



Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

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MEETING SUMMARY

December 2, 2019

Chairperson: *D. Monti*

RIMFC members present: *T. Barao, M. Roderick, A. Dangelo, K. Eagan, J. Jarvis, M. Rice, J. Jarvis*

Division: *J. McNamee, C. McManus, J. Lake, J. Livermore, N. Costa, N. Ares, C. Parkins, A. Williams, R. Balouskus, C. Truesdale, P. Duhamel*

DEM Legal: *C. Hoefsmit*

Public: Approximately a dozen persons in attendance.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The Chair offered a revision to the agenda to move the order of the hearing items (agenda item 8). Hearing no objections or requests for additional modifications, the agenda was approved by consent.
2. **Approval of minutes from meeting on October 15, 2019:** The Chair inquired as to any proposed modifications or objections to adopting the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consent.
3. **Public comments regarding any other matters not on agenda:** *K. Murgo* voiced concern regarding a commercial viability aquaculture application currently before CRMC that will be addressed at a meeting on December 10th, but is not before the Council as a commercial viability application. Mr. Murgo requested Council support to object to the application due to significant conflicts with commercial fisheries. He offered that he docks his vessel nearby and has extensive knowledge of the waters in the area of the application. He offered that the areas supports year round commercial quahogging, fish and whelk potting, and is regularly utilized in the fall by whelk fishermen from Portsmouth, Bristol and Newport. He offered that blue mussel beds at Carr point attracts scup and black sea bass that are targeted by fish potters including himself. He offered that an existing lease site already reduces the area available to other uses and the addition of another lease further restricts area available for other uses. He offered that mobile gear is prohibited in the area which makes it attractive to fixed gear fisheries. Due to his concerns described he offered that the proposed site is particularly unsuitable for an aquaculture lease. *J. Livermore* explained the current process where commercial viability applications don't go before the Council for review, but would if expanding to a full lease application. The Council offered support but did not offer a specific recommendation on the matter.

T. Mulvey requested support for the removal of the EEZ between Block Island and the mainland, that DEM should approach RI congressmen to address the matter.

4. **Responses to public comments made last meeting:** *J. McNamee* offered responses to comments made last meeting: Regarding the EEZ and transiting between Block Island and the mainland; aggregate possession limits for monkfish and skate to be addressed at a subsequent public hearing in the spring; and that a link has been added to the Division's webpage regarding coastal shark identification.
5. **Shellfish Advisory Panel Meeting (10/23/2019) Minutes:** *K. Eagan* provided a brief overview of the meeting. *D. Monti* inquired as to any objections to approving the minutes; hearing none the minutes were approved by consent.
6. **Aquaculture lease application 2019-01-063:** *K. Eagan* provided a brief overview of the application as discussion that occurred on October 23rd. **Motion made by *M. Rice* to recommend to the Director that this aquaculture lease application is consistent with competing uses engaged in the exploitation of the marine fisheries; 2nd by *C. Rein*. The motion passed 7 - 0.**
7. **2020 Sector Management Plan:** *J. McNamee* offered that the plan was updated with Council recommendations made last meeting, and is now considered complete and ready for submission to the General Assembly pursuant to statute. *D. Monti* inquired as to any objections to approving the plan; hearing none the plan was approved by consent.
8. **November 12 public hearing items:**
 - Remove provision that specifies quota management for tautog overharvest, as the summer subperiod referenced no longer exists in rule (Part 1, section 1.6(A)(1)(b)(2)): **Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director to adopt the amendment as proposed; 2nd by *M. Rice*. The motion passed 7-0.**
 - Establish rule for a high grading prohibition (Part 1, section 1.6(H)): **Motion made by *J. Jarvis* recommend to the Director to not adopt the provision proposed by the Division; 2nd *A. Dangelo*. The motion passed 6-1 (*T. Barao* opposed).**
 - 2020 Commercial Management of Black Sea Bass (Part 3, section 3.7.2(A) and (B)): Motion made by *M. Rice* to recommend to the Director the adoption of status quo, with the exception of increasing the Jan. 1 – April 30 sub-period possession limit to 750 pounds/vessel/week; 2nd by *M. Roderick*. Upon conclusion of ensuing discussion, the motion was withdrawn. **Motion then made by *J. Jarvis* to recommend to the Director the adoption of status quo; 2nd by *M. Roderick*. The motion passed 7-0.**
 - 2020 Commercial Management of Scup (Part 3, section 3.8.2(A) and (B)): **Motion made by *M. Rice* to recommend to the Director to maintain status quo; 2nd by *A. Dangelo*. The motion passed 7-0.**
 - 2020 Commercial Management of Summer Flounder (Part 3, section 3.10.2): **Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director to adopt a new date for the opening the Summer Flounder Aggregate**

- Landing Program, on the Sunday of the first full week in January, to increase the starting possession limit in the Jan. 1 – April 30 sub-period to 1,000 lbs/vsl/week, and to increase the starting possession limit in the May 1 –Sept. 15 sub-period to 100 lbs/day; 2nd by M. Rice. The motion passes 7-0.
- 2020 Commercial Management of Bluefish (Part 3, section 3.18.2): Motion made by *J. Jarvis* to recommend to the Director to adopt increasing the minimum size to 18 inches, and to decrease the starting possession limit in the May 1 – 2nd Saturday in November sub-period from 8,000 lbs/week to 6,000 lbs/week; 2nd by *K. Eagan*. The motion passed 7-0.
 - 2020 Commercial Management of Menhaden (Part 3, section 3.22.2): Motion made by *A. Dangelo* to recommend to the Director to maintain status quo; 2nd by *M. Rice*. The motion passed 7-0.
 - Proposed prohibition of Ocean pout in state waters (Part 3, proposed new section 3.32): Motion made by *M. Rice* to recommend to the Director to prohibit the harvest, landing, or possession of Ocean pout in the marine waters of Rhode Island; 2nd by *M. Roderick*. The motion passed 7-0.
 - Proposed prohibition of Atlantic wolffish (Part 3, proposed new section 3.33): Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director to prohibit the harvest, landing, or possession of Atlantic wolffish in the marine waters of Rhode Island; 2nd by *A. Dangelo*. The motion passed 7-0.
 - Continuation of “Part 12 - Research Pilot Aggregate Program” regulations: Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director to amend the Research Pilot Aggregate Program to increase number of participating vessels in the program from 3 to 6 per gear category, to amend the application period from no later than November 30, 2018 to between January 1 and March 30 annually, and reduce the eligibility requirement for historical record of landing summer flounder from 5 years (2014) to 1 year; 2nd by M. Rice. The motion passed 4-3-0 (*M. Roderick, J. Jarvis, A. Dangelo* opposed). A second motion was made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director to perform an economic analysis on the Research Pilot Aggregate Program data once the program has been completed; 2nd by M. Rice. The motion passed 6-0-1 (*K. Eagan* abstained).
 - Proposed new adoption “Part 13 - Cooperative Multi-State Possession and Landing Pilot Program for Summer Flounder”: Motion made by *C. Rein* to recommend to the Director adoption of the new regulation “Part 13 - Cooperative Multi-State Possession and Landing Pilot Program for Summer Flounder” as proposed by the Division; 2nd by *J. Jarvis*. The motion passed 7-0.
 - Proposed adoption of a whelk pot tagging program (Part 4, proposed new section 4.18): Motion made by *M. Rice* to recommend to the Director to adopt the Whelk Pot Tagging Program as proposed by the Division, however that routine loss tags be increased to 15%, and that the valid date of tags be changed to April 1 through March 31; 2nd by *K. Eagan*. The motion passed 7-0.

9. **Meeting adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consent at approximately 7:38pm.

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