



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SHELLFISHERIES



MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2011

Leipsic Fire Hall, 318 Main Street-Leipsic, Dover, DE 19901
Div. of Fish & Wildlife phone: 302-739-9914

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Leonard "Limbo" Voss, Jr., Chairman
Patrick Gaffney (*absent*)
Virgilio Pacelli (*absent*)
Paul Satterfield
Steven Copp
Richard S. Hand, Jr.
Robert Thompson

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Craig Shirey
Rick Cole
Stew Michels
David Saveikis, Director
Rich Wong
Scott Newlin
Jeff Tinsman
Capt. John Rutherford
Kim Records

PUBLIC

20 Visitors

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes from 5/18/09 Meeting

Mr. Voss welcomed everyone and introduced new DFW Director, David Saveikis, who spoke briefly about his extensive career in biologist and managerial positions with DNREC and in the private sector. A motion was then made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on May 18, 2009.

Agenda Item 2. The Following Changes to Shellfish Statutes are being Proposed and will be Discussed:

The agenda and an additional hand-out explained the proposed changes.

▪ **Oysters**

License cap, license renewal and quota transfer amendments. **Mr. Voss** read the proposed language regarding the oyster harvesting license. Capping these licenses could benefit existing licensees through increased shares of the annual oyster harvest quota, if the quota rises. Adding a requirement for renewal of the oyster harvest license would promote uniformity with other commercial fishing licenses. Another proposal is to allow oyster quota transfer to another oyster harvest license holder. There was much debate regarding adding a provision for this license to be transferred to an immediate family member. **Mr. Voss** suggested adding a provision to allow transferal to immediate family. The topic of medical/disabled temporary transfers for shellfish license holders was brought up. Many comments were made by audience members both in support and against use of medical/disabled temporary transfers for watermen, who may become unable to shellfish, and wish to allow someone to use their license. Audience member, **Mr. Foley**, remarked that there is a provision for medical/disabled transfers for commercial finfish license holders and he believes, in the interest of uniformity, that shellfish license holders should have this option also. After much discussion, motions were passed to support capping this license, to require renewal of this license, and to allow oyster quota transfers among oyster harvest license holders.

▪ **Apprenticeships**

Proposed amendment would add all shellfish licenses to the apprenticeship program. Currently, the only shellfish licenses included in the apprenticeship program are the crab dredge, conch pot and conch dredge licenses. **Mr. Voss** summarized the proposed changes to the apprenticeship program, and explained that he believes it makes sense to have all shellfish licenses included in this program, which will allow a

mechanism for shellfish license transfers. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to support amending the apprenticeship law to allow all shellfish licenses to be transferred through successful completion of a commercial fishing apprenticeship.

▪ **Crabs**

A proposed amendment would delete language preventing the transfer of a commercial crab pot license that had previously been transferred to a designee on or before July 12, 1995. **Mr. Voss** read the proposed change to the law regarding the transfer of commercial crabbing licenses. He added that he was not aware of this language until it was brought to his attention by the DFW. **Mr. Shirey** researched the commercial fisheries database and concluded that 45 crab pot license holders could potentially be affected by the current statute. After much discussion, a motion passed to approve the proposed amendment.

Mr. Voss recognized Mr. Frank Eicherly, IV who requested to speak regarding an issue with his wife's oyster license. **Mr. Shirey** suggested that Mr. Eicherly visit the DFW in order to better serve him. **Mr. Eicherly** agreed.

Agenda Item 3. Topics & Tentative Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Voss stated that in recent years the lack of agenda items has lead to the decision to not schedule a meeting. He said that unless there is good reason to hold a meeting, it makes no sense to do so. He then asked for possible agenda items for a future meeting:

1. Possibility of commercial clamming on Sundays
2. Discussion regarding commercial clamming equipment
3. Discussion – can a crab pot license designee be a non-resident?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Records
Recording Secretary