

Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2017, 7pm
Gloucester City Hall, First Floor Conference Room

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

Commission Members

Angela Sanfilippo
Paul Vitale
Scott Swicker
Dave Leveille

Call to Order

- Mark Ring motioned, Al Cottone seconded, and a quorum was presented at 7:02.

Approval of Minutes

- Mark Ring motioned and Scott Memhard seconded to approve the July and September 2017 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

NMFS Science and Assessments | Sam Parisi

- Sam Parisi thanks the mayor and the commission for endorsing his grant application. He has heard lately from Alaska, wondering whether Ed Markey had been contacted. He wants it to be clear that he is concerned about the industry -- he feels the fisheries are “always on the defense”, and feels a full time position is warranted to protect the fisheries industries. He requested the commission set a goal to challenge the NOAA science studies and create unity.
- They presented a set of recommendations. Carmen described the Predator-prey model to explain the disappearance of sardines. He called into question the verifiability of the NOAA science surveys based on linear models rather than non-linear scientific models.
- Al Cottone and Mark Ring confirmed that natural mortality is not weighed heavily in NOAA stock assessments. They feel that the last thirty years of science studies were created without the proper science practices...but the problem is that NOAA only accepts information if it is part of a “retrospective patterns”, which takes at least thirty years to establish. Their own preference for the predator-prey model was asserted.
- Al Cottone reminded the room that the NGOs have lobbyists in their ears.
- Dave Leveille wanted it to be known that campaigns to unite and project the fishermen’s voices against NOAA’s science have been carried out before, over and over.
- Al Cottone says no one will see 40 years of science thrown out but that increasingly there is flexibility in approach.
- 40 minutes of discussion ensued.
- Mark Ring encouraged all to state their concerns to Elizabeth Warren during her visit on Saturday.

Dave Leveille motioned, Al Cottone seconded, and all were in favor of a motion to write a letter in support of Bill H.R. 200. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report -- (Recent SSC Meeting, NEFMC Community Outreach Meeting, NEFMC Rhode Island Meetings)

- Al Cottone presented to an independent, outside research group. He emphasized the need for scientific research. The SCC meeting upped all the quarters and were all rubber stamped. Georges Bank Cod went up 154%. Gulf of Maine Cod 39. Haddock 189%. The big hit was the Southern Yellowtail -77%. They felt that the science boats couldn't find them.
- Last week's Council meeting raised the Science Statistical Committee recommendations, which were all passed.

Report on Recent SBA Office of Advocacy Meeting

- Mark Ring and Angela Sanfilippo were present for an SBA meeting in Gloucester. Angela was invited to visit Washington DC next month and will update the committee.

Re: Dead In The Water Documentary

- New Bedford Whaling Museum will be screening the documentary
- Saturday, February 10th there will be two screenings at the Cape Ann Museum, one at 11:00 and one at 2:00 with panel discussions to follow
- The Newburyport Custom House is arranging an upcoming screening
- The Salem Film Festival has invited Dead In The Water to be part of their lineup
- Plymouth Plantation is being considered.
- Screenings in England, Scotland, and Ireland are underway.
- The idea is to find a distributor after a round of film festivals.
- Ken Hecht's building will host a Dead in the Water promotional banner.

New Business, Updating of Gloucester Cenotaph, Progress Report On Upcoming Boston Seafood Show, Gloucester Harbor Skimmer Project

- NOAA is offsetting imports by fish farming through an infusion of \$450,000, according to Scott Memhard.
- The mayor has tasked us to move in the right direction to get the cenotaph on the Gloucester Fisherman statue updated. The Fisheries committee would like to review the procedure for adding new names, as the last addition was in 2011 - Peter Privebar.
- Scott Memhard suggests that we approach the question by asking, "What are the long term plans for how this memorial is going to carry on in the future? Especially considering the 400th anniversary is upcoming. What will happen when current members are no longer active?"

Public Comment

- Susanne Altenburger *66 Atlantic Street, Gloucester* spoke about the problem of not having a modern fishing fleet.

Motion To Adjourn

Dave Leveille motioned to adjourn, Scott Memhard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 8:28pm.

