



Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Minutes of March 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 7:05pm

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

Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2019

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made by Mr. Vitale to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Orlando, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Oral Communications

Jim and Andy Santapaola requested the Commissions' approval of re-establishing a fish trap near Joe Garland's house, located before the little beach before the Eastern Point Moorings. The Commission discussed the location and stated that it has already gone through City Council and the Harbormaster.

A motion was made to approve the fish trap by Mr. Joseph Orlando, the motion was seconded by Mr. Vitale and unanimously approved.

Recap of the Boston Seafood Show

The Commission recapped the Boston Seafood Show, stating there was a lot of action at booth and Intershell's booth at Mass Ave. Michael Orlando confirmed he now has 2nd rounds of orders and two new customers because of the show, 5 new customers total and 10 orders this week. The Commission noted it was great to talk to people and then be able to walk them to the booth. Al Cottone noted he received another request for a supplier today.

The Commission discussed new requests for Gloucester Fresh. There was a general discussion about the Gloucester Fresh website and the need to get together with Sal and update the website so that it lists the restaurants. The Commission noted a restaurant in Beverly Farms would like to join and a discussion about Jalapeno's as part of Gloucester Fresh. There was a question about when fishermen will see the benefit, and it was discussed that once people start asking for only locally caught seafood, it will go back to the fishermen. General discussion about price for fish and how people are price aware.

Discussion about Boston Oyster House being potentially interested. Angela noted she had a good conversation with the Governor, and he will be coming to Gloucester for the next Seaport Economic Meeting.

Discussion about the Chinese buyers, people from DMF, MLA, were all very friendly.

The Spanish Consulate came for a visit on Tuesday afternoon, they are having similar issues in Spain with not enough quota and it has been hard to find help.

Update on Vineyard Wind Project

Ms. Sanfilippo noted that last Friday the MFP sponsored a meeting to discuss the Vineyard Wind Project. Vineyard Wind is the first wind company that holds all the permits, now they only need a permit from Massachusetts to run lines. Discussion about bringing the meeting attendees to Causeway Restaurant, very happy with the food.

Ms. Sanfilippo shared that they read the EIS and wrote a comment, just before the close of the public comment period. In the comment they requested a mitigation for commercial fishing in the MEPA certificate. They held an organized meeting to discuss the mitigation and discussed how it started and what they would want for mitigation. The request for mitigation will be for funds and monitoring. There is going to be a meeting on March 29th with the State working group to address the issue. Ms. Sanfilippo hopes to have a draft for the mitigation request by that meeting. The Commissions discussed the response that NMFS wrote, it was very critical of Vineyard Wind and the information that Vineyard Wind claimed as the impact. Working groups on Martha Vineyards would also like to be a part of the mitigation discussion. There are over 30 organization working with us.

Discussion about having talks with the Scottish attendees to the Boston Seafood about Wind Farms in UK. In the UK they have areas that have turned into complete deserts, no fish have come through since the wind farms have been installed. The areas turn into huge dead zones, and all the currents that go through creates vibration and also disturbs marine mammals. Discussion about having a note in the mitigation that if something catastrophic happens Vineyard Wind have to be held responsible.

Executive Directors Misc. (Whiting Letter)

The Commission reviewed the letter which is a request to have the Council put the letter on their priority list for 2020. There was a note to add the request of June 1st at the end of the letter.

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Orlando to accept the letter to send to Council through City Hall, the motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Orland and unanimously approved.

Old Business

The Commission noted that Dead in the Water, will be showing on May 13th in Minneapolis. The invitations will be sent out soon and there will be a cocktail event, and renowned chef, Andrew Zimmerman. Angela, Al and J.J. will be on the panel at the showing. John Bell will be going with his wife.

General discussion about Pacific Law Foundation doing pro bono work for fisheries issues.

The Commission noted upcoming CPR Training on the March 29th and currently looking for a space for 20 people.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Joseph Orlando made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Swicker, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.