



Gloucester Fisheries Commission

Minutes of April 18, 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 7:07 pm

Attendees: Al Cottone, Mark Ring, Dave Leveille, Scott Swicker, Paul Vitale, Scott Memhard

Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2019

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made by Mr. Swicker to approve the March 21, 2019 minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Vitale, the minutes were approved by the majority of Commission members. Mr. Leveille abstained from the vote.

Executive Directors Misc

Whiting Letter

Mr. Cottone shared the follow up on the whiting letter. Sam Novello has emailed the State to request more research and data on the whiting numbers. NOAA replied that they have set aside funds for the research. Mr. Cottone will be meeting with Ryan Silva at NOAA to discuss further.

Offshore Wind

Mr. Cottone has been to a few offshore wind meetings and stated the data they used for mitigation package is not correct. He the data is manipulated to cut down potential earnings from landings by 90%. NOAA also has had concerns with their data. The Commission noted there is a big gap between RI getting only \$8 million for mitigation. The Commission discussed the RI mitigation package states that the economist studies can never be mentioned again. Mr. Cottone shared that at the conference the representative for Vineyard Wind, got up and said we paid for the data, we didn't like it and we threw it away. The Commission discussed using New York as leverage, but they don't know where the State will land on it. The Commission discussed that Vineyard Wind is only 1/10th of the total lease and there may be more wind farms to come.

Lobster Industry upcoming Whale Meetings

The Commission noted the upcoming whale meetings in Rhode Island and discussed the federal government is considering cutting the whole lobster fishery by 10%. The Commission discussed implications for the Maine fishery as Maine only received a 3 mile exemption. The Commission discussed the new model for the takes and deaths and scars on tails and noted that Canada had 17 deaths two years ago and we only had two whales entangled, no deaths, which leaves the model skewed.

There was a discussion about the State not going to offer a trap reduction, as they are already below the reduction numbers. The Commission was concerned with setting a precedent and discussed it is in the best interest to oppose the cuts.

Gloucester Fresh New Members and Restaurant Updates

Discussion about the Gloucester Fresh program and adding restaurants to the website and to the brochure that is handed out at trade shows. Discussion about adding Geoffrey Sones to Gloucester Fresh, he is a lobster dealer who ships all over the country.

A motion was made by Mr. Vitale to add Geoffrey Sones to Gloucester Fresh, contingent on talking with him; Mr. Swicker seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by Commission Members.

The Commission discussed the story on the company from Virginia doing business with Intershell and how successful the Seafood Show was.

Old Business

Dead in the Water

The Commission noted that the Minneapolis show is sold out for Monday May 13, 2019. Congressman Kennedy will video tape a message to show before the movie. Mr. Cottone will do an interview with CBS radio on the Saturday before the Monday showing. They have sold 150 tickets. Reception with the movie, panel afterwards and then a dinner with renowned chefs. The Commission discussed the movie Lobster Wars will be shown at the Cape Ann Museum the first week of June.

New Business, Safety Training, PFDs for Fishermen

Safety training will be next Wednesday and Thursday. They have a lot of people signed up for the CPR, but not for the drill instructor.

IFAW sent a letter to the Mayor on the Right Whale Bill Seth Moulton is signing. They are looking for Mayors to sign along the coast. Mayor Theken will not be signing it right now.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Vitale made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Mr. Ring and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.