



**Gloucester Fisheries Commission  
Minutes of November 21, 2019**  
Gloucester City Hall 9 Dale Ave.  
Third Floor Conference Room, 7 p.m.

2020 JAN 16 PM 5:30  
CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

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

**Members Present: Al Cottone, Mark Ring, Joe Orlando, Angela Sanfilippo, Mike Orlando, Sam Novello, Dave Leveille**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Ring called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

**Approval of Minutes** (Sept. Minutes)

**Mr. Joe Orlando made a motion to approve the minutes from September 19, 2019, Mr. Mike Orlando seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**

**Update from NSC on upcoming amendments and 2020 Regs**

Jackie Odell, Northeast Seafood Coalition, shared that the scientific committee of the council reviewed stock assessment results and will be recommending changes over the next 3 years-2020, 2021, 2022. She shared that they are conducting a new process reviewing stocks every couple years, some will be a research track and peer review, and some will just receive updated catch assessment. They are looking at a 30% reduction on George’s Bank cod, the Gulf of Maine cod they have decided to go with more restrictive models will result in a reduction of about 22%, but it will depend on recreational allocation. Gulf of Maine haddock is going up significantly, and flounder is increasing. The Groundfish committee meeting is next week.

Discussion about lowering the cod will raise lease prices and easier to shut fishery down. The Commission discussed problems with the models and the size and age of fish being measured. Discussions about using different approaches for assessment. Ms. Odell noted they are working with Congressman Moulton’s office on a cod task force. They have submitted recommendations to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and it was well received by John Hare.

Sam Parisi noted under the law NOAA doesn’t have to compare their science with anyone else’s.

Ms. Odell noted the New England Fishery Management Council is working on amendment 23, the groundfish monitoring amendment. They are waiting for the cumulative impact analysis, then the Council will vote on it, and then it will go to public hearings. There is 50, 75 and 100 percent monitoring on table along with dockside monitoring. The industry has received funding since

2012 to pay for monitoring, but when the money draws up, the ownership will come back to the industry. Electronic monitoring is happening in other industries.

Discussion about training companies, training observers that they can't keep employed. It costs 700-900 to send people to Gloucester from Rhode Island. It was discussed that there are two providers and still have trouble meeting 30% coverage. NMFS doesn't have a policy on reviewing the electronic monitoring video. Some of the provisions in amendment 23, will relate specifically to the impact out of Gloucester. It was noted that none of the catch limits will change until May 1, 2020 and the public meeting will be in the spring.

**Presentation by Sam Parisi regarding Federal Fish bill**

Sam Parisi, retired fisherman, shared a two page document on a long term solution for what he called a long term problem. He noted that 15 years ago they had 200 boats and now they have 60. He suggested they join together and come up with a solution that will make both sides happy. He requested the Fisheries Commission draft a letter to Congressman Moulton and Senators Markey and Warren to request federal assistance for the percentage of stock that is being cut.

Discussion about making disaster aid more restrictive. Discussion about having a town hall meeting.

Discussion about what happened with the Magnusson Act reauthorization bills. It was noted that Groundfish disaster aid was really hard to receive. Mr. John Bell noted the Magnusson Act was put together by a tourism group. Discussed that we really have to continue to discuss how to count fish in the future. Discussion about getting a face to face meeting with Congress to express the concerns of the fishing industry and include Senator Shaheen from New Hampshire. Discussion about having cameras on boats vs. observers.

The Commission discussed having a letter prepared for the next meeting focusing on amendment 23.

**Update on Gloucester Fresh and 2020 Boston Seafood Show**

The first meeting is coming up before Thanksgiving. Mr. Novello noted that Gloucester Fresh should call it wild fish to sell it against farmed fish. Discussion about the pellets that they feed the farmed raised fish.

**Old Business- Annisquam Dredging, PFDs for fishermen**

It was noted that the Annisquam dredging project is underway.

Ms. Sanfilippo share that they have sold 1,070 life jackets for fisherman at half price. They are donating the whole project to the Fisherman's Wives Association. Ms. Sanfilippo share a brochure noted that the Shawn Fund for Mariners Children will be at her office if anyone is looking for help.

Ms. Sanfilippo also noted it is open enrollment for health insurance. People over 65 have until December 7<sup>th</sup> to renew their Medicare health insurance.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Mr. Novello made a motion to adjourn at 8:39pm, Mr. Joe Orlando seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**