

Marine Fisheries Council Meeting
January 9, 2020

Council Attendees:

Eleanor Bochenek
John Maxwell
Barney Hollinger

Sergio Radossi
Bob Rush

Council Absentees:

Dick Herb

Joe Rizzo

The meeting was called to order. Notice of the Marine Fisheries Council (Council) meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on **December 4, 2019**. Councilman Radossi, sitting in for Acting Chairman Herb, began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statutes require that a minimum of six Council members are present to achieve quorum. Only five members were present for this meeting, so quorum was not reached, and therefore no action items were addressed. The following is a summary of the topics discussed.

Enforcement report for Oct-Dec 2019, presented by Capt. Snellbaker, NJ Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE)

Legislative/regulatory report for Nov-Dec 2019, presented by Mr. Brust, NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries (BMF)

- State legislation topics included Bills A5583, A5663/S3985, A5432, A5869, A6055, S2905, and A4136
- Two pieces of Federal legislation regarding descending devices in the Gulf of Mexico and the Forage Fish Conservation Act.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Report for the December 2019 meeting, presented by Mr. Cimino, NJ Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA). Summaries were provided regarding

- Recreational management measures for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish
- Scoping documents to consider sector allocation for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass
- Amendment to consider state allocation of black sea bass
- Commercial catch and effort monitoring
- MAFMC risk policy
- Surf clam / ocean quahog excessive shares amendment
- Offshore wind and fish habitat
- An official MAFMC meeting summary is available at <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/december-2019>

Marine Fisheries Bureau report, presented by Mr. Brust

- 2019 commercial harvest of black sea bass and summer flounder

- Summary of 2019 striped bass bonus program
- Striped bass young of year index
- Biological sampling from recreational tournaments
- Commercial industry meeting regarding fishery observers

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council report, presented by Councilman Hollinger

- Delaware Bay 2019 Direct Market update.
- The Lease Committee will meet on January 29th.

Bureau of Shellfisheries report, by Mr. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries (BSF) regarding completion of a study of Nantuxent Creek by Stockton University.

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council report

Regulatory Actions, presented by Mr. Brust, included updates on

- The Notice of Administrative Change (NOAC) to increase commercial summer flounder and black sea bass trip limits for the directed season 1 was approved
- The NOAC for striped bass recreational measures and striped bass bonus program is still on hold
- Spiny dogfish quota nearly reached and may require early closure

Old Business, presented by Mr. Brust

- A summary of the first meeting of the NJ Offshore Wind Environmental Working Group
- A special MFC meeting will be held in February to address striped bass and bluefish recreational measures.

New Business, presented by Mr. Brust

- Two scoping meetings have been scheduled to discuss sector allocation for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass
- One scoping hearing has been scheduled to discuss sector allocation for bluefish
- Staff will schedule a Black Sea Bass Committee meeting to adjust trip limits for seasons 2-6
- Should NJ pursue conservation equivalency for bluefish recreational measures?

Public Comment

John DePersenaire, Recreational Fishing Alliance, spotted seatrout size and bag limits.

James Dopkin, commercial fisherman, black sea bass bycatch limit.

Joe Wagner, commercial fisherman, ITQ Program for the commercial black sea bass fishery; revisit reopening the commercial horseshoe crab fishery; impact of wind turbines on deep-sea corals in lease areas.