

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

Galloway Township Public Library
Jimmies Leeds Road
Absecon, New Jersey
May 1, 2008

In Attendance were:

Chairman Gilbert H. Ewing, Jr.
Councilman Erling Berg
Councilman Patrick Donnelly
Councilman Edward Goldman
Councilman Richard Herb
Councilman John Maxwell
Councilwoman Frances Puskas
Councilman Joseph Rizzo

Absent:

Councilman Barney Hollinger

Also in attendance representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

David Chanda, Director
Thomas W. McCloy, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Adm. (MFA)
James W. Joseph, Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist, Bureau of Marine Fisheries
Mark Chicketano, Captain, Bureau of Law Enforcement
Brandon Muffley, Research Scientist, MFA
Jeffrey Brust, Research Scientist, MFA
Linda Barry, Technician I, Bureau of Marine Fisheries
Sherry Bennett, Council Secretary

Ms. Bennett read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on April 3, 2008. Chairman Ewing reminded everyone of proper conduct for the meeting.

Minutes for the January 3, March 6, and March 18, 2008 meetings were approved. Mr. Rizzo asked that Dr. Dey's statement that she forgot to bring copies of the actual public comments on the horseshoe crab proposal to the February 11, 2008 meeting be added to the February 11, 2008 minutes. The February 11, minutes were approved with this addition.

Law Enforcement Report

Captain Chicketano presented the Law Enforcement Report.

On 2/22/08 Conservation Officers (CO) received information that an individual had left a private dock in Bivalve at 1:00 a.m. and was actively harvesting oysters from the condemned portion of the tonger's area at the mouth of Maurice River Cove. CO's

responded to the complaint and immediately investigated. The officers confirmed that the individuals had left the dock and were out harvesting in the Cove. During the investigation, a CO observed another commercially licensed oyster tonger leave the same dock area at 5:00 a.m. without using navigational lights. Both vessels returned to the dock shortly after sunrise with the second vessel towing the first vessel. Individuals of both the vessels landed large quantities of oysters. The occupants of the first vessel claimed that they were stranded in the Cove since 6:00 p.m. the previous night and that the operators of the second vessel had accidentally located them in the dark. Despite the denials from the occupants of the first vessel the officers confirmed cell phone contact between the two vessel operators. In addition to the officer's knowledge concerning the activity of the operators of the first vessel, CO's obtained records from the local oyster dealer showing the harvester at the packing house during the time period he claimed to be stranded on his vessel in the Cove. At the dock, the CO's apprehended four individuals from the two vessels for harvesting shellfish at night, harvest of oysters from condemned waters and forfeiture of their boat motor and tongs. Appropriate summonses were issued. In addition, the officer's seized 22 bushels of oysters from the first vessel and 13 bushels from the second vessel. All oysters seized were returned to the condemned area of the Maurice River Cove. Additional summonses were issued for the failure of the harvester to properly tag each container of shellfish as required by Health Department regulations.

On 2/28/08 while checking the Maurice River Cove for harvest activity, a CO observed two individuals previously apprehended on 2/22/08 in the act of tonging oysters within the condemned area of the Cove. The individuals were apprehended at the packinghouse. Five and a half bushels of oysters were seized and the appropriate summonses were issued. This apprehension topped off a very busy seasonal harvest season for the Maurice River Cove tonger's area. Thirteen (13) individuals were apprehended; 11 charged with harvest in condemned waters, 9 charges filed for forfeiture of vehicles including boats, seizure of 10 pairs of tongs and the return and/ or destruction of 68 bushels of oysters taken from condemned waters.

On 2/25/08 a CO observed the offload of the F/V Galicia I at Lund's Fisheries in Cape May. The vessel had landed a directed-catch of black sea bass and scup and an assorted by-catch which included summer flounder. During this period of the year, vessels are allowed a by-catch of 10% of their directed-catch up to and not to exceed 200 lbs. During the pack out, CO discovered that the vessel had landed 240 lbs., 40 lbs. over the by-catch limit. The overage was seized and sold and the captain of the vessel issued a summons for violating New Jersey's Summer Flounder regulations.

Officers assisted NMFS Special Agents with the surveillance and apprehension of a fisheries dealer from Maine. The dealer had set up a mobile operation in Atlantic City which included four of his federally permitted scallop vessels and the freight division of the company. The operation involved the harvest and transportation of sea scallops harvested from the Elephant Trunk limited access area located off the coast of southern New Jersey. This area, which is normally closed to all scallop harvesting, was opened for a limited number of trips on 3/1/08. The dealer's vessels have general category permits which allow them a harvest of 400 lbs. per 24 hr. period. Officers along with

NMFS agents documented several instances of overages as well as elaborate movement of the product to conceal overages and limit detection. The investigation is continuing.

On 3/2/08, CO's were on patrol at the Point Pleasant Co-op for the opening of New Jersey's March-April Directed Summer Flounder season. The trip limit for this season is 1500 lbs. After inspecting the F/V Austin, it was discovered that the vessel landed 1,601 pounds of summer flounder or 101 pounds over the limit. The captain was issued a summons for the overage and faces penalties ranging between \$300-\$3000 as well as a 60 day permit suspension during the next open season for summer flounder. Additionally, the value of the summer flounder overage was seized pending adjudication.

District 1,2 and 7 CO's conducted regulatory inspections of fish markets, restaurants and grocery retailers in Bergen, Essex, Morris, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties during the months of January and February. A total of 36 facilities were inspected. The inspections resulted in the following violations: possess 4 undersized black sea bass for sale; possess 19 undersized scup for sale; offer striped bass for sale; fail to maintain accurate records; untagged shellfish (4 counts); fail to maintain shellfish tags (2 counts); wholesale of clams without possessing Dept. of Health certificate; and receiving clams as a wholesaler without possessing Dept. of Health certificate. Two cases have been settled: Great Wall Supermarket paid a \$1,000.00 penalty for failing to maintain records; and Woolley's Fish Market and hard clam supplier paid a total of \$600.00 in fines for Dept. of Health certificate violations.

The spring striped bass run along the Raritan Bay shore has heated up with numerous complaints received. On 4/8/08 CO's apprehended four individuals for possession of 6 short striped bass and 1 fish over daily limit at the Keansburg Fishing Pier. A surveillance of these fishermen revealed them hiding their illegal catch in the trash cans on the pier. Earlier that day an individual was apprehended with 4 short striped bass on the beach in Keansburg. This fisherman was observed concealing the fish between rocks and covering them with flotsam from the bay. In the early morning hours of 4/13/08, four fishermen were apprehended with 8 undersized striped bass in Cliffwood Beach. The CO strategically set up observation in a bayside parking lot and caught one of the fishermen running the fish to his vehicle.

District 7 CO's have responded to numerous fish kill complaints in the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers during March and April. The kills were limited to menhaden. Physical water data collected by the Monmouth County Health Department were within normal parameters. The CO's collected live fish samples and delivered them to Bill Stansley, Division Wildlife Pathologist. Mr. Stansley sent the fish samples to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Health Center in Lamar, PA for necropsy and culture. The preliminary results from the lab indicate a bacterial infection, Vibrio ordalii, which is more common on the west coast in wild and cultured salmonids, although it can affect a wide range of marine species. The fish samples have been forwarded to the National Health Center for further testing.

On 3/29/08, CO's organized an inspection and boarding of party/charter vessel Atlantic Star out of Wildwood Crest. The boarding was in response to non-specific information received through various sources on the illegal sale of black sea bass by patrons of party and charter vessels during the winter seasons. As one of only two party vessels which was running trips during the winter season in southern New Jersey, patronage was high. Approximately 45 paying customers were inspected at the close of the 15-hour trip. Although compliance was high, Conservation Officer's issued one summons to a patron for possession of 15 black sea bass over the daily limit of 25 fish and one summons to another patron for interference by attempting to discard evidence of his violations. In addition, the patron Howard "Had" Birchmeier who was issued the summons for interference, was in possession of 46 black sea bass, several conger eels and parts of other black sea bass which had been legally filleted by the vessel under their NJ Fillet Permit. One of the vessel's mates claimed to have caught and retained 21 of Mr. Birchmeier's fish. Through interview of Mr. Birchmeier, CO's discovered he was intending to sell the eels and transfer the parts of black sea bass to a Chinese restaurant but denied any intent to sell any of the black sea bass he caught. In addition, he had an agreement with the captain of the vessel to sleep overnight in the wheelhouse in anticipation of the next day's trip. Mr. Birchmeier was informed that he was only legally allowed to possess one day's bag limit for each day he fished. The Federal permits of the vessel were subsequently inspected and the captain interviewed. It was documented that the vessels captain didn't possess a valid NMFS operator permit as required by federally permitted fishing vessels. The captain also failed to have on board the vessels' Federal logbook and therefore had failed to complete a fishing vessel trip report upon landing. In addition, mates on board the vessel caught and retained fish, which were commingled with fish possessed by patrons of the vessel.

On 3/30/08, based on the previous days boarding and prior contacts with Mr. Birchmeier, surveillance was set up of Mr. Birchmeier's vehicle as the F/V Atlantic Star landed their final trip for the season. Mr. Birchmeier was observed meeting with another patron from the vessel at a local Wawa parking lot. While there, this individual transferred a cooler of fish to Mr. Birchmeier. While traveling North on Rte. 47, CO's continued to monitor Mr. Birchmeier's activities and observed him go to the mate's home where he was given another cooler of fish caught on the vessel. Following that contact, CO's followed Mr. Birchmeier from Cape May County to his home town of Cherry Hill, in Camden County. In Cherry Hill, Mr. Birchmeier went directly to the back door of a restaurant on Rte. 70 to attempt to sell his catch. He was unsuccessful since this restaurant, which had a sign advertising a black sea bass special, was closed. Following that attempt, Mr. Birchmeier proceeded to his home leaving the several coolers of fish in the back of his van.

On 3/31/08, CO's and a Lt. returned to Cherry Hill in the early morning hours to continue surveillance of Mr. Birchmeier's activities. After several false alarms, CO's were able to follow Mr. Birchmeier to Café Aldo Lamberti on Rte. 70 in Cherry Hill. CO's observed the delivery of black sea bass into the restaurant by Mr. Birchmeier. Thinking that other restaurants may be involved, CO's continued following Mr. Birchmeier as he entered a local Mienekie shop. The officers apprehended Mr. Birchmeier. Upon interview, Mr. Birchmeier disclosed that he had sold black sea bass illegally to two restaurants and had

received fish illegally from the mate and another patron on the vessel. CO's subsequently inspected Café Aldo Lamberti in Cherry Hill and Luna Rosa Lamberti in Washington Twp. Gloucester County. In both cases the black sea bass purchased from Mr. Birchmeier was seized and the restaurants were issued a summons for purchasing black sea bass without having a New Jersey Black Sea Bass Dealer's license. In addition both restaurants were given written warning for failing to keep accurate records of the purchase of marine resources. Officers seized \$660.00 in proceeds from the sale of the fish from Mr. Birchmeier and over 175 lbs. of black sea bass. Mr. Birchmeier was issued an additional 6 summonses in two jurisdictions. Mr. Birchmeier was charged with: two counts of selling black sea bass to a non-permitted dealer, one count of selling black sea bass during closed commercial season, one count of purchasing black sea bass without having dealers permit, one count of failure to maintain accurate records of fish sold, and one count of possessing 100 black sea bass over recreational bag limit. The mate of the vessel was issued a warning and the patron of the vessel who transferred his catch to Mr. Birchmeier was issued a summons for selling their recreational limits to Mr. Birchmeier. In addition the F/V Atlantic Star, its owner and Captain face federal charges for the transfer of black sea bass to another person for commercial purposes and for the failure to comply with federal reporting guidelines on 3/29/08.

On 4/19/08 a CO set up a plain-clothes operation along the Delaware River in Carney's Point targeting illegal harvest of striped bass. Officers posed as fishermen along the bank while the CO and Lt. awaited their call. Although fishermen were complying with the striped bass regulations, CO contacted CO in reference to two fishermen who were consuming alcohol in the Department of Defense) DOD Wildlife Management Area in Salem County. When the plain clothes officer's moved their position, CO and Lt apprehended the two individuals. Both individuals were highly impaired and although admitting to driving their van into the WMA, neither man possessed a driver's license. Upon conducting a look up through Trenton Dispatch, the one individual was wanted on 10 warrants out of various municipalities in Camden County, each requiring \$750.00-\$1,500 bail without the option of 10% payment. The CO and Lt. took the individual into custody without incident and requested response from the State Police for transportation to Salem County Jail. Both men were issued summonses for the possession of alcohol on a State Wildlife Management Area. Later in the evening while leaving the DOD WMA the Lt.'s vehicle was almost struck head on by two vehicles being operated at high rate of speed. Both vehicles were stopped. The Lt. and CO determined that both vehicles were together. One vehicle was carrying wood debris for a campfire while the other had a case and a half of beer. The CO and Lt. issued two more summonses for the possession of alcohol in a State WMA.

On 3/28/08 while fishing on the bank of the Great Egg Harbor River at Jefferies Landing in Egg Harbor Twp., observed was an individual retaining undersized striped bass. The individual was apprehended with 9 undersized striped bass on the bank. Further investigation by a CO revealed three more undersized stripers retained during a previous trip hidden in the individual's vehicle. The appropriate summonses were issued. In an unrelated case at the same location on 4/8/08, another individual was apprehended with 4 undersized striped bass. Again the appropriate summonses were issued.

Mr. Goldman asked about the party boat violations for black sea bass and Captain Chicketano indicated it was in violation of buying and selling.

Mr. Rizzo asked about enforcement of the new horseshoe crab law. Captain Chicketano indicated that anyone in possession of horseshoe crabs needs to have a receipt showing their place of origin.

Dr. Donnelly asked the current market price for a bushel of oysters and what happens to habitual offenders of oysters? Captain Chicketano responded that oysters were \$35 to \$40 a bushel and that they file for forfeiture of all equipment.

Dr. Donnelly asked how clearly the summer flounder quotas were enforced. Captain Chicketano indicated they apply a 5% tolerance.

Mr. Maxwell asked about the Deputy program. Director Chanda said the program benefits are being evaluated as whether or not to continue the program. Currently there are about 45 deputies.

Legislative Report

Mr. McCloy presented the Legislative Report. He referred Council's attention to their handouts.

S-1575 reduces the penalty for possessing or using horseshoe crabs in violation of the moratorium on taking, landing or possession of horseshoe crabs.

S-1577 revises the criteria to indicate recovery. The proposed criterion is when the mean density of horseshoe crab eggs during the Delaware Bay shorebird stopover period reaches 50,000 eggs per square meter. At this time a limited harvest season may be considered. Both have been introduced by Senator Van Drew.

HR 5425 (federal) deals with 'Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2008'. As of the March 6, 2008 meeting Council requested a letter to be sent to Mr. Pallone, supporting his efforts on this bill.

SR-41 supports Mr. Pallone's bill, and stress the importance for fishery management officials to have flexibility in order to manage fishery populations, especially summer flounder. Council requested letters, at the March 6, 2008 meeting to be sent to Senator Cody and Assemblyman Roberts, supporting SR-41.

Chapter 288 concerns the New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council (COPC) established during the last legislative session. What part of the Department and who are to be appointed to this Council has yet to be determined.

Mr. Rizzo suggested a letter be drafted inquiring what element within the Department is responsible for this Council (COPC) and how this Council, with a state budget deficit, can get \$75,000, when no other Council gets monies.

Ms. Puskas suggested sending a letter to the Governor on how he can help save money in the budget, by postponing this new Council at this time.

Dr. Donnelly commented that supporters of the COPC were quoted in the newspaper as to its importance while the Marine Fisheries Council was being attacked as representing special interest groups.

Council took no further action on these suggestions.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Report (ASMFC)

Mr. Berg presented the ASMFC report. There have been no ASMFC meeting based meetings since the last Council meeting. New Jersey is now back in compliance with the ASMFC Tautog Plan. Mr. Berg indicated the Spring 2008 ASMFC meeting would be held the week of May 5, 2008 in Alexandria, VA. Dr. Donnelly thanked Council members and all parties involved for all their hard work and support in getting tautog back on track.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Mr. Goldman presented the MAFMC Report.

The Council reviewed 19 tilefish management issues addressed in Amendment 1 to the Tilefish FMP. Preferred alternatives were selected for each issue. Many of the specific issues concerned the Individual Fishing Quota Program. It is anticipated that the complete submission package for Amendment 1 will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by the end of May.

The Council also passed Framework 6 to the Joint Monkfish FMP. If also adopted by the New England Council, it will eliminate the “backstop” provision adopted in Framework 4. That provision could adjust, and potentially close, the directed monkfish fishery in 2009 if the landings in the current fishing year exceed the target total allowable catch (TTAC). The backstop provision is no longer considered necessary since a 2007 assessment of the monkfish stock indicates that the stock is rebuilt and is above its biomass target.

The Council recognized one of its former Chairmen when it presented the Ricks E Savage Award to Dr. James H. Gilford.

This Council meeting served as a forum for nine Committee meetings. Of particular interest to NJ fisheries:

- The Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Committee received an update on Amendment 14.

- The Bycatch/LAPP Committee reviewed measures to reduce bycatch mortality in recreational catch and release fisheries. An initiative was approved to develop a draft pamphlet on these issues for review at the next Council meeting.
- The Demersal Committee met to address Amendment 15 to the Summer Flounder FMP. The Demersal Committee will meet again at the Council's June meeting to form a clearer vision for this Amendment.

Dr. Donnelly asked Mr. Brust about the summer flounder stock assessment and the estimate for natural mortality and how this is working with some of the models.

Mr. Brust responded that the problem is that the true natural mortality rate is unknown. The working group discussed several theories and possible methods to calculate natural mortality. However, data are scarce and insufficient to strongly support any of the methods. The values selected for the assessment are based on available data that are within the range of values for the other methods.

Shellfish Council Reports

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council Report

Mr. Joseph presented the Shellfish Council Reports.

2007-2008 Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Program

Bureau personnel continue to prepare for the field component of the federally funded 2008 oyster reef enhancement program. Federal project funding is shared equally by the states of New Jersey and Delaware in their respective, ongoing shell planting programs.

Recruitment in 2007 was extraordinary bay-wide. This recruitment event ended a seven-consecutive year period of low recruitment, which was unprecedented in a near 60-year time series. The restoration program, now entering its fourth year, is designed specifically to address the recruitment problem and is based on the success of an innovative project initiated by the NJDEP in 2003. The 2005, 2006 and 2007 oyster reef enhancement programs involved the planting of approximately 1,000,000 bushels of shell throughout the Bay (with nearly 15 restoration sites in the NJ). Specific restoration sites from the 2005 program could be opened for limited harvest during the 2008 harvest season. Multiple year harvest projections, while often tenuous due to the vagaries of nature, have the potential to significantly increase future commercial harvests. Bureau staff continues to delineate prospective sites. The additional funds made available by the Federal government will allow New Jersey to expand on this program, which has both ecological and economic benefits to the State and regional economy.

2008 Direct Market Oyster Program

The direct market program commenced on April 7, 2008. Bureau staff continues to coordinate and monitor the harvest program. Seventy-seven vessels (the most since the direct market inception, 1996) are participating in the program. The total allowable catch for the industry has been initially set at approximately 80,000 bushels. Through nearly one month, approximately 10,000 bushels of oysters have been harvested. The harvest season is scheduled to run through mid-November 2008.

Chairman Ewing asked if the Rutgers oyster rack and bag culture was continuing. Mr. Joseph didn't think the Rutgers program was active but indicated that a private individual is using this technique just "down bay" of the Rutgers facility.

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council Report

Mr. Maxwell indicated there was nothing to report.

Committee Reports

No Committee meeting since the last Council Meeting.

Regulatory Updates

Regulatory Adoption/Proposals

Mr. Himchak presented an update on the Multispecies Regulatory Proposal for 2008. The draft proposal will be entered into the Department's database and then subject to legal review so public comment can begin.

Mr. Himchak referenced Handouts 11 & 12. As a result of the adoption of the last multispecies regulatory proposal in January, and the Notice of Administration Change dealing with summer flounder, scup and tautog, the 2008 commercial and recreational regulations have been updated and can be found on the Department's website and is available to the public.

Dr Donnelly noted that the Attention Angler Sheet did not mention allowance of the filleting of one fluke. Mr. Himchak noted this is an appropriate change, and will be updated.

Mr. Berg indicated that the ASMFC was going to be considering state-by-state quotas for spiny dogfish so it was important to work on the spiny dogfish proposal.

Ms. Puskas wanted to know how long that would take and Chairman Ewing responded – 15 months.

Old Business

Mr. Himchak commented on the Horseshoe Crab Lawsuit, Handout #8. There will be no decision rendered by the State Supreme Court on the initial legal challenge to the moratorium since the Legislative has prohibited harvest of horseshoe crabs.

Mr. McCloy reported that on April 3, the first deployment of 44 subway cars occurred on the Atlantic City Reef. Future deployments are scheduled for Shark River, Garden State North, Deep Water, and Cape May.

Mr. McCloy referenced Handout #9 in regards to issue of fish traps on reefs and indicated the issue was not yet resolved.

Lastly, he referenced Handout #10 that is an update on the new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), Federal Registry. Once released, the proposed rule will be open for a 45-day public comment period. The Federal government has indicated they do not want to administer a registry program but would prefer the states to do it. In 2011, when the Federal agency starts collecting the fee from those fishermen in the registry the money will not come back to fisheries, but go into the National Treasury.

Mr. Herb indicated he would be attending a constituents meeting next week regarding the MRIP. They will be looking at changes in data collection. He offered to provide Council an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Goldman reiterated that any money collected by the federal registry program is mandated by law to go into the National Treasury (not to fisheries). He also advised Council that the MRFSS and MRIP would be run concurrently for a couple years.

Mr. Rizzo took exception to statements in the letter from Reef Rescue (Handout #9) regarding actions the Council had taken on this issue. After a brief discussion among Council members it was determined that the statements in the letter were accurate. Mr. Rizzo also suggested Director Chanda speak to the president of the Outdoor Alliance and remind him that commercial fisherman have also contributed to the organization. Director Chanda suggested it would be more appropriate for Mr. Rizzo to speak with the president directly.

New Business

Mr. Muffley reported that there is a recent availability of three commercial crab pot licenses. The regulations require use of the 1994 lottery list to see who is eligible for these licenses. Once contacted they will have 30 days to purchase the license. Once this list is exhausted, if all licenses are not sold, then commercial docks and fishing organizations will be contacted and a new lottery will be held that will generate a new list.

Chairman Ewing made a comment that if these licenses are not picked up, maybe the target number of licenses should be reduced in the future. Mr. McCloy indicated that would have to be done through the regulatory process.

Mr. McCloy reminded Council members that travel expensive reimbursements are due before the end of June 2008.

Dr. Donnelly asked Mr. McCloy to comment on the commercial bluefish regulations. This request was in response to the recent increase in bluefish findings. Mr. McCloy stated the State does not manage bluefish on strictly a quota basis; it is managed by seasons, which are designed to keep quotas within their respective targets. The annual quota is broken down by gear types. He furthered explained the various gear types and under what conditions they were allowed to operate. Mr. McCloy indicated that the pound net fishery greatly exceeded its quota in 2007 and NJ was fortunate to get a quota transfer from Florida to allow the other gear types to harvest. Staff is tracking the pound net harvest more closely this year.

Public Comment

Mr. Szclc, commercial fisherman in Manahawkin, asked that Council reopen discussion on crab pot stealing and tampering. He asked that 24 hour tending of pots be changed. He requested a Crab Pot Committee meeting.

Mr. Keilmeir agrees with Mr. Szclc that it is time to reopen the discussion on blue crab pot stealing and tampering and 24 hour tending of pots. He suggested the tending time be between 4 am to 9 pm. He also commented on the increased harvest on horseshoe crabs. Even though the harvest in NJ is prohibited, other states (NY) are increasing their harvest resulting in an increased harvest coast wide.

Mr. Himchak responded that the horseshoe crab harvest would be very restricted along the coast for 2008. Both NY and MA have implemented more restrictive quotas for 2008.

Dr. Donnelly inquired if other states could harvest NJ's quota and Mr. Himchak responded in the negative.

Mr. Ewing, asked Mr. McCloy to set up a Blue Crab Committee meeting by fall.

Next Meeting, July 10, 2008.

Meeting adjourned.