

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Crab Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) Minutes
2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA
VMRC Commission Room, 4TH Floor
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Honorable James Close
Honorable Lynn Haynie
Mark Sanford
Marshall B. Cox
Ernest George
Donald Porter Sr.
G. Wayne France
Chris Moore
JC Hudgens (Proxy for Ken Smith)
Johnny. Graham
Ken Diggs
Pete Nixon
Bernard Wayne Morris

Members Absent

Daniel Dise
Tom Powers
Viola West
Kevin Wade

Others Present

Lynce Squires
Tim Wivell
John G. Boudiette
Dirk Sanford
Darrin Hurley
George Pauls
Beverly Ludford
Dr. Rom Lipcius (VIMS)

VMRC Staff Present

Joe Cimino
Ande Ehlen
Joe Grist
Rachael Maulorico
Rob O'Reilly
Sally Roman

- I. **FMAC Introductions; Announcements and Approval of December 4, 2014 Minutes**
The meeting was called to order at 4: 00 pm and a quorum was present with 14 members in attendance. A recording of the minutes can be found on the agency's website. Minutes from December 4, 2014 were approved unanimously with a spelling correction on page 2.

- II. **Work Session: Round Table Discussions**
 1. **Blue Crab Sanctuaries**
The Committee discussed possible adjustments to the current blue crab sanctuary boundaries and seasons. Dr. Rom Lipcius of VIMS aided in the discussion by providing the CMAC with survey data and female blue crab migration information. The Committee discussed adjusting the boundaries of the blue crab sanctuaries to alleviate congestion in the tributaries in exchange for longer or permanent seasonal closures. There was also

discussion on adjusting the boundaries along the historic sanctuary to allow for harvesting along the southern shoreline.

2. Effort Controls

The CMAC also discussed overcapacity of permittees and latent effort in the commercial blue-crab fishery and would like to further discuss the current allowance of agents at a future meeting. The Committee focused on the original intent of allowing the use of agents in the commercial blue crab fishery. Staff will present the CMAC with blue crab permit and agent data at the next meeting.

3. Sponge Crab Regulations

The Committee postponed this discussion until a future date.

III. Request from Law Enforcement to discuss the use of fish pots by crab harvesters

The CMAC finished the meeting with a discussion prompted by a Law Enforcement request to clarify the lawfulness of fishing fish pots and crab pots on the same trip. The CMAC clarified that eel pots and minnow pots (mesh size of 1 inch or less) are often set by a crabber during a crab trip and that these pots do not catch blue crabs as bycatch. They requested that these pots be considered when writing future regulations regarding this issue.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

SPECIAL NOTE: Future minutes will include motions and conclusions of items only, since there is a recording of each meeting.