

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
2019 MAR 25 AM 8:10

Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Minutes of February 21, 2019
Gloucester City Hall 9 Dale Ave.
First Floor Conference Room, 7 p.m.

Al Cottone, Executive Director
Mark Ring, Chair
Scott Memhard, Vice Chair

Commission Members

Angela Sanfilippo
Paul Vitale
Scott Swicker
Dave Leveille
Joseph Orlando
Michael Orlando
Sam Novello

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm

Attendees: Al Cottone, Mark Ring, Sam Novello, Michael Orlando, Dave Leveille, Scott Swicker, Angela Sanfilippo, Joseph Orlando, Paul Vitale

Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2018 and January 17, 2019

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made by Angela Sanfilippo and seconded by Joe Orlando to accept the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Moment of Silence

The Commission held a moment of silence for Stephen Antonivich who passed away at sea. Ms. Sanfilippo shared that there will be a service at Greeley Funeral home at 10am, following with a memorial service at the Fisherman's Statue.

Update on Boston Seafood Show (March 17th thru 19th)

Ms. Sanfilippo shared that they have ordered the fish and lobsters. Monday 3/18 is the bigger day of the show with the luncheon that day. The Commission discussed the booth and backdrop, Scott Swicker will be featured in the backdrop. Ms. Sanfilippo shared that they may have some visitors from Italy and Scotland. The Commission discussed access to passes for the show and if people would like to attend there are VIP passes to preregister.

Executive Directors Misc.

The Commission discussed putting together a letter for concerns on the timing of whiting season. The timing opens too late, the Commission would like to submit the letter to the New England Fishery Management Council to put it on the priority list. The Commission would like to submit the letter soon but expect the issue won't be heard until the Fall. The Commission discussed last year's opening of the season on July 15th and the whiting had left by August 5th. The season had traditionally started at the beginning to mid-June. Discussion about being under the 5% threshold. Libby will review the letter for the Commission and put it in more Council friendly terms. The Commission will have the letter drafted for next month's meeting.

Update on Dead in the Water Documentary

The Commission discussed the new cut of the Dead in the Water documentary, it is now

58 minutes for airing on PBS. The new cut flows beautifully and music will be added. There will be a showing of Dead in the Water in Stonington, CT on April 6th at the Stonington High School, after that it will and start showing in other places. The Commission discussed the plan of putting something at the beginning and end of documentary that explains what it is all about.

Report on Drastic Herring Cuts Regarding Local Bait Supplies

The Commission discussed the herring cuts from 110,000 metric tons to 33,000 metric tons. The Commission noted that even though the herring aren't being overfished, it was cut. Discussion about similar cuts for striper due to the belief that there is more mortality with small fish than is being landed. The Commission noted there are groups from Maine that are lobbying for it and going to state house every day. The Commission noted there is a meeting at DMF on striped bass on March 27th. There was a discussion about Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire only having a striped bass recreational fishery and Maine may want to start a striped bass commercial fishery.

Upcoming Safety and CPR Training. PFD Distribution.

There will be CPR training on March 29th and Safety Training at end of April. May ask Endicott to host the event.

New Business

The Commission shared that there is an event coming up with Governor Baker on March 6th to discuss offshore wind. The Commission noted there are no fishing representatives at the event and every panelist is affiliated with wind. The Commission discussed the wires for the Wind Farm on Cape Cod are going through the squid grounds. Discussion about the work that was done to submit comments before the deadline and ask for mitigation funds. There was a general discussion about the fish scattering from the vibration and noise and the mussels taking over. There have been accounts of a few boats that have hit them when its foggy and there are so many targets on radar. Discussion about it happening with LNG, negotiated for 2.5 years and received mitigation money. Discussion about the State of Massachusetts setting up an area for just Massachusetts companies. Mike Orlando stated they will have stuffed clams, and possibly baked haddock over mashed potatoes.

Oral Communications

No public comment.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Sanfilippo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm, seconded by Mr. Vitale, and unanimously approved.