

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Galloway Township Library
Galloway, New Jersey
May 2, 2013

In Attendance were: Acting Chairman Richard Herb
Councilman Erling Berg
Councilwoman Eleanor Bochenek
Councilman Barney Hollinger
Councilman Walter L. Johnson III
Councilwoman Frances Puskas
Councilman Sergio Radossi
Councilman Joseph Rizzo
Councilman Robert Rush
Councilman Joseph Zaborowski

Absent:

Also in attendance representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

David Chanda, Director, Division of Fish & Wildlife
Thomas W. McCloy, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Adm. (MFA)
Brandon Muffley, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries (BMF)
Russ Babb, Acting Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Jeffrey Brust, Research Scientist, MFA
Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist, MFA
Lt Snellbaker, Bureau of Law Enforcement
Russ Allen, Supervising Biologist, BMF
Jen Pyle, Assistant Biologist (BMF)
Lindy Barry, Assistant Biologist (MFA)
Sherry Bennett, Council Secretary

Ms. Bennett read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on April 25, 2013. Meeting Minutes from the March 7, 2013 Council meeting were approved.

Acting Chairman Herb began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Conduct

Acting Chairman Herb reminded the audience to take conversations outside or wait until the end of the meeting and to turn off all cell phones. Individuals wishing to make a public comment will need to sign up.

An ASMFC Eel Public Hearing will be held tonight following this meeting at 7pm, therefore the Council meeting needs to be completed by 6:30pm.

Law Enforcement Report

Captain Fresco presented Council with the Law Enforcement Report. A detailed report was provided in Handout #1.

Conservation Officers Tyler Hausamann, Chris Moscatiello, Joe Soell and Brian Tomlin successfully completed the Marine Law Enforcement Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) located in Glynn County (GLYNCO) Georgia.

Over this time period of February 8 to 18, 2013, 13 vessels were granted safe harbor in Cape May due to impending storm conditions. All vessels were North Carolina (NC) permitted, summer flounder vessels and possessed NC quotas on board. The vessels were monitored at Cape May docks by Conservation Officers totaling 78 man hours; to ensure that none of the fish were illegally off-loaded. Few of the vessels were granted a quota transfer from NC.

As a result of a citizen complaint received by the Marine Region Office, CO's planned an inspection of the party fishing vessel Doris Mae in Barnegat Light, NJ. Twenty summonses were issued to patrons for possessing black sea bass over the daily bag limit. 270 lbs. of seized whole fish were sold to a local dealer and 88 seized fillets were donated to the Lacey Food Bank.

On February 22, 2013, CO responded to an Operation Game Thief report reporting that a charter boat hailing out of Highlands in Monmouth County, was retaining blackfish in excess of their bag limit and filleting the fish prior to landing. During the inspection, the Captain, mate and patrons were found not to be in violation of blackfish the bag limit; however the captain did admit to allow his mate to fillet the fish prior to landing at the dock to save his mate and patrons some time. The mate was issued a summons for filleting blackfish at sea prior to landing.

On March, 9 CO responded to a motel located in West Long Branch, Monmouth County; in response to a sewage spill adjacent to the Turtle Mill Brook which flows directly into the Branchport Creek, which eventually empties into the Shrewsbury River. The Monmouth County Health Department was contacted. Summonses were issued to the motel and worker for the deposition of deleterious substances where they may drain into the waters of the State are pending.

Just after nightfall on March 12, 2013 COs discovered two illegal fyke nets in Absecon Creek. The officers apprehended three individuals from Maine in a rental vehicle possessing elvers who acknowledged they were going to transport the elvers taken in NJ and sell them to an elver dealer in Maine when the season opened on March 22. The individuals were arrested and transported to Absecon PD and charged with the following: Take/Possess 24,250 undersize American eels (\$727,500), Take/Possess 24,200 American eels over the limit of 50 (\$720,000), Set/Tend fyke net without a license(\$300 to \$3000), Set fyke net in middle third of stream(\$300 to \$3000), set fyke net with mesh smaller than 3/8 inches(\$300 to \$3000), failure to mark submerged fyke net(\$300 to

\$3000), Possess wildlife for the purpose of sale (3rd degree crime) and unlicensed entry into a public water facility (4th degree crime). In addition to the charges above, all of their equipment including their vehicle was seized. Each fisherman was assessed bail in the amount of \$2500.00.

On March 24th, COs patrolled the Toms River in the area of Island Heights in search of winter flounder fishermen. An inspection of the vessel resulted in a summons being issued for one undersized winter flounder and a written warning for two winter flounder over limit. The captain of the vessel told the COs that a lot of people were fishing in Oyster Creek, so the officers stopped there next. The officers inspected a small group of fishermen summons were issued for one undersized winter flounder and a written warning was issued for littering while fishing.

An individual purchased a resident commercial shellfish license using the automated licensing system and entered a New York driver's license number on the application. The individual, who also applied for a Depuration Harvester Permit No. 9 was questioned regarding the NY driver's license by an employee of the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring. He claimed that he was temporarily displaced by Hurricane Sandy and was living in NY with his mother. COs began an investigation and interviewed the subject. A summons was issued for obtaining a resident commercial shellfish license wrongfully and another summons for interference with the duties of a Conservation Officer.

On April 8th CO set up surveillance of the parking lot in Barnegat Light State Park to conduct inspections of fishermen returning to their vehicles. The CO conducted an inspection of a vehicle in which he observed a fisherman place three heavy buckets into the vehicle. The inspection revealed he possessed about 100 pounds of mussels and 3 oysters. Upon further investigation the CO discovered he had issued this man a summons on May 20, 2012 for not possessing a shellfish license (he had 150 pounds of mussels at that time). Summons were issued for failing to possess a shellfish license and possession of over the daily recreational limit of shellfish. He faces penalties of \$300.00 to \$3000.00.

On April 9th leading into the early morning hours of April 10th CO's inspected two men along the Oceanic Bridge who were in possession of hard clams. After further investigation, one of the men admitted that he had harvested the clams without a valid shellfish license, the other man discovered his license had expired. One summons was issued for harvesting clams without a valid shellfish license and a written warning was issued for harvesting clams from condemned waters of the Navesink River (mouth of Clay Pit Creek). Later that same evening, the COs were watching several individuals fishing in Laurence Harbor one a summons was issued for one undersized striped bass and three more summons were issued for undersized and over limit striped bass.

On April 5, 2013 a CO received a complaint about a crab dredge vessel dredging for conchs in the Delaware Bay at night. While it is legal to take conchs with a crab dredge, it is illegal to dredge one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. After investigations and observations with help from the United States Coast Guard (USCG)

when the vessel returned to Maurice River dock CO's and a Special Agent from NMFS boarded the vessel and seized 2183 lbs. of conchs. A summons was issued for taking conchs at night with a crab dredge in the Delaware Bay.

Legislative Report

Mr. McCloy presented Council with the legislative report, bringing Council's attention to Handouts #2 and #3.

Handout #2 is a copy of a letter sent to Assemblyman Albano and to Senator Van Drew on behalf of the Council regarding bills A2653 and S2376 respectively, that would repeal the commercial horseshoe crab harvest moratorium and expressing Council's support for the bills at the request of the commercial fisherman.

Handout #3 is a copy of a letter from Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) to DEP Commissioner Martin expressing ENSAC committee's strong opposition to bills A2653 and S2376.

Mr. McCloy commented that Senator Van Drew is proposing a new bill S2726 regarding the commercial harvest of menhaden and will keep Council posted on any developments.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Report

Mr. Himchak presented Council with an update on ASMFC actions (Handout #4) even though the ASMFC did not meet since the March Council meeting.

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board approved Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan, establishing a mechanism to allow states access to the 2013 summer flounder recreational harvest limit (RHL) that is projected to not be harvested. The Board approved proposals from two states – New York and New Jersey. New Jersey may extend its current fishing season by up to 11 days. This Addendum only applies to the 2013 fishery.

The Board also approved a Technical Addendum to use the final Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) 2012 estimate of black sea bass mean weight to convert the recreational harvest limit from pounds to number of fish. This change results in a decrease (from 32% to 24%) in the reduction required for the northern region, of which NJ is a part, for 2013 season.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Mr. Berg presented Council with the MAFMC report; Handouts #5.

A more detailed summary of the meeting can be found by visiting the website at <http://www.mafmc.org>.

Tilefish Management Measures

The Council reviewed the 2013-2014 tilefish management measures recommended by the Council in 2012 as part of a multi-year management measure package. After reviewing

the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Monitoring Committee recommendations, the Council decided to maintain the management measures originally adopted for the 2014 fishing year:

ABC = ACL = ACT = 2.013 M lb
TAL = 1.995 M lb; IFQ = 1.895 M lb
Incidental quota = 0.099 M lb
Incidental trip limit = 500 lb (gutted weight)
8-fish per angler per trip bag limit
No Research Set-Aside

Omnibus Recreational Amendment

The Council approved the alternatives presented by staff for inclusion in the Omnibus Recreation Accountability Measure Amendment with the addition of two alternatives. The amendment was initiated in December 2012 to consider modifications to existing accountability measures for MAFMC managed recreational fisheries. Five public hearings will be conducted from Virginia to Rhode Island.

Research Set-Aside Committee (RSA)

RSA Committee met to review the NMFS letter that was in response to the MAFMC suggestions regarding the effectiveness of the MAFMC RSA Program. In general, NMFS supported MAFMC suggestions to improve the scientific, monitoring and enforcement aspects of the program. The Committee will continue to evaluate the use of tags to track RSA landings as well as the concept of allocating party/charter RSA quota on a per trip basis. Finally, the Committee agreed to consider funding supplemental at-sea observations and stock assessment activities under the RSA Program.

Squid Management Workshop

The Council directed staff to hold two port meetings to discuss potential management changes with fishery participants in Cape May, NJ and Pt. Judith, RI and to develop a range of modifications to the trimester system for 2014 specifications. The Council also requested the NMFS establish a new control date for the longfin squid fishery. Staff will work with the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center to further illustrate the kinds of data that would best facilitate continued improvements to squid assessments.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Council discussed a range of topics related to a potential reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Other Topics

Rob Andrews for NOAA Fisheries presented an overview of recent and upcoming changes to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), particularly the new methods for conducting catch and effort surveys.

The Council discussed key issues relevant to forage fish assessment and management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Mr. Himchak announced that the next MAFMC Meeting will be held June 11 - 13 in Eatontown, NJ.

Shellfish Council Reports

Delaware Bay

The 2013 oyster management program commenced with a base harvest allocation that is approximately 43,348 bushels. This base allocation can be increased significantly following an intermediate transplant program, which will move smaller oysters from upper bay beds to the primary direct market beds. The intermediate transplant program commenced on April 22 and is still going. Currently, shellfisheries staff have completed the low mortality transplant by moving 84% of its target total oysters objective but has exceeded its projected its market bushel quota increase. The transplant continues on the medium market beds. It was anticipated that the additional quota from this transplant could bring the 2013 total allowable catch to approximately 80,000+ total bushels.

The direct market oyster fishery opened on April 8, 2013. Eighty-four vessels expressed an interest in participating in the 2013 season, which will run through mid-November. To begin the season and to provide a primary bed available for harvest close to the main ports, the Shell Rock seed bed will remain closed to harvest until the Vibrio season commences on or around June 1. To date, the Ship John and Nantuxent seed beds have provided just over 80% of the total harvest (5,170 bu. Combined). A total of 6,425 bushels have been harvest over 120 vessel days for a mean industry CPUE of 53.5 bushels per trip.

Atlantic Coast

The Atlantic Coast Section has a number of activities currently underway. We are continuing to review the recently released Little Egg Harbor Bay hard clam and SAV report that the Bureau of Shellfisheries released and we will be discussing this at our upcoming meeting. The Bureau will be providing an update on its data analysis of the collected Barnegat Bay data and its survey plans for 2013. We are also working with Bureau staff looking at prospective sites for aquaculture expansion in Barnegat Bay.

Lastly, the Council will be receiving a presentation on how the new aquaculture rules in the Coastal Zone Management adoption will work to streamline the permitting system. If I'm not mistaken, I believe Mr. Babb was going to provide this Council with a brief update on those rules.#####

Mr. Babb took a moment to update Council on some new aquaculture rules and emergency measures.

A new set of emergency measures will address rebuilding properties, reconstruction of marinas, beaches, dunes, dredging and, thankfully, a new tiered-permitting system for shellfish aquaculture. Mr. Babb added that the rule was 224 pages long and that a truncated copy of the aquaculture sections was available on the Department's website.

In short, the new system was essentially a tiered system that has thresholds for specific aquaculture activities. The lowest tier was called a Permit by Rule (PBR); if you're planning activities that exceed the PBR thresholds, then you move up to a general permit (GP). If activities are not allowed under the GP, then you move to an individual permit (IP). Prior to the emergency rule adoption, the IP was the only option and was quite costly.

These rules have been adopted on an emergency basis "to facilitate rebuilding of more resilient coastal communities and coastal-related industries." The emergency adoption and concurrent proposal is scheduled to be published in the NJ Register on May 6, 2013. A public hearing concerning the proposal is also scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 5:30 P.M - City of Long Branch Municipal Building and written comments may be submitted electronically by June 5, 2013

Committee Reports

Eel Committee

Mr. Rizzo presented Council with the American Eel Committee Report, Handout #6. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a dialogue with industry in regards to ASMFC Draft Addendum III to the American Eel Fishery Management Plan and to develop a public comment strategy from the Marine Fisheries Council to ASMFC. Staff presented an overview of the Draft Addendum, including commercial and recreational fisheries options and the potential impacts to New Jersey's eel fisheries. Much of the focus was centered on the commercial fishery options.

The committee recommends moving the following as public hearing comments to ASMFC regarding Draft Addendum III:

Commercial Fisheries

Glass Eels

The majority of attendees agreed that states with glass eel fisheries should be forced to close under whatever timetable the ASMFC decides but preferably when Addendum III is implemented. It was noted that the closure of the fishery would assist Law Enforcement in all states that currently do not allow the legal harvest of glass eels.

Yellow Eels

The majority of the discussions were focused on yellow eels since this is our major harvesting life stage. Option 1 (status quo) was the preferred option but the Committee also agreed on the following:

Option 2 – the Committee agreed that there should be no change in the minimum size. Any increase would hurt the industry and not return much in the way of increased recruitment for the stock. There is also a concern about a lack of enforceability regarding any new size limit.

Option 3 – the Committee agreed on Sub-option 3a (Status Quo) but also agreed that should ASMFC decide the use of an escape panel be required, Option 3b (3/4” by 1/2”) would be the better option provided that size mesh is available on the market.

Option 4 – the Committee was vehement that a quota would be detrimental to New Jersey’s eel industry and therefore was unanimously opposed to Option 4.

Option 5 – the Committee believes that industry already complies with the reporting requirements of Option 5.

Option 6 – the Committee agreed that a two week closure in the fall would be detrimental to the eel fishery. It was noted that once eel pots are pulled for any closure, the majority of fishers would not put the pots back in the water. Therefore the Committee was opposed to Option 6.

Silver Eels

It was agreed that Option 1 (status Quo) was the best option since any seasonal closure would, like with yellow eel Option 6, be detrimental to the fishery.

Recreational Fishery

There was not much discussion regarding the recreational fishery except to state that the bag limit had to do with harvest of fish and any exemptions for possession of bait eels on for-hire boats should not be covered by a bag limit. These animals could have been purchased legally as bait or been held in a bait pen until needed.

Mr. Rizzo made a motion to pass the Eel Committee Comments onto the ASMFC public hearing. Motion passed.

Black Sea Bass Committee

Mr. Radossi presented Council with Black Sea Bass Committee report, Handout #7.

On April 18, 2013, a meeting of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council’s Black Sea Bass Committee was held at the Nacote Creek Enforcement Office. In attendance were Division of Fish & Wildlife staff, Black Sea Bass Committee Council members, and recreational industry advisors. The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2013 New Jersey Recreational Black Sea Bass Options.

Staff gave a summary of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) actions. In February 2013, New Jersey, as part of the Northern Region from NJ – MA, was initially required to implement regulations that would reduce the recreational harvest of black sea bass by 32%. Based on new biological information, on April 17, 2013, the ASMFC agreed to an adjusted reduction of 24% for the Northern Region. The group also discussed the ASMFC’s approval of Addendum XXIV which allows for unused

recreational summer flounder quota to be distributed to the states of NJ and NY. This Addendum would provide NJ the opportunity to liberalize its 2013 summer flounder regulations by an additional 11 days. The Committee agreed to hold a separate Summer Flounder Committee meeting to discuss how best to proceed and any Council action will likely take place in July.

Marine Fisheries Staff presented eleven updated options that met the required 24% reduction for the NJ recreational black sea bass fishery. The options ranged from a size limit of 12.5 to 13 inches, bag limits ranging from 25 to 15 fish, and a season ranging from May 19 to Dec 31 with number of open days from 116 to 200.

After input from industry advisors on the pros/cons of the various options, the Black Sea Bass Committee unanimously agreed to advance five options with one preferred option. Therefore on behalf of the Black Sea Bass Committee, a motion in support of the preferred option of 20 fish at 12.5 inches, with an open season from May 19 to August 8, September 27 to October 14, and November 1 to December 31.

NJ 2013 Recreational Black Sea Bass Options

Option	Bag	Size	Open Dates			Total Days Open for 2013
2012 NJ Regs	25	12.5	May 19 - September 3	September 23 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	191
1	25	12.5	May 19 - August 1	September 27 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	154
2	20	12.5	May 19 - June 17	September 16 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	120
3	20	12.5	May 19 - July 16	September 23 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	142
4 Preferred Option	20	12.5	May 19 - August 8	September 27 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	161
5	15	12.5	May 19 - August 19	September 27 - October 14	November 1 - December 31	172
Proposed 2013 Federal Season: 20 / 12.5			May 19-Oct 14		Nov 1 - Dec 31	210

Mr. Muffley reviewed the various options and why these options were developed. The main reason was to make sure the opening and the closing of black sea bass would coincide with the potential opening and closing dates for summer flounder, allowing at least one fishery to be open at any given point of time.

Public Comment

Out of the 8 people who made a public comment, 7 all agreed they preferred option #4. The other person made a general comment/question about sea bass but did not indicate a preferred option.

With no further questions from Council, Acting Chairman Herb called for a roll call vote from Council on the proposed Black Sea Bass option #4. The motion passed unanimously.

Acting Chairman Herb commented that the decision for summer flounder options will be discussed at the July Council Meeting, when more data is available.

Regulatory Actions

Recreational Black Sea Bass

The motion supporting the preferred option of 20 fish at 12.5 inches, with an open season from May 19 to August 8, September 27 to October 14, and November 1 to December 31, option #4, passed.

Commercial EEZ Winter Flounder

On April 30, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approved revisions to management measures to allow for the commercial harvest of the Southern New England (SNE) and Mid-Atlantic (MA) stock of winter flounder while continuing a rebuilding strategy. Under the former rebuilding program, no retention of winter flounder was allowed for Federally permitted commercial vessels within the EEZ. Under the new NMFS provisions the commercial harvest of winter flounder in State waters will remain at the limits established by the ASMFC's Winter Flounder Management Plan. Commercial vessels possessing the appropriate Federal Northeast Multispecies Permit will be allowed to harvest winter flounder from the EEZ, subject to the quota and trip limits established by NMFS. Recreational actions for winter flounder will be discussed at a later date.

A motion was made by Mr. Berg to allow commercial vessels with appropriate federal permits to transit NJ waters with winter flounder that have been legally harvested in federal waters and then land those winter flounder in NJ.

Public Comment

Two people from the public gave comment. One was in favor the other gave a general question or comment on delay in getting these changes approved and in place. Director Chanda reassured the public that the entire Marine Fisheries staff, even as current staffing levels continue to decline, is working hard to see all changes in regulations take effect as soon as possible. He has a commitment from the Commissioner's office that this notice and these changes will be signed as soon as possible.

With no further comment, Council voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Draft Notice of Administrative Change (NOAC): Black Sea Bass and Winter Flounder

Mr. Muffley presented Council with a Draft NOAC for Black Sea Bass and Winter Flounder, Handout #8. After no further comment from Council or the public, the Council voted and approved the Draft NOAC to make the previously approved changes to the recreational Black Sea Bass and Commercial Winter Flounder fisheries.

Smooth Dogfish NOAC

Mr. Muffley presented Council with Draft NOAC on Smooth Dogfish, Handout #9. This draft NOAC is being developed with the anticipation that when the ASMFC Atlantic Coastal Shark and Smooth Dogfish Management Board meets on May 21, 2013 it will likely approve Addendum II to the Plan. This Draft NOAC will modify the season for processing smooth dogfish at sea. Fishermen will now be allowed to fully process smooth dogfish at sea throughout the entire year. The NOAC also modified the regulatory language to allow for the setting of an annual smooth dogfish commercial quota and trip limit. These actions have been taken to maintain NJ's compliance with Addendum II to the ASMFC Interstate FMP for Coastal Sharks and Smooth Dogfish.

A motion was made by Mr. Berg stating: contingent upon the ASMFC's Atlantic Coastal Shark and Smooth Dogfish Management Board approving Addendum II at its May 2013 meeting in VA, specifically the issue that allows for full processing at sea of smooth dogfish throughout the calendar year, the Marine Fisheries Council approves the Draft NOAC on smooth dogfish management measures, as presented at its May 2, 2013 meeting. Motion passed.

Old Business

Artificial Reef Plan

Mr. Muffley presented Council with an overview of the Artificial Reef Plan, Handout #10. A compromise has been reached between recreational and commercial fishing interests regarding access to artificial reefs off the coast of NJ. The plan will allow commercial interests to have continued access to portions of two reefs in State waters and calls for the construction of a new reef exclusively for recreational fishing, also in State waters. Mr. Muffley indicated the Commissioners office would like to meet with the

Council's Artificial Reef Committee to discuss the details of the compromise. He will work with the Council Committee and the Commissioners office to set a meeting date.

Sandy Debris Removal

Mr. Muffley presented Council with a update on the process for debris removal due to Hurricane Sandy, Handout #11. The press release states the "Jersey Shore Open for Boating." A fact sheet and flier to educate the public on having a safe time in and around the waters along the Jersey shore post Sandy. Boaters should travel at slower speeds, always wear personal flotation devices and stay tuned to Channel 16 for public safety alerts. They are advised that some navigation channel may have shifted or become shoaled. Anyone observing floating or submerged debris should report this to the DEP at 1-877-WARNDEP. You may view the fact sheet at:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/docs/waterways-open-boater-flyer.pdf> and <http://www.nj.gov/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/docs/faq-boaters.pdf> For waterway debris removal: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/special/hurricane-sandy/wwdebris.htm>

Ms. Puskus commented to all to be careful and safe and to use common sense this summer season on our NJ shores.

New Business

Mr. McCloy updated Council that the hardcopy version of the Marine Digest will be available May 7, 2013. However, you may view the most current version of the Digest online.

Mr. McCloy also took a moment to inform the Council that as of June 1st, 2013 he will be retiring from his position after 40 years of service. Mr. McCloy expressed his gratitude to all former and present Council members who volunteer their time.

Public Comment

Mr. Kielmier commented on how difficult it is becoming to obtain a horseshoe crab, and wishes to see some quota be made available in order to resume harvesting or transfer quota to other states so they can harvest additional horseshoe crabs.

Acting Chairman Herb commented that the Council has sent a letter supporting legislation that would repeal the harvest moratorium and allow for a limited harvest of horseshoe crab.

Mr. Blaine also provided his support of reopening the harvest of horseshoe crab.

Mr. Schwatz presented Council with a recommendation with opening a season of striped bass in January and February, at least for catch and release.

Mr. Corday asked Council to consider issuing permits to taking snapping turtles from the marine waters. Acting Chairman Herb commented that the Council will take a look into it and see if there is an interest in such a permit and if it is worth setting up a new permit.

Mr. Gill Ewing, past Council Chairman, made a few comments and thanked Mr. McCloy for all his hard work and on an awesome job he has done in his career and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. Muffley presented Council members with a list of up and coming committee meetings that the Council will need to hold in the coming months:

Summer Flounder before July

Blue Crab

Law Enforcement

Artificial Reef (Acting Chairman Herb added)

Eel meeting (Mr. Rizzo requested after the ASMFC meeting, when more information is available).

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting July 11, 2013 (2nd Thursday) Galloway Township Library.