

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission Meeting
Tawes State Office Building C1
July 14, 2008

Attendance	Affiliation
Diane Baynard	SFAC Commissioner
Bill Carrier	SFAC Commissioner
John Marple	SFAC Commissioner
David Dansberger	SFAC Commissioner
Bruno Vasta for Bill Windley	SFAC Commissioner
Tom O'Connell	DNR Fisheries Service Director
Gina Hunt	DNR Fisheries Service Deputy Director
Don Cosden	DNR Fisheries Service Inland Fisheries Director
Paul Hanyok	Natural Resources Police
Ken Hastings	Coastal Conservation Association
Michael Wilberg	UMCES CBL
Marty Gary	DNR Fisheries Service
Harley Speir	DNR Fisheries Service
Paul Pivais	DNR Fisheries Service
Dale Weinrich	DNR Fisheries Service
Lynn Fegley	DNR Fisheries Service
Rick Morin	DNR Fisheries Service
Karen Knotts	DNR Fisheries Service
Toini Brumwell	DNR Fisheries Service

The meeting was called to order by Martin Gary at 6:05 pm.

Announcements

- Tonight is the last meeting of the SFAC until September 2008.
- DNR Fisheries Services online calendar (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/>) lists Fisheries Service meetings.
- The upcoming meetings:
 - Task Force Stock Monitoring Meeting tonight, C4 conference room
 - June 15, 6:30 pm, the Alternative Management Work Group, C4 conference room.
 - June 16 the Habitat Work Group, C1 conference room
 - June 16 the Oyster Advisory Commission Meeting
 - June 17 the TFAC Striped Bass Fisheries Work Group, C1 conference room.
 - June 28, C1 conference room, Recreational Yellow Perch Stakeholders meeting
- A permit was introduced by Maryland Department of the Environment and the Army Corp of Engineers to expand LNG pier 150 feet. The proposal would expand the facility on the north and south ends. We would like feed back from the SFAC, TFAC, and Charter Boat Association on the number of hours fished and the number of boats while we continue to work with Dominion.

Natural Resources Police - Paul Hanyok

- 40 more officers will be on the force next year

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- 10 officers have recently been hired and are out in boats
- New academy class starts January 2009.
- NRP has 3 SeaArks and will obtain 3 more. The fleet continues to expand.
- Handout was given to Commissioners listing recent fishing violations throughout the bay.

Commission Appointments

- The terms for the TFAC commissioners and the SFAC commissioners have expired.
- Fisheries will be submitting applications to the Governor's Office. July 25 is the deadline for submission.

Inland Fisheries - Don Cosden, Director

- Proposed regulations were sent to SFAC commissioners. Any questions please contact Don.
- A press release was issued regarding whirling disease and distributed to Commissioners. No new cases of whirling disease have been found. The disease is not spreading and remains in the North Branch. Fisheries is not raising fish at Bear Creek facility at this time and the future of the facility is uncertain.

Yellow Perch Management

- Harley Speir
 - 2000 session of the general assembly directed Fisheries to develop a new Yellow Perch Management Plan.
 - Fisheries has been holding stakeholder meetings throughout the year in an effort to develop yellow perch management strategy.
 - A draft Fishery Management Plan will be available by the end of the year.
- Yellow Perch Angler Creel Survey - Mike Wilberg
 - Conducted surveys in Chester River, Bush River, Wicomico River and the Mattawomen Creek in fall of 2007.
 - 20% surveyed said commercial fishing was biggest problem
 - 10% said Chester River's yellow perch were too small
 - Others did not like regulations and
 - did not catch enough fish
 - weather was poor
 - Most of the people surveyed thought it to be a good fishery
 - The systems surveyed were similar in harvest. Sizes of fish ranged from 8.5 to 9 inches
 - Ages and ethnicity of participants were not collected because of federal legislation
- Cooperative Recreational Angler Yellow Perch Survey - Paul Piavis
 - 247 anglers registered
 - 220 anglers were not affiliated with an angler group
 - 60% of the legal fish were released

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- 36% of the fish were above 10 inches
- 48% reported below 9 inches
- Anglers perception of success was good

- Yellow Perch Stakeholders Meeting - Rick Morin
 - Meeting will be held at Tawes C1 conference room on July 28, 2008
 - 243 stakeholders have been invited to meeting
 - CCA, MSSA, angler survey participants

- Saltwater Angler Registry - Gina Hunt
 - On June 11, 2008 NOAA issued a press release proposing that all recreational anglers and spearfishers be registered in 2009.
 - Exceptions will be children under 16, Charter Boat anglers, and those possessing a Maryland fishing license.
 - Registry will require phone number from all anglers.
 - DNR's licensing system (COINS) will be replaced with COMPASS which will be able to accommodate NOAA's requirements for the registry.
 - 2009 NOAA registry is free. 2011 there will be a charge for registration.
 - NOAA will have online registration and a toll free number to register
 - Maryland Boat License guests will need to register or have a Maryland fishing license whereas in the past guests did not need a license.

- Artificial Reef Program - Marty Gary
 - DNR's old reef program ended in 1996.
 - 2006 a new reef program was created by various outside organizations
 - \$1.7 million has been raised
 - The program is active in Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coast.
 - 5 reefs have been created in less than 5 years
 - Point No Point
 - Cedar Point
 - Gooses
 - Tangier Sound
 - Hog Island
 - 3 barge loads of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge will go to the Gooses in the near future.
 - 2 River Reefs are being build
 - Severn - Chesapeake Bay Foundation will place concrete rubble from the Bay Bridge into the river. The rubble will be covered with seed oyster
 - Choptank - Todd Points. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Maryland Saltwater Sportsmen's Association will place reef balls into the river
 - Atlantic Ocean - 2 projects
 - Jack Spot Site received subway cars from New York City. They are stainless steel and have approximately a 40 year life.

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- Belle Jersey Land Site - second largest artificial reef in North America will be deployed this fall, the Radford, a Navy Destroyer. The Radford is over 700 feet long.
- Marty Gary informed the Commissioners that they will be receiving an invitation to the Fishing Challenge which will be held on September 13, 2008. The location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.