

**NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL**  
**Galloway Township Library**  
**Galloway, New Jersey**  
**September 6, 2012**

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

Absent:  
Councilman Scott Bailey

Also in attendance representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

Rich Boornazian, Assistant Commissioner,  
Natural & Historic Resources

Thomas W. McCloy, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Adm. (MFA)  
Brandon Muffley, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries (BMF)  
Russ Babb, Acting Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Lt. Snellbaker, Bureau of Law Enforcement  
Russ Allen, Principal Biologist, BMF  
Mike Celestino, Principal 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 August 31, 2012. Meeting Minutes from the May 10, 2012 Council Meeting were approved.

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

Acting Chairman Herb welcomed Assistant Commissioner Rich Boornazian, Natural & Historic Resources to the meeting.

### **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.

### **Law Enforcement Report**

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

During the period between June and August recreational fishing regulation violations from Raritan Bay to Cape May consisted primarily of sublegal summer flounder, black sea bass, tautog and weakfish as well as violations exceeding the bag limit for these species. In addition, one vessel was apprehended for possessing bluefin tuna without the required Federal permit. This case was turned over to the National Marine Fisheries Service for prosecution.

In one instance several individuals were apprehended in Fortescue for possessing over the limit and under-sized striped bass allegedly taken with a cast net. One of the individuals owned a restaurant in Bridgeton and upon further investigation, CO's found 74 striped bass in his freezer with the intention to sell. If convicted, penalties could exceed \$19,000.00.

Several clambers working for the depuration plant were apprehended clamming before sunrise while two more were caught harvesting clams by the use of power. Recreational clambers were apprehended harvesting clams from condemned waters in Shark River. In Great Bay numerous summons were issued for clamming without licenses, on Sundays and on leased shellfish grounds.

### **Legislative Report**

No activity at this time.

### **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Report**

Mr. Allen presented Council with summary of the summer meeting which is presented in Handout #2a.

Handout #2b is a memorandum in regards to commercial scup quota and that the possession limit for the 2012 Winter II quota period has been increased. The unharvested quota from Winter I was rolled into Winter II. Per the requirements of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) when more than 2 million pounds are rolled over, the trip limit increases, setting the new trip limit for the 2012 Winter II period at 8,000 pounds per trip.

### **Striped Bass Management Board**

The ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board approved Addendum III to Amendment 6, which establishes a mandatory commercial tagging program for all states with commercial striped bass fisheries and recommends increasing penalties for illegally harvested fish. All states are required to implement Addendum III's measures by opening of their respective 2013 commercial fishing seasons. New Jersey currently does not have a commercial fishery for striped bass.

Mike Celestino, of the Administration, was nominated as NJ's representative to the ASMFC Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee.

### **Shad and River Herring Management Board**

The ASMFC Shad and River Herring Management Board met to review recent Federal council actions taken to monitor and reduce alosine bycatch. Mr. Allen reminded Council of the moratorium on American shad to be implemented by January 1, 2013. NJ was able to justify keeping the American shad fishery open in the Delaware Estuary. Mr. Allen will also keep Council informed on the recent petition to list river herring on the Federal Endangered Species List.

### **Winter Flounder Management Board**

The ASMFC Winter Flounder Management Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder. The Draft Addendum proposes changes to the commercial and recreational management requirements for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) stock in response to updated stock status information and federal action to significantly increase the GOM winter flounder state waters annual catch limit. This addendum has no impact on NJ fisheries.

### **Sturgeon Management Board**

Mr. Allen will be making a presentation on sturgeon later in the meeting to inform Council about the effects of placing sturgeon on the endangered species list and potential impact on all fisheries.

### **American Eel Management Board**

The ASMFC American Eel Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum III to improve conservation and protection of the stock. The Draft Addendum will include a range of options suggested by the Technical Committee (TC), including possible moratorium on glass (elver) and silver eel harvest, reduction in glass and yellow eel catch, seasonal closures, and future monitoring requirements. Mr. Allen will keep Council informed as he learns more after the Draft Addendum is developed for preliminary review in October.

### **South Atlantic Management Board**

The ASMFC South Atlantic Fishery Management Board reviewed the work of the Atlantic Croaker Technical Committee on the 2011 assessment triggers. The Board agreed with the TC's recommendation to not conduct a stock assessment, although the

recreational landings did trigger. The Board tasked the TC with developing an assessment and management trigger package in order to better inform management regarding potential decisions between assessment years. The Board also reviewed the spot triggers for the first time. The triggers had been included as part of the Omnibus Amendment, which became effective July 1, 2012.

The Board also reviewed the public comment received on the Black Drum Public Information Document (PID) and tasked the Plan Development Team (PDT) with drafting an Interstate FMP (ISFMP) for Black Drum.

### **Atlantic Herring**

The ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section approved Addendum V to Amendment 2 to the ISFMP for Atlantic Herring, which addresses regulations when spawning closures are triggered.

### **American Lobster Management Board**

The ASMFC American Lobster Board approved Addendum XVIII to Amendment 3 to the ISFMP. The Addendum establishes a consolidation program for lobster conversation management areas (LCMAs) 2 and 3 to address latent effort by reducing the overall number of traps allocated.

### **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board selected options for inclusion in Draft Amendment 2 for public comment for early September. Despite the uncertainty of the updated results in the stock assessment the TC believes the stock is experiencing overfishing, but is not overfished based on the current reference points used to assess the stock.

### **Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board**

The ASMFC Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board approved final options for Addendum IV to the Spiny Dogfish FMP. The Board decided to continue with status quo of a maximum of 5% rollover per year, as long as the stock biomass is above the target. Additionally, the Board voted to update the overfishing and definition and overfishing threshold reference point to be consistent with the Federal Plan. The Board received a report from the Coastal Sharks TC regarding NJ's request to allow removal of all fins on smooth dogfish throughout the entire year. The Board agreed with the TC's recommendation to proceed with a study to determine an appropriate fin to carcass ratio, and to have a draft addendum for review at the 2013 Winter Meeting.

### **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)**

Mr. Berg presented Council with the MAFMC report; Handouts #3a, #3b and #3c.

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

The MAFMC, in a joint meeting with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board, recommended specifications for the four species for the coming year (s). For 2013 the following were recommended:

**Summer Flounder**

<b>Commercial Quota (millions of pounds (mop))</b>	<b>11.44</b>
<b>Recreational Harvest Limit (mop)</b>	<b>7.63</b>

**Scup**

<b>Commercial Quota (mop)</b>	<b>23.53</b>
<b>Recreational Harvest Limit (mop)</b>	<b>7.55</b>

**Black Sea Bass**

<b>Commercial Quota (mop)</b>	<b>1.78</b>
<b>Recreational Harvest Limit (mop)</b>	<b>1.85</b>

**Bluefish**

<b>Commercial Quota (mop)</b>	<b>9.357</b>
<b>Recreational Harvest Limit (mop)</b>	<b>14.504</b>

**Amendment 17**

The MAFMC reviewed a draft public hearing document for Amendment 17 on Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP, which deals with regional and spatial management tools for the recreational black sea bass fishery. The MAFMC asked for development of additional alternatives that would provide individual states with greater flexibility in determining state-specific or regional allocations.

**Scup Allocation Amendment**

The MAFMC initiated an Amendment to further investigate the potential outcomes of adjusting the commercial and recreational scup allocations as well as the summer and Winter I and II commercial fishing period allocations.

**Spiny Dogfish**

The MAFMC approved draft Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP for public hearings. An important aspect of the Amendment is to align quota management with that of the ASMFC plan.

**Squid Summit**

The MAFMC discussed the development of a “Squid Summit” to bring squid fishermen together to develop better management approaches for squid.

**Delaware Artificial Reefs**

The MAFMC received a report from the Special Management Zone (SMZ) Monitoring Committee regarding a request from the DE Division of Fish and Wildlife to designate five artificial reef sites as SMZs under provisions of Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP. The Committee recommended that all five of the DE reefs be designated as SMZ’s during the recreational black sea bass season. Final action of Delaware’s proposal is expected in December.

## **Shellfish Council Reports**

### **Delaware Bay**

Mr. Babb updated Council with news of the Delaware Bay Office acquiring a much needed research vessel. The current 42 foot vessel at the Delaware Bay Office will be transferred to the Atlantic Coast Office, to replace the obsolete 32 foot sampling vessel, R/V Jennings. This will increase capacity and expand the Shellfisheries efforts on research projects.

### **Atlantic Coast**

No report at this time.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Blue Crab Committee Report**

Dr. Bochenek presented Council with the Blue Crab Committee Report, Handout #4.

Marine Fisheries Council Crab Committee met at the Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office to discuss issues within the current New Jersey blue crab regulatory framework. In attendance were Council Committee members, commercial and recreational industry advisors, and Marine Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff.

Staff provided an overview of commercial blue crab landings by gear from 1995 through April of 2012 and a summary of active versus non-active licenses by each commercial crab license type from 2005 through 2011.

The purpose of the Committee meeting was to discuss a number of different topics that have come to the Council's attention over the last several years. Topics included: license transferability, agent operators for crab licenses, apprenticeship programs, crab dredge gear modifications, gear tampering penalties, green crab and conch fisheries. No firm decisions were made, but discussions with the committee and industry advisors provided direction to staff on the changes to be considered. Industry advisors preferred the liberalization of license transferability beyond immediate family, citing concerns over an aging population of crab fishermen with no significant influx of younger fishermen, as well as difficulty selling their gear upon retirement without simultaneously offering the license. To alleviate impacts from a flood of newly active licenses, options such as limiting open transferability to active licenses, decreasing the number of licenses, or instituting an apprenticeship program were discussed. An apprenticeship program might also address the issues of agent operators for licensees who could not participate in the fishery due to medical, age or vessel constraints. Dredge gear modifications for size and tooth length were requested to more effectively deal with dissimilar types of bottom encountered in different bays. Concerns were raised over the environmental impacts of dredging including mortality of caught and released undersized crabs and damage to beds of submerged aquatic vegetation. The consensus of the group at this time was to make no modifications to the dredge fishery. Penalties for tampering with gear, (not just crab gear), belonging to other licensees should be increased according to many advisors and council members present. Options discussed included elevating charges to a criminal

felony, equating it with theft of property under current statutes, or adopting a point penalty system. The group ran out of time to discuss green crab and conch fishery issues in any detail.

It was agreed that a subsequent meeting of the Committee and advisors should be held sometime after the September 2012 Council meeting to further discuss license transferability with a review of the 2007 crab pot license transfer proposal that was not adopted. Other issues to be discussed include: increasing the blue crab minimum harvest size to 5 inches, instituting a conch harvest time limit of 4:00 am to 9:00 pm and reviewing current proposals for crab harvest reporting penalties.

Acting Chairman Herb agreed to schedule another committee meeting to pursue all issues further.

Acting Chairman Herb paused the meeting to introduce and welcome Senator Van Drew to the Marine Fisheries Council Meeting.

Senator Van Drew thanked Council for the warm welcome. Senator Van Drew addressed the Council regarding fisherman, Carmen Conti, who has been fishing for over seventy years. Senator Van Drew asked the Council to clarify the reasons and the process to Mr. Conti as to why he was denied his permit(s), when he has been fishing the exact same way all his life. Hopefully, Mr. Conti will be able to return to what he has been doing all his life, commented Senator Van Drew.

Acting Chairman Herb asked Mr. Conti to address the Council.

Mr. Conti stated that he has been fishing all his life and was never notified or knew about regulations or that permit applications were in place. He received a letter from the NMFS (actually New Jersey) being denied a State license to fish.

Acting Chairman Herb told Senator Van Drew and Mr. Conti that the Council would work with the state to look into this matter and get back to them with what they find. Acting Chairman Herb then returned to Committee Reports.

#### **Summer Flounder/Black Sea Bass Committee Report**

Mr. Radossi presented Council with Summer Flounder/Black Sea Bass Committee Report, handout # 5.

On August 29, 2012, a meeting of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council's Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Committee was held at the Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office. In attendance were Division of Fish & Wildlife staff, Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Committee Council members, and industry advisors. The purpose of the meeting was to review the definition of "landing" and "possession" to allow commercial fishing vessels the ability to enter New Jersey ports with multiple States trip limits on board.

Industry provided an overview of the landing/possession limit proposal developed by a number of representatives from the port of Cape May. The proposal was developed due to industries concerns that NJ ports were losing landings of multiple species of fish across NJ docks because NJ does not allow a fishing vessel to enter port with more than the NJ trip limit for any given species. Virginia was referenced in the proposal as a State that does allow the entry and landing of multiple State trips limits (specifically NC trip limits). The proposal also indicated that NJ was particularly losing landings of scup to southern States because of the above mentioned scenario. In an effort to possibly resolve these issues, industry proposed that any vessel with multiple State landing permits for a single species be allowed to enter NJ ports with those State landings aboard but only be allowed to off load the NJ trip limit prior to leaving NJ ports and entering another state's port to offload the remaining quantity of fish.

The group then had a lengthy discussion on the merits of the proposal. The group, in general, did agree that during some seasons the lower trip limits in NJ, compared to VA and NC, made it more economical to not land in NJ but go directly to those states with the higher trip limits. The group also agreed, however, that it is difficult to modify the trip limits significantly due to the diversity of the fleet in NJ. Plus, NJ's quotas are typically reached every year.

The group also raised concerns about the potential increase in effort from out of state boats that may occur under this proposal due to the significant amount of latent landing permits available. Some advisors also felt this proposal would only shorten the amount of time directed seasons remain open. Staff raised concerns about additional biological pressure this may have on the resource within a small area off NJ; plus the enforceability of the proposal and the need to track numerous states landing/possession limits, dealer receipt verification and the overall possession loophole this would create in the landing regulations.

There was no clear consensus from the advisors and the Council committee did not reach a clear consensus or recommendation. The Council committee recognizes and supports the goals and intent of the proposal and will therefore continue to work with staff and industry to develop a solution which will be agreeable to all parties.

Also discussed was the increase in the Season 4 trip limit for black sea bass. The NJDFW has determined that there will be approximately 42,000 lbs. of surplus from Season 3 rolled into the Season 4 directed fishery. Advisors are concerned that NJ vessels will not harvest the annual quota this year and proposed the Season 4 directed black sea bass fishery trip limit be increased; the three options that proposed are:

1. Status Quo; 500 lbs. twice a week or a 1,000 lbs. once a week.
2. Trip Frequency Increase; 500 lbs. four times a week or 1,000 lbs. twice a week.
3. Trip Limit Increase; 1,000 lbs. twice a week or 2,000 lbs. once a week.

The Committee recommends modifying the Season 4 trip limits to the current modified Season 3 trip limits of 500 lbs. four times a week or 1,000 lbs. twice a week.



Acting Chairman Herb commented that the Committee Report will stand as motion regarding the black sea bass trip limit. Council had no further comment.

Mr. Muffley updated Council with comments from the Committee's 10 black sea bass advisors, who were contacted via email for their input. Four to five out of the 10 advisors supported increasing the trip limit, however they all recommended a hybrid solution of 500 lbs. four times a week or 1,000 lbs. twice a week or 2,000 lbs. once a week. Acting Chairman Herb asked if this recommendation was only for Season 4 for this year. Mr. Muffley responded in the affirmative that it was only for the 2012 Season 4.

Acting Chairman Herb **opened the floor up to public comment.**

Ms. Wagner commented that in the last few years a lot of black sea bass have been left unharvested. She supported a hybrid solution of 500 lbs. four times a week or 1,000 lbs. twice a week or 2,000 lbs. once a week to allow more options to benefit everybody. Mr. Reichle supported the hybrid solution too.

Mr. Berg made a motion to amend the Committee's motion to add the 2,000 lbs. once a week as an additional option. The amended motion is to modify Season 4 directed black sea bass trip limits to be 500 lbs. four times a week or 1,000 lbs. twice a week or 2,000 lbs. once a week. Amended motion approved. Acting Chairman Herb asked for a vote on the new main motion which passed.

Dr. Bochenek asked for clarification on the Summer Flounder Committee Report on how the industry proposal to come into port with other state's trip limits added additional biological pressure and required increased enforcement.

Mr. Muffley stated there are a total of 177 NJ fluke landing permits, however only 60-80 permits are active in the fishery. This landing provision could make these latent permits more attractive to transfer to boats in other states. This could lead to a significant increase in effort and landings from a relatively localized area off the NJ coast (a great deal of boats from NY and NC fish off shore of NJ). He also indicated VA is the only state on the east coast that allows for entry and landing of multiple state trip limits, specifically NC trip limits. Currently Law Enforcement has been talking to VA about their landing provisions and VA is seeing a fair number of violations.

Mr. Kaelin encouraged the Council to continue to work on this proposal as he feels this is beneficial to fisherman. Acting Chairman Herb agreed that another committee meeting should be set up prior to the next Council meeting in an effort to find the best solution for all parties involved.

## **Regulatory Actions**

Mr. Muffley presented Council with regulatory updates.

### **Tautog**

The ASMFC approved NJ's request to recoup four days of fishing in the commercial tautog season. The tautog season was to open on June 11, due to administration delays the notice was not signed until June 13. Therefore, three days were lost for administrative delays and one for a notification delay (notification in mail). On June 15, the first commercial landings of tautog were reported. Although the ASMFC approved the request, a few members disagreed with the request of one day due to a notification delay but did support the three days due to administrative delay. One day of harvest in June equals two days in November and December. Therefore, the Tautog November/December season can now open eight days earlier than scheduled. This would move the opening from November 9 to November 1 only for the 2012 season.

Acting Chairman Herb asked for Council comments; no comments from Council.

Acting Chairman Herb opened floor for public comments.

Ms. Wagner supported the November 1<sup>st</sup> opening.

Dr. Bochenek made a motion to modify the 2012 commercial tautog November/December Season to open 8 days earlier, starting on November 1, 2012.  
Motion Passed.

### **Recreational Black Sea Bass Seasons**

Mr. Muffley reminded Council of Dr. Donnelly's motion (at their March meeting) for Council to revisit the 2013 recreational black sea bass season opening of January 1 to February 28, 2013 with a 15-fish bag limit at a later meeting. The NMFS did adopt the January 1 through February 28, 2013 season with a 15-fish bag limit, 12 ½" minimum size in Federal waters.

Acting Chairman Herb asked for any questions from Council.

Mr. Rizzo asked if there will be any ramifications with 15 fish possession limit. Mr. Muffley commented currently we have a 25 fish possession, so this will decrease it to 15. Normally fishermen do not even reach the 15 fish possession. Mr. Rizzo asked to hear from the recreational black sea bass fisherman.

Acting Chairman Herb opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Nowalsky commented this would be economically beneficial to NJ. Council should take advantage of this opportunity.

Mr. Radossi agreed with Mr. Nowalsky.

Mr. Rush made a motion to match Federal standards for the recreational black sea bass fishery with an open season of January 1 through February 28, 2013 with a 15-fish bag limit, 12 ½" fish size. Motion passed.

#### **Notice of Administration Change**

Mr. Muffley brought Council's attention to Handout #6, which includes all the Council's approved motions made tonight in regards to commercial tautog season, recreational black sea bass and keep the new change made tonight on the commercial black sea bass trip limit for Season 4, as the NOAC only includes the Committee recommendation.

Mr. Rush made a motion to approve the notice, incorporating all actions previously taken on the above. Motion passes.

#### **Old Business**

Mr. Muffley brought Council's attention to Handout #7, a letter regarding Black Drum Management. The 2008 Draft Multispecies Rule Proposal has regulatory changes proposed for black drum, both commercially and recreationally. The proposed recreational changes are an increase in size limit from 16" to 32" and a decrease in the possession limit from 3 to 2 fish, along with modifications on commercial trip limits.

Mr. Allen presented Council with a presentation on the listing of Atlantic Sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The presentation covered how Atlantic Sturgeon came to be listed on the ESA, NJ's progress to stay in compliance, administrative issues moving forward.

Mr. McCloy presented Council with a list of dates available for committee meetings in October along with a list of committee meetings that need to be prioritized by Council.

After some discussion between Council members, Acting Chairman Herb asked to prioritize the committee meetings as follows:

- 1) Summer Flounder/Black Sea Bass Committee (including the landing issue - October
- 2) Sturgeon Committee – October
- 3) Menhaden Committee – November
- 4) Eel Committee – November
- 5) Blue Crab Committee – December
- 6) Horseshoe Crab Committee – January

Acting Chairman Herb asked Council to have a strong presence at these committee meetings.

Mr. Zaborowski commented on the concern for much needed funding to Marine Fisheries in order to continue to run research programs. Mr. Zaborowski stated that the public, such as fishing clubs, are the ones who can make a difference if they get letters out to their legislators on the need for funds to support the fishing industries. Mr. Radossi

supported Mr. Zaborowski's comment and stated that there is no political will, because of the lack of the public contacting their government agencies, consequently there will be no support for the resource.

Mr. McCloy commented that Commissioner Martin did try to increase funding for the Marine Fisheries Administration but to no avail. Commissioner Martin needs help from the public.

### **New Business**

Dr. Bochenek asked when the Council's Chairman position will be filled, instead of operating with an Acting Chairman. Mr. McCloy responded that the Governor has yet to appoint a chairperson.

Acting Chairman Herb opened up the meeting for general public comment on Council's meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Cottrell commented on the worst year he has seen for crabs in the Barnegat Bay since 1974. With the increase in water temperature, decreases in oxygen, crabs are dying overnight. Waretown recently built an 18-hole golf course and this could be a cause affecting the water quality. He expressed concern about allowing the harvest of shedders. He asked Council to continue to work on the various crab issues discussed in the committee report. Mr. Johnson commented that the golf course is a land use issue, and Mr. Cottrell should contact Land Use Regulation in regards to checking water quality.

Mr. Dickerson commented that he has observed weakfish on the rise, yet only one fish (recreationally) can be kept. Mr. Dickerson asked Council to look into possibly increasing the possession limit. Mr. Muffley commented that if the stock is starting to expand, the increase will be seen in NJ first, however you need to see a trend and see it elsewhere, not just NJ. It is probably best to wait a few years before reopening the fishery and depleting any recent gains in the stock. Mr. Allen commented the ASMFC Weakfish Board will be meeting in October and he will keep Council informed.

Ms. Puskus commented on the need for more flexibility in regulations and to be able to react to fisheries in the present timeframe. Acting Chairman Herb commented that as Mr. Allen pointed out you still need to temper it a little bit to avoid negatively impacting recovering fisheries.

Mr. Blaine commented that he has seen an increase in weakfish, which is good news. He also commented on the transferability of blue crabs license and the need to reflect the change in present day society.

Mr. Holtzhauser, does not support an increase in recreational black drum size, since 16" is the largest size in other state's fisheries. This increase will eliminate fishermen, like

him, who fish for smaller black drum in the summer and the fall while surf fishing or in the back bays.

Mr. Banks supports Mr. Dickerson comments on weakfish.

Mr. Keilmeir commented he would like to see more flexibility with blue crab license transferability and allowing a helper to assist license holders who may have a physical condition that limits their ability to harvest.

Mr. Mackey commented he would like to see more flexibility with landing fish and all species permits. Fishermen are working with limited resources and the State needs to be more flexible.

Mr. Diehl, commented on summer flounder and being able to share the resource more equally between all fisherman.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting November 1, 2012, Galloway Township Library.