

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Galloway Library
Galloway Township, NJ
May 10, 2018

Council Attendees: James Alexis
Erling Berg
Eleanor Bochenek
Barney Hollinger
John Maxwell
Sergio Radossi
Joseph Rizzo
Robert Rush
Joseph Zaborowski
Richard Herb (Acting Chairman)

Council Absentees: Frances Puskas

Division of Fish and Wildlife Attendees:

Larry Herrighty, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Joe Cimino, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA)
Jason Snellbaker, Captain, Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE)
Sean Cianciulli, Chief, BLE
Jeff Brust, Research Scientist, MFA
Kira Dacanay, Senior Biologist, Bureau of Shellfisheries (BSF)
Heather Corbett, Principal Biologist, Bureau of Marine Fisheries, (BMF)
Brian Neilan, Assistant Biologist, BMF
Jamie Darrow, Assistant Biologist, BMF
Shanna Madsen, Research Scientist, MFA
Mike Celestino, Research Scientist, MFA
Colleen Brust, Research Scientist, MFA
Sam MacQuesten, Assistant Biologist, BMF
Lindy Barry, Senior Biologist, MFA
Sherry Bennett, Marine Council Secretary

Ms. Bennett read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of the Marine Fisheries Council (Council) meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on April 12, 2018. Acting Chairman Herb began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correction to March 15, 2018 meeting minutes. Under the Marine Fisheries Bureau Report the comment made by Mr. Herb should read as: Mr. Herb and Mr. Alexis both met with Senator Van

Drew, who was behind the \$1.2 million allocation and will update on where the money is in the budget. Correction made by Mr. Alexis

MOTION: The March 15, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes were approved, noting the correction made by Mr. Alexis to be added to minutes. Motion passes, one abstain.

Mr. Brust introduced and welcomed the new Marine Fisheries Administrator Joe Cimino to the Council members. Mr. Cimino recently left Virginia Marine Resources Commission, where he served as the Deputy Director of Marine Fisheries for the last few years, to fill the position vacated by Brandon Muffley in November 2016.

Audience Conduct

Mr. 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.

Mr. Herb noted that ASMFC will hold a public hearing on American eel following tonight's Council meeting at 7 pm.

Law Enforcement –

Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Captain Snellbaker presented the Law Enforcement Report for February 2018, March 2018, April 2018; Handout #3.

Highlights include:

- **Striped Bass:**

- Between March 9th and March 18th, the CPOs inspected over one hundred anglers among the mud flats from South Amboy, Middlesex County, to the Belford Ferry Terminal in Middletown, Monmouth County and issued over ten summonses for violations including undersized and over limit striped bass and interference with the duties of a conservation officer. The CPOs seized more than two dozen bass, several of which were returned to the water alive.
- CPO issued summonses to 3 fisherman for taking 7 undersized and over the limit Atlantic striped bass from a remote Delaware Bay creek in Maurice River Township.
- District 7 CPOs, on April 7th while working the Raritan Bayshore area of Union Beach, Monmouth County, issued 10 summons for undersized and over limit striped bass. In one instance, several individuals were apprehended for possession of 44 striped bass of which 40 were under the legal size limit.

- **Crab Dredge:**

- During a boat patrol in Delaware Bay in early March, CPOs apprehended two commercial crab dredge vessels actively engaged in dredging more than one hour before legal hours. Both vessel operators were issued summonses for the violation, and one of the two was issued a second summons for using an oversized dredge.
- Late March, CPOs apprehended a Cape May based commercial crab dredge vessel for possession of 533 undersized conch. The vessel operator was issued a summons for the possession of the undersize conch for the purpose of sale. The penalty is thirty dollars for each undersize conch in possession which equates to \$15,990. The undersized conch were seized as evidence.
- **Training:**
 - CPO Shepherd completed a 19-day comprehensive marine law enforcement training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.
- **Funding:**
 - At the ASMFC Meeting, the Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board received a report from the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC). The Policy Board, based on recommendation from the LEC will send a letter of support to NOAA Fisheries to continue funding Joint Enforcement Agreements.

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Legislative/Regulatory Report

Mr. Brust presented Council with a letter sent to two NJ Senators opposing Bill S2112; Handout #4. Marine Council sent this letter to support the Shellfisheries Council who also opposes the bill, which would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to allow, for research, educational, or ecological restoration, the cultivation of commercial shellfish species in coastal and inner harbor waters classified as contaminated. No response has been received from Senators as of yet.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC)

Mr. Brust presented Council with the MAFMC Meeting report, held on April 10-12, 2018 in Montauk, New York (Handout #5).

- **Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding**

A recent stock assessment found Atlantic mackerel to be overfished and overfishing occurring. MAFMC intends to address rebuilding through a framework action to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The MAFMC will receive an update in June 2018 and is scheduled to take final action at their August 2018 meeting.

- **Atlantic Mackerel-Atlantic Herring Issue**

The Atlantic mackerel fishery is projected to reach 100% of its quota at some point in early December 2018. Under current regulations, a zero-possession limit will take effect once the quota is reached. The possibility of a total mackerel closure in 2018 has raised concerns about possible effects on the herring fishery. MAFMC decided to address possible adjustments to the 2018 Atlantic mackerel regulations through a separate framework action which will consider recommending that NOAA Fisheries implement a 5,000 or 10,000 pound trip limit when 100% of the commercial quota is reached, in order to allow the herring fishery to continue to operate. Final action will be considered at the June 2018 Council meeting.

- **Blueline Tilefish**

After reviewing recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee, Tilefish Monitoring Committee, and Tilefish Advisory Panel, the MAFMC adopted blueline tilefish measures for the 2019-2021 fishing years. The annual catch target (ACT) was set at 100,520 pounds in the Mid-Atlantic jurisdiction, of which 73% is allocated to the recreational fishery, and 27% to the commercial fishery. MAFMC also discussed and recommended options related to monitoring and reporting of blueline tilefish.

- Mr. Rush asked what the trip limit is for recreational fishery. Mr. Brust commented he would provide Council with the specific recreational trip limits, as he did not have the exact information in front of him. Mr. Cimino commented recreational trip limits are to be 3, 5, 7 fish per individual, for anglers on private, charter, and party boats, respectively, with vessel type defined using US Coast Guard criteria.

- **Golden Tilefish**

MAFMC recommended no changes to golden tilefish specifications for the 2019 fishing year. Specifications include the following: Allowable Catch Limit (ACL) 1.636 million pounds, commercial quota 1.554 million pounds, incidental quota 72,398 pounds, incidental trip limit 500 pounds, and recreational possession limit 8 fish.

- **Illegal and Unreported Landings in Golden Tilefish**

MAFMC discussed concerns about non-IFQ tilefish vessels targeting golden tilefish under the golden tilefish incidental fishery regulations. The issue was partly addressed by Framework 2 to the Tilefish FMP, which established a new requirement that incidental golden tilefish landings cannot exceed 50% of the total weight of all combined species landed. MAFMC agreed to convene a group composed of members of their Tilefish, Highly Migratory Species, and Law Enforcement Committees to discuss these concerns and determine whether action is warranted.

- **Shortfin Mako Shark**

The most recent stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks found the stock to be overfished with overfishing occurring. NOAA Fisheries implemented management measures to address overfishing through an emergency rule effective March 2, 2018. NOAA is evaluating more permanent conservation and management options to address overfishing for implementation when the interim rule expires. NOAA has scheduled scoping hearings and is requesting public comments on commercial and recreational management options.

- **State of the Ecosystem Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide ecosystem-scale information in the Mid-Atlantic Bight for fishery managers to consider along with existing species-scale analyses. MAFMC members provided feedback and suggestions for future development of the report.

- **Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Mesh Selectivity Study**

Emerson Hasbrouck, Cornell University, presented results of a research project on selectivity and optimum mesh size for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Report

Mr. Brust and Ms. Corbett presented Council with the ASMFC Meeting report, held on April 30 – May 3, 2018 in Alexandria, VA (Handout #6).

Mr. Brust

- **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board met jointly with the MAFMC to consider a number of issues. These include (1) approving a joint Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment Public Information Document (PID) for public comment; (2) a draft discussion regarding a strategic plan for reforming recreational black sea bass management; (3) draft alternatives for the recreational management framework and addendum for all three species; and (4) preliminary harvest estimates for the February 2018 recreational black sea bass fishery.

1. Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment PID seeks public input on four issues: 1. Requalifying criteria for federal commercial moratorium permits to address latent effort in the fishery; 2. Modifying commercial quota allocation; 3. Adding commercial landings flexibility as a framework issue in the MAFMC FMP; 4. Revise the FMP objectives for summer flounder. Many believe current objectives are outdated and could provide better guidance if updated. The ASMFC Board and the MAFMC will determine the public comment period as well as the schedule for public

hearings following the June MAFMC meeting, and notify public through a joint press release. The Board and MAFMC will consider final action on this amendment in December 2018.

2. Development of a draft discussion document has begun looking at reforming recreational black sea bass management to provide a starting point for discussion on the development of a comprehensive reform initiative. The draft document will be brought back before the Board and Council later this year.
3. The ASMFC (Board) and MAFMC considered draft alternatives for the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Framework and Addendum. The Board and MAFMC approved alternatives to include in a draft PID. The draft alternatives include options for conservation equivalency for recreational black sea bass, conservation equivalency rollover, slot limits in recreational fisheries for all three species, and Block Island Sound transit provisions. The Board and MAFMC chose not to include alternatives for evaluating and modifying recreational management measures based on a comparison of catch to the Annual Catch Limit in this action. A draft document will be presented at the August joint meeting, with final action tentative for December 2018.
4. Virginia and North Carolina were the only states to participate in the February 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery. Preliminary harvest reports indicate total harvest for both states is estimated at 5,000 pounds of black sea bass.

Mr. Radossi asked about the landings flexibility for summer flounder. Mr. Brust replied the current regulations for trip limits on summer flounder apply to the state you land in, and fisherman could not harvest more than the trip limit for the state they intend to land in. However, the framework would investigate landings flexibility so that a fisherman who has summer flounder licenses in more than one state would be allowed to harvest more than one state's trip limit on a single trip. They would be allowed to land their trip limit in one state and then offload the rest of the product in the other states under those respective trip limits. In the end, this framework has the potential to affect the infrastructure of state fish houses not the vessels. Captain Snellbaker commented that BLE has many concerns and will be submitting comments on the enforcement issues this framework presents.

Mr. Radossi asked that the State stakeholders as well as the commercial sector be made aware of this as well as the public hearing. Mr. Brust commented Council could also request a committee meeting to discuss this in more depth.

- **Bluefish Management Board**

MAFMC and the Board met jointly to review and approve the scoping and public information document for an amendment to the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) focused on commercial allocations to the states, transfer processes, and goals and objectives. The scoping and public information document will be finalized and released in May 2018. State public hearings will occur this summer, with dates and locations to be determined.

- **Coastal Sharks Management Board**

The Board met to consider a number of issues. These included recent stock assessment findings on Atlantic shortfin mako and sandbar sharks; NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Draft Amendment 11 and recently implemented emergency rule measures; an update on the oceanic whitetip shark status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and the 2015 and 2016 Fishery Management Plan Review.

- The Atlantic shortfin mako stock assessment indicates the resource is overfished and overfishing is occurring. The International Commission of the Conservation Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), determined all member countries need to reduce landings by approximately 72% -79% from current levels to prevent further declines in the population, and a reduction to zero landing is needed to rebuild the resource by 2040. The emergency measures implemented on an interim basis through August may be extended for up to 6 months at that time. In November 2018, ICCAT will evaluate the reduction in landings observed from the current regulations, and different measures may be recommended to be implemented for member countries. NOAA has also initiated a scoping on Draft Amendment 11 to rebuild the stock. The Technical Committee (TC) highlighted that most commercial and recreational landings occur in federal waters and that implementing the emergency rule measures would likely not have a significant impact in reducing landings. The TC recommended that states implement complementary measures on their own if possible. The Board decided not to implement emergency rule measures and wait for the ICCAT meeting in November 2018. The Board decided to initiate an addendum to allow the Board to change management measures, such as adjusting minimum size limits, through Board action moving forward. The Board will consider the draft addendum at the 2018 Summer Meeting before distributing for public comment.
- The Board was presented the sandbar shark assessment (SEDAR 21). A new model approach was used and matched the biomass trend over the last

two decades. The stock remains overfished but overfishing is not occurring. NOAA did not propose management changes and recommended maintaining status quo measures.

- The Board received an update on ESA status change for oceanic whitetip sharks. The status review found global commercial fishing mortality is likely too high. While NOAA Fisheries has changed the status to threatened under the ESA, there are additional consultations before changes in management are considered. The TC recommended maintaining status quo measures for now, but considered adding oceanic whitetip to the prohibited shark species list. Most of the fishing occurs outside of the ASMFC jurisdiction.

- **Tautog Management Board**

The Board met to consider approval of the Connecticut (CT) proposal for 2018 management measures for the tautog commercial fishery. The Tautog Technical Committee reviewed CT's proposed measures and agreed they are not likely to have a negative impact on the Long Island Sound (LIS) stock. CT was approved to implement measures similar to 2017 for the 2018 Tautog Fishery.

The commercial tautog tagging applicator is currently being readjusted, and this may delay the mandatory commercial tagging program.

- **Atlantic Herring Section**

The Atlantic Herring Section reviewed accountability measures in the Atlantic mackerel fishery, and considered a Technical Committee (TC) report regarding the spawning reclosure protocol.

- **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council (ACCSP)**

The ACCSP Coordinating Council met to receive Program and Committee updates and to consider approval of the FY19 Request for Proposals (RFP) package.

- **Executive Committee**

The Committee approved the FY2019 Budget and revisited a previous decision to allow ongoing proxies to serve in Commission leadership roles. The Committee modified the guidance to allow only Commissioners and permanent proxies to serve in leadership roles. The Committee received a report on the future scope of state involvement in recreational data collection and requested additional information on staffing and workload associated with MRIP data for a future meeting. Future ASMFC Annual Meeting dates and locations: 2018 New York City, NY; 2019 Portsmouth, NH; and NJ in 2020.

- **American Lobster Management Board**

The Board met to analyze Lobster Conservation Management Team (LCMT) proposals to reduce latent effort. No action was taken at this time regarding the proposals. The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) presented the Board with a report regarding the enforceability of ropeless fishing in the lobster fishery. The LEC expressed significant concerns about the enforceability of the technology.

- **Winter Flounder Management Board**

The Board reviewed a proposal by Rhode Island to implement aggregate weekly limits in the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) commercial winter flounder fishery. Given the SNE/MA stock is depleted, and the 50 lb. possession limit was intended to achieve the lowest possible fishing mortality, the Board did not approve the proposal for aggregate weekly limits. As a result, a 50 lb. daily possession limit remains in state waters for the SNE/MA commercial winter flounder fishery. Note: NJ has a 58 fish daily limit.

- **Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (ISFMP)**

The Policy Board considered the Northern Region's black sea bass appeal and received reports from the Executive, Artificial Reef and Law Enforcement Committees.

- **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

Upon the direction of the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board, the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved revised 2018 recreational measures for the Northern Region states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. New Jersey's 2018 regulations do not change. This action is taken in response to a Northern Region state appeal of the approved 2018 recreational measures under Addendum XXX. The ISFMP Policy Board was presented with a potential management program for the 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery to replace the allocations specified in Addendum XXX. The revised management program was developed to meet the needs to the Northern Region without impacting the remaining states, while still constraining harvest to the 2018 recreational harvest limit of 3.66 million pounds. In addition, the Board initiated new management action for the 2019 black sea bass recreational fishery and tasked the Plan Development Team to develop a white paper to consider the impacts of changes in black sea bass abundance and distribution to the management of commercial and recreational fisheries.

Dr. Bochenek questioned where the "extra" fish came from. Mr. Brust explained the 2011 year class was very strong and resulted in a large number of large fish being caught in 2017. In 2018, the 2011 year class will not be as prevalent, and the average size of fish caught in the fishery is expected to decrease. Each region is given an allocation in weight, which is then converted to number of fish to set recreational regulations. When converting from pounds to numbers, a lower

average weight results in a larger number allowed to be harvested. Available data show that the 2015 year class is also large, but these fish are still small and just entering the fishery in 2018.

Mr. Rush asked if there was any discussion to overages in black sea bass. Mr. Brust commented that the Board has been tasked to initiate new management action for the 2019 black sea bass recreational fishery.

Ms. Corbett

- **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

The Board met to review results of a survey that provides guidance to the Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) regarding the types of biological reference points (BRPs) to pursue in the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment. The results of the survey did not indicate a strong preference for a particular kind of reference point as long as management objectives are met. The benchmark stock assessment peer review will take place in the fall of 2018.

- **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

The Board initiated a noncompliance finding in response to Virginia's failure to fully implement the mandatory provisions of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan, specifically to establish a Chesapeake Bay reduction fishery cap. The Board postponed action on the noncompliance finding until the summer 2018 meeting.

- **South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board (SAFMC)**

- The Board approved Addendum I to the Black Drum FMP. The Addendum allows Maryland to reopen its black drum commercial fishery in the Chesapeake Bay.
- The Board reviewed recommendations regarding changes to the traffic light analyses for spot and Atlantic croaker.
- The Board discussed next steps in the transfer of management authority from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) to ASMFC for cobia.

Marine Fisheries Bureau Report – none

Shellfish Council Report

- **Shellfisheries Bureau Update-** Ms. Dacanay

- **Delaware Bay**

The Intermediate Transplant for 2018 occurred April 24 to May 4, 2018. Four vessels participated in transplants and a total of 39,950 bushels of cultch material from the medium mortality transport beds were transported to high mortality market beds which would result in an increase per license quota.

- **Atlantic Coast**

Ms. Dacanay informed Council of Offshore Wind Energy Plans for four call areas known as Fairway North, Fairway South, Hudson North and Hudson South. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has opened a 45 day comment period which will end on May 29th, 2018. In the federal registry there are specific pieces of information they are looking for along with open comments.

In addition, a second public comment period is ongoing requesting input on a general path forward for offshore wind energy development throughout the entire continental shelf. This public comment period ends May 21, 2018.

Council expressed concern over the location of the call areas of these offshore wind energy farms. Even if they're in federal waters, these areas extend along most of the New Jersey shoreline and will affect the historical fishery that is very well documented for the entire coastline of the state. After more discussion, Council was informed their concerns are not unfounded and they are not alone. Ms. Dacanay commented that other fishery stakeholders have expressed similar concerns, yet the call areas are still being planned in the same areas. It is important for BOEM to understand that there is significant uncertainty from the public in how their input is being used. BOEM is aware of knowledge for those call areas with a couple other data sets, but are looking for more information for accuracy of these data sets and other information they may not be aware of.

MOTION to draft a letter in support of Governor's letter to request an extension of the time frame for public comment in regards to BOEM offshore wind energy leases. Motion made by Dr. Bochenek, seconded by Mr. Alexis, motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Rizzo requested a committee meeting to review the leases too.

- **Atlantic Coast-** Mr. Maxwell
 - **Shellfish Leasing Policy**

The Atlantic Coast Section of the NJ Shellfish Council met on April 19th to discuss and to move forward the recommendations of the Leasing Committee's revisions to the "Shellfish Aquaculture Leasing Policy of the Atlantic Coast Section of the NJ Shellfisheries Council". Revisions to the Policy include investigating the feasibility of new shellfish aquaculture lease areas in Great Egg Harbor Bay and Manahawkin Bay. The Policy also adjusted the cap on the number of new leases in Great Sound. The revised leasing policy was approved by Council.
- **Delaware Bay-** Mr. Hollinger
 - **Delaware Bay Direct Market Oyster Harvest**

The 2018 Direct Market Harvest Program started April 2 and ends November 16. Bushel and cage tags for oyster harvest are being sold through the remainder of the season. The initial quota was 87,492 bushels of oysters, which broke down to 1,095 bushels per oyster dredge boat license. As of May 9, the total reported harvest was 21,155 bushels.

Committee Reports – none

Regulatory Actions – Mr. Brust

- Updated Council that the Draft Notice of Administrative Change (DNOAC) regarding modifications of recreational scup season, recreational tautog possession limit and season, and commercial tautog season has been approved by the Commissioner.
- Updated Council on the DNOAC regarding modification of commercial cobia possession limit and recreational cobia minimum size and possession limit, modification of recreational black sea bass season and possession limit, and modification of summer flounder season. As of today staff was told it is on its way to the Commissioner's Office to be signed by May 15. May 15 marks the opening of the black sea bass season, May 25, for the summer flounder season, and cobia will follow VA regulations.
- The modification of the shortfin mako shark recreational and commercial minimum size limit and possession limit, was taken out of the DNOAC. Lawyers stated since ASMFC did not make any plan changes, NJ could not change regulations through a notice; however, it could be done through regulatory action, which takes time. Discussion to postpone further action until the ASMFC receives an update possibly in November 2018.
- Mr. Brust updated Council that the Artificial Reef Special Management Zone ruling has been submitted to the federal registry and should be published before the end of the month.

Old Business –

Committee Meetings:

- Tautog Committee, to discuss the commercial tagging program which needs to be implemented by January 1, 2019.
- Mr. Hollinger requested a blue crab committee meeting regarding pot and crab dredge transferability.

Mr. Brust commented they plan to hold both committee meetings before Council's July meeting.

- Mr. Herb brought up Executive Committee Meeting Summary, from November 21, 2017 meeting (Handout #7). The summary covered three topics; 1. Update of the meeting Mr. Herb and Mr. Alexis had with Senator Van Drew in regards to the \$1.2 M state appropriation to Marine Fisheries Administration, 2. Council procedures and guidelines for committee advisor appointments, 3. New application for advisory positions.

Councils Procedures and Guidelines

The following is a summary of major decisions made during the meeting.

- The advisor list by species from July 2016 was considered the most accurate and up to date. No records could be found of when advisors were added to these committees, so July 2016 will be considered the start date for their 3 year term.
- Any advisor who is issued a marine fisheries violation will be removed from their advisory position, and will be ineligible to serve as an advisor for five years from the date of the violation. New applicants who have received a violation in the last five years will be ineligible until five years from the date of the violation.
- Following a three year term, advisors will need to reapply to remain an advisor. There will be no automatic renewal.
- Geographic distribution of advisors for a given committee should be considered when evaluating applications.

The committee report stands as a motion and 2nd automatically, and tabled at the January 2018 meeting.

Council Comments-

- Mr. Herb commented that he had heard a suggestion from several Council members to change all the five years to three years.
- Mr. Radossi questioned do we want advisor input in new or amending regulations if they cannot follow the rules (have previous offenses). The number of years is irrelevant, because they should be following the regulations from the start. Mr. Zaborowski agreed with Mr. Radossi.
- Mr. Rizzo asked why no automatic renewals. Mr. Brust commented they would get a reminder toward the end of the term to renew, so it's a mechanism to make sure they are still interested to be an advisor and make sure our committees are well represented where they should be.
- Mr. Rush was concerned that removal forever, 5 years, or even three years, is a little much, considering everyone makes a mistake.
- Mr. Rizzo suggested if there was an avenue for Law Enforcement to come to the Executive Committee to explain circumstances around a violation, which would give Council flexibility in evaluating each case individually. Chief Cianciulli commented that he would rather not have officers who objectively enforce regulations now add subjectivity and opinion's about whether somebody be allowed on the committee.

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE: Any advisor who is convicted of a marine fisheries violation will be issued a warning, and upon conviction of a second violation, will be removed from all their advisory committees for three years from the date of the violation. New applicants who have been convicted of a violation in the last three years will be ineligible until three years from the date of the violation. Made by Dr. Bochenek. Seconded by Mr. Rush. Motion passes, 7 in favor, 2 opposed.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATED GUIDELINES WITH THE SUBSTITUTE MOTION INCLUDED. Made by Dr. Bochenek and Seconded by Mr. Rush. Motion passes, 7 in favor, 2 opposed.

- Using the new updated guidelines, the Executive Committee considered five new applications for advisory positions. After some discussion, including interest from Council on holding a closed executive session to discuss the applicants, it was decided to table the decision until staff could investigate the procedures for a closed session. It was requested that a DFW legal representative be contacted for information on proper procedures.
- Mr. Brust asked Council if they would like to have bluefish committee meeting prior to public comment sessions. No interest at this time.

New Business-

Mr. Brust brought Council to Handout #8, regarding fishing community resilience workshop to be held on June 4, 2018. Registration is required.

Public Comment –

Mr. Kelly - Commented how upset he was due to the new changes initiated in the commercial tautog fishery. Does not understand how a fishery season was altered so quickly and he was never informed prior to or during the process. He only learned about it after the law was in effect. Mr. Brust commented that the system that was in place was followed and it is entirely possible that with many recent staff turnovers, paperwork could have been misplaced as to why he was not notified. Recommended to fill out an advisory application.

Mr. Parker – Upset over the tautog process. On April 20 the new law was signed, the letter was postmarked April 28 and received on May 1. The old rules were removed right away from Division website but new rules still have not been posted. Request for a recoupment of 11 days of missed fishing, from April 20 to May 1, 2018.

Meeting adjourned. Next Meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2018, Atlantic County Library, Galloway Township, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Road. **NOTE: Moving forward in 2018 the meeting times have been changed to start at 5:00 pm.**