

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

2019 SEP -9 AM 8:41

Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Minutes of July 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 7:04 pm

Attendees: Mark Ring, Dave Leveille, Sam Novello, Scott Swicker, Mike Orlando, Scott Memhard. Al Cottone joined the meeting at 7:36pm

Approval of Minutes (May Meeting)

Mr. Leveille made a motion to approve the minutes from May 16, 2019, Mr. Swicker seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Executive Directors Report, Whiting Opening, Catch Share Meetings.

Whiting Opening- Mr. Novello stated that the whiting opening was a success and recommended the Commission write a letter to the regional coordinator to thank him for the changes. The Commission discussed there was plenty of whiting and everyday had an observer. They discussed that only three boats went and cleared \$0.25/lb, the other boats were fishing for haddock and pogies. The Commission discussed the cooler ocean temperature this year.

Catch share meetings- Discussed the upcoming meeting and the surveys that were sent out. The meeting will be held in Salem as it is part of the mandatory meeting written into the program every 7 years, with a public forum. Meeting will be held in Salem.

On Thursday July 25th at the Gloucester Library, there will be a review of the groundfish sector system.

There will be another meeting at the end of August with NMFS about new right whale plan.

Report on Recent Red Tide Closures.

Mr. Cottone shared an update about red tide and the effects from rain. He noted that some areas haven't been able to dig at all. The Commission discussed that surf clams hold the toxin longer and won't open until November or Spring. The count has to be below 80, for three consecutive tests in 14 days. The Commission discussed that Peter Seminara, Shellfish Warden is doing a really good job.

Update on Upcoming Annisquam Dredging Project. Notice of MEPA Consultation for Submarine Cable.

MEPA-Submarine Cable

The Commission discussed there is a fiberoptic cable for communications that will be coming from Europe. It is only 1.7" and 2 ft trench, but it will be going through all soft bottoms. Normally it would come into Jeffrey's Ledge and go into state waters. MLA wrote a letter with their concerns and requested they do it in Jan/Feb. The Commission discussed signing the letter. It will affect Marblehead, Beverly, Salem, Lynn, and Rockport.

Annisquam Dredging Project-

Discussion about the dredging project will finish the next fall, so that they don't dump in Oct/Nov. It is still on schedule, but they can't dump until Dec/Jan.

Old Business New Gloucester Fresh Membership, Vineyard Wind, PFDs for Fishermen.

Gloucester Fresh- Cape Ann Lobster requested to join Gloucester Fresh. The Commission discussed that Cape Ann Lobster only sells local, and is a woman owned business.

Mr. Orlando made a motion to accept Cape Ann Lobster into the Gloucester Fresh Program, Mr. Memhard seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

The Commission discussed that Vineyard Wind did not get permit from state, the State wants to go back and look at the environmental impact and mitigation package for fisheries. On June 4th there was a daylong meeting in Gloucester, where they found they can't do surveys in those areas. The Coast Guard stated they don't know what the preparation is for shipping channels. The Commission discussed that President Trump issued a one federal decision rule, and they have to decide within 2 years. NH has petitioned BOEM to start looking at off shore wind in Gulf of Maine. The Commission stated that a Task force will be established at end of year. The Commission discussed for the plans for tethered ones in Gulf of Maine. Valerie Nelson joined into the discussion.

New Business

Whole foods closure- The Commission shared that they have to stay there until August 15th. They discussed that Whole Foods is going to go for more frozen fish, they had too

much loss of fresh fish. Mr. Orlando noted that Intershell has already started hiring people from Whole Foods. Discussion that it was mostly Canadian fish Whole Foods were dealing with.

Discussion about small boats doing an experimental fishery under Nature Conservancy program, 100% monitoring. Not all the boats in that program sell to Whole Foods. The program is still going and has nothing to with Whole Foods.

Oral Communications

Valerie Nelson-discussed the upcoming sector meeting.

Discussion about using 6" net for haddock and the gill nets that have gone away.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Memhard, Mr. Ring seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.