

2019 SEP 24 AM 8:13



Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Minutes of August 15, 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

Members Present: Mark Ring, Sam Novello, Mike Orlando, Dave Leveille, Scott Swicker, Angela Sanfilippo, Paul Vitale

Mr. Ring called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Tom Balf/Katie Kahl of UMASS Gloucester Station discuss SK grant proposal regarding canning of seafood

Tom Balf and Katie Kahl spoke to the Commission for advice regarding an SK grant proposal. The grant is in collaboration with UMass food science department. The proposal is for canned artisanal seafood. They noted that restaurants selling tinned seafood at \$20 per can, and Portuguese and Spanish products are doing well and selling at \$9-\$14 per ounce. They will use the grant to look at consumer audience if they would be interested in a high value product. Tom Balf noted that UMass has a prototype facility to do testing. Last year they submitted a grant they were not awarded but did receive good feedback and reviews. They have submitted the pre-proposal and would like to get input from the Fisheries Commission.

Katie Kahl asked the Commission what species they would recommend for canned seafood? The Commission recommended herring, mackerel and whiting. They noted that the food science team is testing oil or acid (tomato base) bases and will do taste testing.

Tom Balf would like to choose a fish that is not up against the quota, easiest to process, and the seasonality. There was a discussion about using small mackerel during 3-4 months of the year and having enough supply with whiting. Sam Novello noted that the whiting is also a fish that would go with tomato sauce.

Discussion about using squid as a choice and squid fishing. It was noted that there is a big market in mid-west and there is one cannery left in Maine. Tom Balf and Katie Kahl shared that there is a test canning facility at UMass.

Ms. Sanfilippo suggested monkfish and redfish in a tomato base, similar to soup recipes that are popular. The Commission discussed regulations and having a few options to be flexible with changing regulations. They noted pollock is a great fish that is underutilized. The Commission suggested they speak with Louise O'Neil at Cape Seafood and to survey the wharfs who have the fish. Discussion about bones in the fish.

The Commission discussed recipes using local fish and the test kitchen at the Fish Pier. The Commission noted Southern stores having a lot of tinned seafood. The Commission also suggested small haddock that can filet fast, is less boney and smokes well.

Mr. Balf noted they will find out if the pre-proposal has been accepted in the next month.

Update of Cape Wind permitting

NOAA has held the Cape Wind permit pending the Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. Sanfilippo noted that Tom Sproul at the University of RI completed and submitted a report about the Dr. King report. Discussion about the Dr. King report and sending Tom Sproul's report to the State. A new proposal has increased the mitigation amount and has included shoreside communities and fishing communities. Ms. Sanfilippo noted she has been speaking with Doug Crystal at NMFS. The Department of Interior said the earliest decision for the permit will be March next year. Discussion about the decision delayed until March and losing tax credit and will have to renegotiate the price per kilowatt.

The Commission discussed having more time for the economists to review and explain the proposal.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Swicker made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15th, Mr. Vitale seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Upcoming right whale scoping meeting in Gloucester

The Commission noted the upcoming right whale meeting is on Tuesday 8/20 at 6pm at the GARFO office.

The Commission discussed only having interactions with 2 right whales in 10 years and 30 deaths in Canada in 2 years. The Commission discussed Max Strahan suing the Division of Marine Fisheries and two fishermen for right whale deaths. Ms. Sanfilippo suggested having umbrella insurance to cover any court fees.

Gloucester Fresh participation at Maritime Gloucester for Schooner Festival

Discussion about having a Gloucester Fresh booth at Maritime Gloucester Heritage Day. The Commission is not able to attend that weekend.

The Commission noted that Mr. Vitale took Heather Atwood out to film a Gloucester Fresh commercial.

New Business not anticipated

Seafood day will be on the 10th of October on the State House. Ms. Sanfilippo will be inviting people to a table.

Discussion about the sale of the lifejackets in Gloucester, the two women have done a good job. It was noted that monkfish soup was given out at the sale.

Motion to adjourn

Mr. Leveille made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Vitale seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.