

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Crab Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) Minutes
2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA
VMRC Commission Room, 4TH Floor
Thursday, June 25, 2015 – 5:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Honorable Lynn Haynie
Honorable James Close
Marshall B. Cox
Ken Diggs, Jr.
Ernest George
Doug Jenkins Proxy for G. Wayne France
Chris Moore
Bernard W. Morris
Tom Powers
Don Porter, Sr.
Mark Sanford
Ken Smith

VMRC Staff Present

Laurie Dozier
MPO Drummond
Joe Grist
Adam Kenyon
Rachael Maulorico
Rob O'Reilly

Members Absent

Daniel Dise
Johnny Graham
Peter Nixon
Kevin Wade
Viola West

Others Present

Jerome Bonnaville
Ty Farrington
Ida Hall
Tommy Leggett
Bill Mullis
Lynnée Squires
Michelle Squires
Timothy Wivell

Minutes were recorded by Laurie Dozier.

I. Introductions, announcements & approval of minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm and 12 members were in attendance. A recording of the minutes can be found on the agency's website. The minutes from May 18, 2015 were approved unanimously.

II. 2015-2016 Winter Crab Dredge Fishery Season

Mr. Grist presented the proposed provisions for a potential Winter Crab Dredge Fishery Season which included conservation equivalency measures for a limited dredge season of one million or 1.5 million pounds by adjusting crab pot seasons and bushel limits. The remaining provisions were taken directly from the framework that was developed in 2013 and presented to the Commission that unanimously neglected those provisions. Several CMAC members and members of the public were in favor of bushel limits as an option for conservation equivalency and were opposed to any changes in crab pot seasons. Mr. Smith made a motion to endorse a limited winter dredge fishery season opening with up to a one million pound total allowable catch

(TAC) split amongst individuals that indicate they will participate in the fishery. No individual quota would exceed 900 bushels, with conservation equivalency as developed by staff, with the ability to adjust the TAC under one million pounds depending on participation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Powers. The motion passed with 10 members in favor, one opposed and one abstention. A few CMAC members expressed concerns that there was no consideration for transferability of the license in the advent of a hardship such as the death of the licensee.

Members of the public and CMAC members agreed that the proposed Winter Dredge area be extended towards the south and slightly to the east in the future to include more areas of muddy bottom because of concerns that the fishery participants would be confined to too small an area which could prevent any success of the dredge fishery. However, the defined area would be sufficient for an initial season. Mr. Powers motioned to accept the proposed area with the request that staff continue to research the possible expansion of the area to include more area of muddy bottom. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed with 10 members in favor, none opposed and two abstained.

Mr. Mark Sanford motioned to accept staff recommendation of a season start date of December 16th and season end date of February 28th. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ken Smith. The motion passed with 11 members in favor, one opposed and no abstentions.

III. New Business

The items of new business for future discussion were the consideration of opening a portion of the Blue Crab Sanctuary along the Virginia Beach ocean front and to review the plausibility of implementing a pot tagging system.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.