

Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2017, 7pm
Gloucester City Hall, First Floor Conference Room

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

Commission Members

Joseph Orlando
Paul Vitale
Scott Swicker
Dave Leveille
Angela Sanfilippo

Angela Sanfilippo and Joe Orlando were absent. There are currently two empty seats on the commission.

Call to Order

Mark Ring motioned, and a quorum was presented at 7:10.

Approval of Minutes from June Meeting

Scott Memhard motioned and Scott Swicker seconded to approve the June 2017 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss upcoming USDA visit in August

Scott J. Soares, USDA Rural Development's State Director for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, will visit Wednesday, August 9th. Mr. Sores worked with Island Creek Oysters in Wellfleet on Cape Cod and envisions a similar project in Gloucester. He is interested in interviewing people on that date; he will be on the harbor looking for interviewees.

Scott Memhard wondered whether there was a formal proposal. Mark and Al expected to meet with Mr. Soares in advance of August 9th to get clarifying details.

Discuss the Gloucester Fresh rollout with local restaurants and fish dealers

Mark Ring felt Gloucester Fresh's rollout was an early success. Feedback on the stickers has been positive.

- Restaurants and fish dealers have already been receptive and excited; Ocean Crest, Tonno, Maria's Pizza, Finn's, and Sea Level in Salem and Newburyport are all either on board or have begun to onboard.
- Gloucesterfresh.com is up and running.
- Gloucester Fresh is willing to send fishermen to restaurants who have staff who might be interested in an informational presentations on local fish.

Scott Memhard recommended that a copy of all information and promotional materials be distributed to the commission member for next meeting.

- Mark Ring will furnish a Gloucester Fresh promotional packet for presentation to the 7/25 City Councillor meeting.

Update on the Experimental Whiting opening

Discussion about whiting ensued.

Report on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Resiliency Workshop

Discussion followed about the three day resiliency workshop, which Mark Ring and Al Cottone attended along with Mayor Sefatia, the mayor of Newburyport, and a representative from New Bedford. Joan Bullet and Mark Ring discussed the need for more scientific research to be presented. It was noted that few fishermen attended the event, and questioned whether outreach efforts came too late.

Discuss the Boston Seafood Festival in August

Commission members discussed whether or not to return to the Boston Seafood Festival this year. One factor was budget, as a booth is roughly \$900, and a large donation of fish was expected. Scott Memhard felt it was too late to plan to attend. Also, the MLA Massachusetts Lobsterman's Association dropped out.

Update on Angela SanFilippo's 40th Anniversary event and documentary

It's the anniversary of Angela's participation in the industry, in large part through the Fishermen's Wives Association. A celebration will be held Thursday, August 24th at the Mile Marker.

The documentary "Dead in the Water" is finished. The filmmaker, who has worked with Angela and John Bell, is David Wittkower of Rockport. A screening at either Gloucester Cinema or Shalin Lui is forthcoming.

- Scott Memhard asked whether there was a distribution plan for the film. Mark noted that Wittkower has entered the documentary into 15 film festivals.
- Scott Memhard suggested that a screening at City Hall might be a good option.

New business

- Dave Levielle brought up an e-mail of complaints about the size of scrod haddock coming in on local visits lately. There is fear that the stock of haddock is being depleted. Discussion about the health of adult haddocks ensued. It was mentioned that the average age of a 4 year old haddock is 16 inches and the industry takes 9% of the haddock population annually.
- On August 1st and 2nd Jack Wiggin's Urban Harbors Institute will run a program called Building the Massachusetts Seafood Program about how to run a state funded statewide food system from an institutional standpoint. The program is hosted at Gloucester House with funding from UMass Boston.
- John Bullard, Regional Administrator for NOAA's Greater Atlantic Region, has retired. The commissioners wish him well, and credit him with saving the cod.

- Tom Balf of Maritime Gloucester has stepped down after 5 ½ years as director. He is wished well, and will be missed. Lee Cunningham will serve as interim director in his place.
- Congratulations to All, Tommy Lupo and Ryan Brown: all have new boats. This felt like industry progress to Mark Ring. The commission says RIP The Artemis.

Old business

No old business.

Public Comment

Susanne Altenburger *66 Atlantic Street, Gloucester* spoke about her visit to the Advanced Naval Technology Exercise 2017 hosted at the Marine Corps Base Camp in Pendleton, California from 19-28 April 2017. She spoke about it to the school committee. Her technology for a Landing Craft Utility was described in a brochure which she passed around to the commission members. She can be reached at philbolger@comcast.net .

Patti Page, 3 Tidal Cove Way Gloucester discussed the Feasibility Study for the Tourism Board which is planning a Transient Boat Center. They will be reaching out to stakeholders and searching for four sites with the assistance of the Waterways Board.

Motion to Adjourn

Scott Swicker motioned to adjourn, Paul Vitale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kirsten Vega, Recording Secretary, 20 July 2017.