

Gloucester Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2016

Commission Members

Mark Ring, Chair
Al Cottone, Vice Chair
Paul Vitale

Joseph Orlando
BG Brown
Angela Sanfilippo
Scott Swicker

There are currently two empty seats on the Commission.

Commission Chair Mark Ring called the Meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The Meeting was held in the First Floor Conference Room at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

Present: Mark Ring, Al Cottone, Joseph Orlando, Scott Swicker, Paul Vitale, Angela Sanfillippo, Al Cottone

Absent: BJ Brown

Meeting Minutes

The Commission Members reviewed and discussed the Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2015.

Angela Sanfilippo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Scott Swicker.

The Motion passed by the majority of Commission Members present.

Jackie O'Dell of NSC asking Commission for letter of support on pending issues

Jackie O'Dell, Executive Director of the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC), provided an update with the Fisheries Commission Members regarding a recent meeting in December 2015 during which the NSC approved certain motions regarding at sea monitoring which will be a rule that the NSC will present to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA).

One of the approved motions was regarding the the data collected by the National Marine Fisheries (*data which determines the species and amount of fish the fishermen may catch*).

The NSC proposed that data collected over a span of multiple years should be reviewed in order to allow a more accurate and realistic view for a fisheries stock assessment and it would be this data which would be used by the National Marine Fisheries. (In the past, data from one year was used to project the required coverage for the following year.)

Jackie O'Dell asked the Commission Members to support the NSC and the rule they would be proposing to NOAA. The Fisheries Commission Members unanimously agreed that they would rather wait until they could view the final document before supporting what was being proposed.

Joe Orlando suggested to Jackie O'Dell that the NSC begin discussion regarding the fact the Fishing Industry is failing.

The Fisheries Commission Members discussed Joe Orlando's comment. A motion was suggested.

Joe Orlando made a motion for the Fisheries Commission Chair, Mark Ring, to write a letter on behalf of the Fisheries Commission regarding the Fisheries Commission's concerns regarding the future of the Fishing Industry and to send it to the Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker.

Paul Vitale seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a majority of the Board Members present.

Report on the recent meetings regarding whiting and shrimp

Al Cottone shared an update with the Commission Members regarding a recent meeting of the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and he shared the fact that there will be a workshop in January.

Update on At Sea Monitoring and the situation regarding Insurance and Liability to boat owners

The Commission Members discussed the situation regarding insurance and the liability to boat owners when there are Sea Monitors on the boats.

Update on progress during recent meetings/discussions for the March 2016 Seafood Show

Angela Sanfilippo shared an update with the Commission Members regarding the preparations for the Seafood Show.

The Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America is a trade event for seafood buyers in every market category including retail, restaurant, catering, foodservice and processing. The event is held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston, from March 6th to March 8th.

New Business

Angela Sanfilippo shared information she learned at meeting she recently attended where a portion of the discussion was about the MSC Certification.

(The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) initiated a labelling system which suggests to consumers which species of fish they should purchase.)

Motion to Adjourn

Joseph Orlando made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Al Cottone seconded the motion.

The Motion passed by the majority of Commission Members present; 5:0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the Meeting to be adjourned at 8:05PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Fisheries Commission is scheduled to be on February 18, 2016, at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, First Floor Conference Room, Gloucester, MA. The location and date of the meeting is subject to change.