

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
FINFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 19, 2005 - 7:00 PM *DRAFT MINUTES*

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Russell Garrison
William Laine Jr.
Jeff Deem
Kevin Seldon (for Pete Nixon)
Chris Vaughan
David Agee (for Dr. Ken Neill)
Robert Weagley
Wyn Holbrook
Tom Powers
Roger Parks (for ?)
Russell W. Gaskins

MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Ernest Bowden Jr.
Douglas Jenkins Sr.
Walter Rogers
Samuel Swift

VMRC STAFF

Jack Travelstead
Rob O'Reilly
Stephanie Iverson
Ellen Cosby
Lewis Gillingham
Joe Cimino
Sonya Davis
Kenny Oliver

I. Introductions; Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Russell Garrison. New member, Russell Gaskins was introduced.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the June 21, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

III. Old Business

A. MRFSS Presentation by Tom Sminkey

Rob O'Reilly introduced Tom Sminkey from NMFS, who works on the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Mr. Sminkey gave a presentation to the committee, describing the telephone and dockside survey protocols and how the MRFSS estimates were calculated. The MRFSS was designed to produce precise annual state estimates of marine recreational fisheries catch. The Coastal Household Telephone Surveys (CHTS) are used to estimate mean effort for coastal households. The U. S. Census is used to determine the number of residential households in each county.

Mr. Sminkey described the types of information that is asked for in the phone surveys including: mode of fishing, area of fishing, number of angler trips, number of reported harvested fish and live releases.

The dockside sampling program was also described in great detail. Mr. Sminkey explained how sampling sites were selected, the types of information sought, and how samplers were paid. He answered questions from committee members regarding various aspects of the MRFSS program. He noted that they are in the process of renovating their web site.

B. Continued discussion on options to reduce the recreational Chesapeake Bay Area striped bass harvest in 2005

Mr. O' Reilly distributed and reviewed a handout showing the various options for reducing the fall 2005 Chesapeake Bay Area recreational striped bass harvest, with potential savings. He reported on the Ad Hoc Recreational Striped Bass Committee meeting and its discussion about raising the minimum size limit for the fall season. However, it was reported that from 1989 through the present, there have been at least five strong year classes. The 2001 year class will be recruited this year, so there will be a prevalence of small fish and discards. The Ad hoc committee's favorite option (B10), included two fish at 18-28 inches or one fish at 18-28 inches and a second fish greater than 34 inches.

Jeff Deem made a motion to go with option B10. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.