

## **Maine Commercial Fishing Safety Council**

### **Aka Commercial Fishing Safety Council (CFSC)**

Minutes of the Meeting (draft) June 24, 2021 4:30 pm-6:15 pm

Present: Ann Backus, Kris Boehmer, Janine Drouin, Curtis Haycock, Marc McCole, Mark Murry, and Jeff Nichols (Maine Marine Resources)

#### A. Bylaws Acceptance

There being a quorum present, it was moved and seconded that the Bylaws be accepted with the stipulation that Article III be reviewed and updated to reflect the appropriate laws/regulations of the State of Maine. Mark will enlist the help of Deidre \_\_\_ to ensure that the bylaws reflect current laws.

#### B. Nominations of Officers

The Nominating Committee, Kris Boehmer, Ann Backus, and Marc McCole, submitted the following names for the officer positions.

Chair, Janine Drouin

Vice Chair, Curtis Haycock

Secretary, Ann Backus

The nominated officers accepted their respective positions and the COUNCIL approved the nominations by unanimous vote.

It was noted that Mark Murry will continue to report to the Secretary of State.

Members were asked to send any updates of their contact information to Mark Murry.

#### C. Discussion

##### 1. Marine Mammals Protection Act

- Commissioner has been active trying to keep the fleet fishing.
- Jeff: Fishing equivalencies will allow different parts of the coast to adapt
- The Council will have a major role
- DMR staff, Maine Lobstermen's Association and others have put in a lot of time and thought on this topic including
  - Weak points in rope
  - Traps per trawl
  - Rope-less fishing concerns

##### 2. Other concerns

- Health of the fleet (aches and pains)
- Drop Block- scallop fishery

### 3. Offshore wind

- They are going to build the experimental wind farm; there is a vessel off the coast currently checking where the wind farm should be.
- There is no submission for a permit yet.
- Safety concerns include anchor lines, power cables from turbines to shore; fishermen trawling over a cable could have a problem or disrupt the cable.
- Curtis: Are there issues for scallop divers re the cable?
- When is the report due to be finalized by Governors Energy Office?
- Janine: Any electronic interference?

### 4. Other issues the Council is/could be concerned about

- Kris: Does the state maintain a database of incidents? Could we look use a database to identify fishing safety and health issues?
- Mark: There is no state database of safety/health issues
- Ann: Wrote an article for CFN, July 2021, on disablements and medevacs based on the USCG Division I database. This showed there were twice as many disablements in 2021 as in either 2018, or 2019 and between two and four times as many medevacs as in 2018,2019, respectively.
- Janine, Kris and Curtis: The poggie fishers have a stability problem; 35 ft and 40 ft boats are loaded with 17 barrels and a seining net or are towing a dory containing a net. It would be important to provide some education as they may be new to the fishery or naïve fishermen.
- Janine: Does aquaculture fall under this committee? A discussion followed regarding the various fisheries the Maine coast supports and that we as a COUNCIL can support.
- Mark: Yes, aquaculture is included and the seaweed industry; DMR does training for seaweed harvesters.
- Kris: There are issues for single-handed fishing that we need to educate around; also sternmen should know how to operate a boat. Is it time for a PSA on simple safety issues?
- Curtis: we should keep in mind that replacement of sternmen is frequent.

### 5. Other business

- Ann: Mentioned the Bylaw requirement that the COUNCIL needs to report to the Commissioner in October. "Article I: No later than October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Commercial Fishing Safety Council shall submit a commercial fishing safety plan to the commission that includes but is not limited to, the council's fishing safety initiatives, any revisions to those initiatives and any new initiative for the department to consider."
- It was suggested and members agreed to hold 7 pm meetings for ½ hour per once a month (July, August) and the required quarterly meeting in September. July 21 at 7 pm was the agreed on date and time. Ann will coordinate the meeting invitation. The officers will develop an agenda.
- Openings on the COUNCIL: There are openings for a diver and a commercial harvester (any fishery). Marc McCole is working on identifying a diver.
- Jeff: Offered to help with IT/media, PSAs as needed.
- Meeting guests: We can invite guests: John Higgins, a rope specialist, has expressed an interest in speaking with the COUNCIL.

6. Adjournment and next meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.
- NEXT meeting July 21 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus, MS