



CITY OF GLOUCESTER
FISHERIES COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013; 7:00 PM
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL
9 DALE AVENUE

Members:

Mark Ring, Chair	Joseph Orlando [Absent]
Al Cottone, Vice Chair [Absent]	BG Brown
Sefatia Romeo-Theken, City Council	Angela Sanfilippo
Greg Verga, City Council	Scott Swicker
Paul Vitale [Absent]	

Also in attendance: Sarah Garcia; Patti Page; Valerie Nelson; Suzanne Altenburger; Jonathan Peros, GMRI.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by Chair Ring, without quorum. Quorum was reached at 7:16 with the arrival of Councilor Romeo-Theken. Councilor Verga arrived at 7:24 PM.

2. Approval of minutes for July 18, 2013. Corrections: In the header the date should be: July 18, 2013; 6:00 PM and the location should be: Sawyer Free Library, Friend Room; 2 Dale Avenue.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Romeo-Theken, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from July 18, 2013 as amended.

3. Saltonstall-Kennedy grant opportunities

Ms. Garcia provided a summary of the Saltonstall-Kennedy grant opportunities that were recently announced. She briefly reviewed the six program priority areas and some example projects associated with these priorities. **Ms. Garcia** also provided a list of projects that have been discussed over the past six months by various parties. She stated that if anyone is interested in a particular project she could help establish a project lead and assist in developing partnerships in order to apply for the grants. She welcomed Commission members to suggest new ideas and offered to help develop partnerships. She asked for feedback on any ideas or projects that should be added to the list. **Ms. Garcia** briefly discussed the scoring criteria and evaluation of the grants. **Mr. Swicker** asked about the total amount being allocated to the grants. **Valerie Nelson** stated that it is about \$5-10 million nationwide, so New England can assume they will receive

about \$3-5 million. **Ms. Garcia** stated that each individual grant will be from \$30,000- \$300,000 and they can be multi-year. The Commission proceeded to discuss the suitability of the various projects Ms. Garcia listed for Saltonstall-Kennedy grant funding.

1. Fish traps for selective fishery

Ms. Garcia stated that in her discussions with Jan Schlitmann there is interest in pursuing a live fish market. She has contacted the New England Seafood Coalition to see if there is any potential for a live fish market or live-catch fishing traps. **Mr. Ring** stated that these have a lot of potential to reduce the discard rate as whatever is caught would be legal and sellable. There was further discussion regarding live traps. **Ms. Garcia** suggested that the people writing the grants work directly with those who are interested in these projects. **Mr. Ring** stated that fishermen would be willing to work with the writers to help design the project. **Ms. Garcia** stated that the money is supposed to be available in January 2014. She will be notifying the Commission as she hears of projects or people that are moving forward with applications. There was discussion about how to inform fishermen of the grants. It was decided that an email will be sent to the two sectors.

2. Pilot bi-valve aquaculture

Ms. Garcia stated that the City has been discussing having control over leasing waters for bi-valve farming and there is an ongoing conversation about a two-year pilot program to train fishermen how to grow clams. She believes that this project will only go forward if people see it as useful long term and if it is not at the expense of other fisheries. **Ms. Sanfilippo** said this is a project to be done in State waters. **Ms. Garcia** responded that the locations being looked at would be Gloucester waters. **Valerie Nelson** stated that she has been conversing with Ken Riaf about bi-valve aquaculture in Gloucester waters and the need to be innovative in order to be competitive. She continued by stating that the notion of Gloucester keeping specific areas as a local resource is part of what would make a grant proposal more competitive. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated she received an email from the Cape Cod Fisherman Alliance who used funding to purchase clams or oysters as part of an experiment to help support fishermen, which she will forward to Ms. Garcia. **Ms. Garcia** stated that Maritime Gloucester has offered to do training sessions for people to receive DMF certification, if people are interested. **Mr. Brown** asked if it has to be bi-valve aquaculture or if anyone has discussed farming eels. **Ms. Garcia** will check with her various contacts and respond later to Mr. Brown's question.

3. Vessels for research

Ms. Garcia stated that she does not know the best approach for determining Gloucester's eligibility or interest in grant funding for research vessels, but would like to discuss with the experts to make this determination. **Mr. Brown** stated that he was reading the requirements for the application for the long-line vessel research request and his boat did not meet even one. He contacted the agency and asked if the requirements could be lessened. There was discussion about how those requirements were oriented for research specific vessels and not for fishing vessels. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated that many of the fishermen will be unable to meet

even the insurance requirements because they have not been able to afford payments. **Ms. Nelson** stated that there is legislation that states NOAA should be including more fishing vessels in their research. **Ms. Garcia** suggested asking for a grant that would assess what is needed for boats to collaborate with research organizations. **Ms. Sanfilippo** asked if a boat could be purchased, retrofitted, and then used for research with a rotating crew. There was further discussion about the specific requirements for vessels doing research.

Mr. Ring stated that fishermen should submit their names even they do not feel they fit the criteria because there is no way to predict the direction this opportunity will go. **Ms. Garcia** asked if there might be interest from GMRI to help fishing vessels become eligible for research. There was discussion regarding how active long-line fishermen might meet these requirements or help to change the requirements. **Mr. Brown** asked if having an insurance policy that could be transferred from boat to boat is an option. **Ms. Sanfilippo** replied that the Jones Act requires each individual vessel to have insurance and nothing supersedes the Jones Act. **Councilor Romeo-Theken** suggested fishermen request funds for insurance in the grant application. She added that many of these boats need a grant just to get the boats compliant with grant requirements. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated that the Fishermen's Wives Association has been providing CPR and other trainings to help crews get compliant. She added that the way boats are fitted to go fishing they will not be able to do research; a few years ago there was a "lessons learned" debriefing session about how collaborative research could be performed better on fishing vessels. She stated that true collaborative research would mean fishermen learning from scientists and scientists learn from fishermen. **Mr. Ring** stated that he will contact the different sectors and ask them to keep track of who is interested in applying for these grants. **Mr. Brown** will be contacting Ms. Garcia regarding mortality rates.

4. Floating island

Ms. Garcia stated that some processors have shown interest in this opportunity, but is not yet sure how this ties into the fishing industry.

5. Gloucester Fresh

Ms. Garcia discussed the "Gloucester Fresh" brand that was suggested by Ms. Harris at the previous meeting. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated that a drop-off has been established with Boston Medical Center, which is part of a program started by Mayor Menino called "Healthcare Without Harm" that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint of hospitals. **Ms. Sanfilippo** discussed the first event at the Boston Medical Center. She has suggested the hospital also offer education about the fish: where it comes from, what type it is, etc. There was further discussion regarding how to regulate this system and how to educate people. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated that money needs to be available to help educate people. **Mr. Ring** stated that the "Gloucester Fresh" brand is a good idea but there needs to be money to advertise, someone needs to be leading the project, and there needs to be enough of a steady supply. He added that currently, there is not enough of a steady supply coming from Gloucester. There was discussion regarding fileting and freezing fish in Gloucester. **Councilor Romeo-Theken** stated that when the demand for Gloucester fish increases there needs to be the infrastructure

to meet the demand. She believes there should be more attempts to utilize all available resources and obtain as much funding as possible.

4. New Business

a. Notification of off-shore leasing areas for wind

Ms. Garcia presented a notification for off-shore leasing. **Ms. Sanfilippo** stated that people are not agreeing to this proposal yet. **Mr. Ring** stated that some areas, such as Canada, have already established ocean leases for wind and gas.

Mr. Ring stated that there is a meeting on Monday night from 6-9PM at NOAA regarding areas that will be closed to fishing during certain periods of time to prevent whale entanglements. There was discussion regarding current measures being taken by Gloucester fishermen to prevent mammal entanglements.

Ms. Sanfilippo stated that every day she spends three hours dealing with individuals who are in a terrible situation. She added that more, real data is needed to help her argue for assistance for fishermen. She would like the Fisheries Commission to implement a survey to help obtain this information. **Mr. Ring** stated that the fastest way to get this information would be to send it to the sectors. **Councilor Romeo-Theken** suggested Ms. Sanfilippo bring the questions before the Commission next month to get the questions approved. The Commission requested Ms. Sanfilippo generate a questionnaire to assist with obtaining aid for fishermen and to determine what the income losses have been. **Councilor Romeo-Theken** asked for the inclusion of a question specifically regarding income loss for this year. **Ms. Sanfilippo** will offer assistance completing the form if necessary. She and Councilor Romeo-Theken will be compiling the questions and emailing to the Commission for approval. **Ms. Garcia** offered to put the questionnaire on Fisheries Commission letterhead.

5. Old Business

Mr. Ring stated that all of the fishermen need to be in the loop regarding the aquaculture pilot programs. He suggested that soon after the next meeting all of the fishermen should be invited to an informational meeting.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Nelson stated that a brainstorming session should be held to look for funding sources and other options to help address the various needs of the fishing industry. **Mr. Brown** stated that Paul Cohen suggested all fishermen apply for the grants and list all of their expenses because they have nothing to lose. **Ms. Nelson** stated that the fishing industry needs to be preserved because it serves so many important functions. **Patti Page** stated that at the Harbor Planning Committee many people voiced their belief that the DPA needs to be removed.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and voted all in favor to adjourn at 9:00 PM.