. Monti, C. Rein*

Division: *J. McNamee, J. Lake, J. Livermore, N. Costa, C. Parkins, M. Bucko, P. Duhamel*

DEM Legal: *C. Hoefsmit*

Public: Approximately 10-12 persons in attendance.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** *B. Ballou* offered a change to item 4 of the agenda, in order to add an action item to both approve the minutes of the Shellfish Advisory Panel meeting that occurred, and also to provide a Council recommendation regarding proposed amendments to winter harvest schedules that was subject of the meeting. Inquiring as to any objections to approving the agenda as modified, or as to any other modifications desired, and hearing none, the agenda was approved by consent.
2. **Approval of minutes from meeting on September 9, 2019:** *B. Ballou* inquired as to any proposed modifications or objections to adopting the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consent.
3. **Public comments regarding other matters not on agenda:** *P. Duckworth* inquired about the possibility of moving to a weekly aggregate possession limit for Skate and Monkfish. *J. McNamee* offered that the matter could be reviewed internally and discussed at a subsequent workshop with the goal of formulating a proposal for a regulatory amendment. Mr. Duckworth then expressed confusion with regulations regarding coastal sharks and identification of species, to which *J. McNamee* offered that he would look at the rules and tables to determine if additional clarifications could be provided. *T. Mulvey* proposed that the state should look into jurisdiction of the EEZ between Block Island and the mainland to provide for ease of transit through federal waters between state waters around Block Island and the RI mainland. *B. Ballou* noted that there is a pending federal rule which would provide for transit by state vessels through this part of the EEZ for Summer flounder, Scup, and Black sea bass, but that this doesn't include federally permitted vessels. He offered that it would take an act of Congress to alter jurisdiction of federal waters. He offered that the matter could be added to a subsequent Council agenda for a more thorough discussion after the federal rule is adopted.
4. **Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting summary; amendment to winter harvest schedules for Greenwich Bay and Bissel Cove/Fox Island Shellfish Management Areas:** *K. Eagan* provided an overview of the meeting as reflected in the minutes provided. **Motion**

made by *D. Monti* to recommend that the schedule for the Greenwich Bay and Bissel Cove/Fox Island Shellfish Management Areas be modified as recommended by the SAP to be opened on Tuesday, December 24th, Thursday December 26th, and Tuesday December 30th, in addition to the open days currently scheduled; 2nd by *C. Rein*. The motion passed 5 – 0.

5. **Application to Shellfish Advisory Panel membership:** Motion made by *A. Dangelo* to appoint applicants Kenneth Murgo and John McDonald to the Shellfish Advisory Panel effective immediately; 2nd by *D. Monti*. The motion passed 5 – 0.
6. **2020 Sector Management Plan:** *J. McNamee* provided an overview of the purpose of the plan and the process for approval. He informed The Council that the plan would be updated with Council recommendations from tonight’s meeting and provided to the Council for final approval at the December meeting.
7. **September 10 public hearing items:**
 - Clarify reporting documentation requirements as it pertains to trip data reporting (section 2.7.4(C)): Motion made by *D. Monti* to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.7.4(C) as proposed, amended to clarify that item #10 of the required fields “dealer sold to” be identified as an optional requirement to be completed only if known at the time of logging the report; 2nd by *C. Rein*. The motion passed 5 – 0.
 - Clarify due dates for the submittal of commercial trip data reporting (sections 2.7.4(E)&(F)): Motion made by *K. Eagan* to recommend that the Director adopt amended sections 2.7.4(E)&(F) as proposed; 2nd by *A. Dangelo*. The motion passed 5 – 0.
 - Amend the standard of “Actively Fishing” as it pertains to eligibility for the issuance of a new Commercial Fishing License with Quahaug endorsement for holders of a Student Shellfish License (section 2.7.5(D)(1)(b)(3)): Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.7.5(D)(1)(b)(3) as proposed; 2nd by *D. Monti*. The motion passed 5 – 0.
 - Add new language to rule that establishes that residency status must be maintained to maintain eligibility for license renewal (section 2.7.5(E)(3)(a)): Motion made by *D. Monti* to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.7.5(E)(3)(a) as proposed; 2nd by *J. Jarvis*. The motion passed 5 – 0.
 - Amend the eligibility requirements for the prioritization of the issuance of new licenses (section 2.7.5(G)(1)(e)): Motion made by *J. Jarvis* to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.7.5(G)(1)(e) as proposed; 2nd by *A. Dangelo*. The motion passed 4-0-1 (*C. Rein* abstained).
 - Require dealer reporting compliance as a condition of dealer license renewal (section 2.7.9(A)(7)): Motion made by *D. Monti* to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.7.9(A)(7) as proposed; 2nd by *C. Rein*. The motion passed 5 – 0.

- Clarify the reporting requirements for the Party/Charter sector (section 2.9.2(F)): **Motion made by A. Dangelo to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.9.2(F) as proposed; 2nd by C. Rein. The motion passed 5 – 0.**
 - For licensed Party/Charter vessels/captains, add reporting compliance as a condition of maintaining and/or renewing their P/C license (section 2.9.2(F)(5)): **Motion made by A. Dangelo to recommend that the Director adopt amended section 2.9.2(F)(5) as proposed; 2nd by D. Monti. The motion passed 5 – 0.**
8. **Division proposal to amend whelk minimum size – process moving forward:** *J. McNamee* informed that Council that this matter would be brought back to workshop this winter for further vetting and dialogue with industry with the goal of bringing to hearing in February.
9. **Meeting adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consent at approximately 7:20pm.

The full video recording of the meeting is available at the DEM YouTube channel at the following [link](#). Individual agenda items and their times can be viewed by expanding the “SHOW MORE” tab.