

**MINUTES
MEETING
CT SEAFOOD COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008
1:30 P.M.
DEP MARINE FISHERIES HQ- OLD LYME**

Present: Nancy Balcom, David Simpson, David Carey, Linda Piotrowicz, Bill Clayton, Paul Formica, Mike Theiler, Art Medeiros, D.J. King.

Co-chair Mike Theiler called meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2008 were reviewed.

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT – MIKE THEILER

Executive Director did send letter to offices of Senator Dodd and Senator Lieberman to request they sign onto legislation declaring a fishery resource disaster in the Northeast multispecies ground fish fishery.

The Lobster V-notch program has sufficient funding to continue through March 2009. Talk of 50% reimbursement if additional funding not obtained. Program has been successful in notching and as a student work experience. The LRAC committee is looking at V-notch solution. David Simpson reported that if you review the trip numbers from last year for V-notch, the existing money would cover the program costs and achieve year two goals if no funds were used to compensate lobstermen for V-notched lobsters. Normal trip the legals are sold and the sub legals are notched as well as egggers. If you do not change the program funding would lapse and the program would be short on achieving the conservation goal. Then a 1/32 gauge increase occurs in July and another 1/32 in January. Alternative is to fish normally and take the full 1/16th increase in January. LRAC said no to alternative.

The additional Seafood Advisory Council appointment by Senate Majority Leader Looney has not been completed yet.

BUREAU DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DAVID CAREY

A significant amount of seed oystering is occurring in the Bridgeport State Natural bed.

Spoke with Robert Pellegrino about setting up meeting with his staff on the use of Farm Link Program funds for the development of a seafood link component where seafood harvester would be able to post expected catches so that retailers and restaurants would

be able to plan menu and do some direct buying. The funds can be used for this project however UConn department which created the first farm link program for land is under going transition now. Once the Marketing department knows if UConn can do the work a contract can be developed. At that point several Seafood Council members will need to actively work with the developers to create a website that is functional for the members needs.

REPORT – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARBARA GORDON

The written report and summary of work for the Executive Director report was circulated.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Theiler reported that at a recent Lobsterman's meeting a conversation occurred on the predation occurring as a result of the striped bass population in Connecticut. Members want a commercial quota on taking two fish a day. Charter boats interested but recreational fishermen will oppose. David Simpson reported that the ASMC quota would apply and he would look to see what data was available on historical old commercial landings. The general consensus is that the high stripped bass population is impacting eels, shad, flounder and lobster populations.

D. J. King spoke of ecosystem based management at ASMC. Must look at predators and what to do about them. Blue back herring focus. Harvest the striped bass at 200 foot of dams you might get necessary recovery from that resource. Presently New York as a 28 to 38 .lbs of fish per day. Ct lobstermen would like the same.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Balcom reported that the SeaGrant economic assessment of the Lobster industry and the multiplier model is not complete yet. SeaGrant was working with UConn but has not finalized the completion date for the multiplier.

Carey remarked on the development of a program to dispose of derelict lobster gear. Will contact NRCS to see if any grant funding is available to gather and remove gear.

Nancy Balcom updated group on the Green movement at the local level and that the promotional idea for cold storage reusable bags would address the individual. The bags can be used to link wholesalers with CT-grown products. A promotional program should be developed.

David Simpson reported that he had attended meeting on the quota ranged species. Bass, Scup, Flounder. Those individuals who held endorsement letters were noticed of meeting. Made adjustments to catch limits. Discussion is ongoing on an attempt to eliminate and reduce by-catch waste by spreading out when a quota can be fished in order to take advantage of higher value.

Reported that the Connecticut seat on Atlantic States Fisheries Commission is vacant.
Three names must be submitted.

No further business; meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next CT Seafood Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2008 at
Bureau of Aquaculture in Milford.

Respectfully submitted,

David Carey