

MINUTES

Commission Meeting

December 12, 2017

The meeting of the Marine Resources Commission was held at the Marine Resources Commission main office at 2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, Virginia with the following present:

John Bull	Commissioner
Christina Everett	
Wayne France	
Heather Lusk	
James Minor	Associate Members
Ken Neill, III	
John Tankard	
John Zydron	
Kelci Block	Assistant Attorney General
Laurie Naismith	Director, Public Relations
Matthew Hull	Policy Manager
Linda Hancock	Dir., Human Resources
Jamie Hogge	Recording Secretary
Dave Lego	Bs. Systems Specialist
Joe Cimino	Deputy Chief, Fisheries Mgmt.
Andrew Button	Head, Conservation/Replenishment
Stephanie Iverson	Fisheries Mgmt. Manager, Sr.
Jill Ramsey	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Ryan Jiorle	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Alex Aspinwall	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Adam Kenyon	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Alicia Nelson	Coordinator, RFAB/CFAB
Lewis Gillingham	Director, SWFT
Sydney Alhale	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Sara Blachman	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Jennifer Farmer	Regulatory Coordinator
Anna-Mia Christmas	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist
Nancy McElligott	Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist

Commission Meeting

**17982
December 12, 2017**

Rick Lauderman
Warner Rhodes
Stephan Bennis
Christopher Miller
Patrick West
Clayton Dameron
Jamie Hogge

Chief, Law Enforcement
Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement
Lieutenant, Marine Police Officer
First Sergeant, Marine Police Officer
Marine Police Officer
Marine Police Officer
Marine Police Officer

Chip Neikirk
Mark Eversole
Rachael Peabody
Jeff Madden
Justin Worrell
Hank Badger
Jay Woodward
Randy Owen
Mike Johnson
Ben Stagg

Deputy Chief, Habitat Management
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Dir., Shellfish Aquaculture, Leasing
and Mapping
Surveyor, Engineering/Surveying

Daniel Faggert

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

Lyle Varnell

Mark Luckenbach

Emily Hein

Others present:

Doug Powell
John Floyd
William Bott
Karina Hull
Tim Harris
Ann Wallace
Norm Merrifrad
Hank Bowen
David O'Brien
Joe Rieger
Wes Blow

Mike Crist
Sharon Floyd
Bonnie Brown
Richard Calvert
Brian Joyner
Mary Bunting
Den Adams
Stephen Bunce Jr.
Jackie West
Marjorie Jackson

Angela Crist
Brigitte Bott
Alison Eubank
Kevin Myers
Jim White
Laura Burbaze
Stephen Bunce
John & Kristie Stephens
Diana Bailey
Dave Koubsky

and others.

Commissioner Bull called the meeting to order at approximately 9:38 a.m. Associate Member Ballard was absent from the meeting.

At the request of Commissioner Bull, Associate Member Tankard said the invocation and John Bull, Commissioner, led the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Commissioner Bull asked if there were any changes from the Board members or staff.

Chip Neikirk requested 2(B) be removed from the agenda.

Associate Member Zydron moved to approve the agenda, with recommendation to amend Item 2(B). Associate Member Neill seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

MINUTES: Commissioner Bull asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the October 24, 2017 Commission meeting minutes. There were no changes.

Associate Member Zydron moved to approve the minutes, as presented. Associate Member Neill seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

Commissioner Bull swore in the VMRC staff and VIMS staff that would be speaking or presenting testimony during the meeting.

2. PERMITS (Projects over \$500,000 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval.):

Chip Neikirk, Deputy Chief, Habitat Management, reviewed the five page two items, A, C, D, E and F, for the Board members. Mr. Neikirk and Lyle Varnell, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, provided clarification and answered questions from Associate Member Neil and Associate Member Everett concerning Item 2F. Mr. Varnell and Mr. Neikirk's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

There were no public comments.

Associate Member France moved to approve the page two items. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

2A. HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, #12-0052, requests authorization to modify their existing subaqueous permit and install three (3) water intake structures, 145 linear feet of gabion wall baskets, 2,750 cubic yards of riprap on 1,220 square feet of subaqueous bottom, and a temporary cofferdam during construction activities at the existing Henry County Public Service Authority Upper River Water Filtration Plant along the Smith River, downstream of the Philpott Dam and Town Creek, in Henry County.

2C. CORMAN-BRANCH JOINT VENTURE, #17-1747, requests authorization to widen the existing westbound and eastbound bridge crossings over the Chickahominy River on Interstate 64 within the existing Virginia Department of Transportation right-of-way between Exits 200 and 205 in New Kent and Henrico Counties. Staff recommends approval with a condition that the permit shall be transferred to VDOT upon completion of the project and the inclusion of our standard instream work permit conditions.

Permit	\$100.00
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2D. THE MENNEL MILLING COMPANY, #17-1804, requests authorization to demolish and replace an existing grain conveyor, to include sheet pile retaining walls and pile-supported marine foundations, two switch block platforms, two winch platforms and a new conveyor tower platform and belt system to facilitate repairs/improvements to their existing grain-loading facility located on the Pamunkey River in the Town of West Point. Staff recommends approval with an instream work time-of-year restriction from February 15 through June 30 of any year to protect anadromous fish and a royalty of \$7,816.00 for the encroachment of the new grain conveyor and mooring facility over approximately 3,908 square feet of State-owned subaqueous bottom at a rate of \$2.00 per square foot

Royalty Fees (encroach 3,908 sq. ft. @ \$2.00)	\$7,816.00
Permit Fee	\$ 100.00
Total Fees	\$7,916.00

- 2E. CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, #17-1649**, requests authorization to nourish approximately 3,700 linear feet of the existing Croatan Beach shoreline to a maximum distance of 300 feet channelward of mean low water between Rudee Inlet to the north and Camp Pendleton to the south, along the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia Beach. Approximately 230,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand will be truck-hauled to the beach from an upland sand quarry.

Permit	\$100.00
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- 2F. JAMES CITY SERVICE AUTHORITY, #16-1533**, requests authorization to install a raw water intake pipe structure consisting of three (3) 36-inch diameter pipes extending approximately 480 linear feet into the Chickahominy River near its confluence with Gordon Creek, and a 16-inch diameter brine concentrate discharge pipe structure extending approximately 800 feet channelward of mean low water and situated immediately upstream of the Route 5 bridge crossing of the Chickahominy River, adjacent to County owned property situated at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park in James City County. Staff recommends approval with the following special conditions:

1. Prior to construction activities, the permittee will submit for VMRC approval, detailed construction plans detailing the installation techniques for both the intake and outfall structures, including erosion and sediment control plans and details on any proposed coffer dams;
2. Permittee agrees to a time-of-year restriction on all instream construction work from February 15 through June 30 to protect anadromous fish species and August 1 through November 30 to protect the federally Endangered Atlantic Sturgeon;
3. Permittee agrees to construct and operate the water intake structure with one-millimeter screen slots, and a maximum through-slot velocity of 0.25 feet per second (fps) as shown on application drawings;
4. Permittee agrees to coordinate with the Va. Department of Transportation as construction plans are developed, due to the proximity of the outfall pipe and structure to the State Route 5 bridge crossing of the Chickahominy River;
5. Should air burst (to control intake fouling) prove to be inadequate, the Permittee agrees to submit plans for alternative or additional biofouling techniques to VRMC for review and approval, prior to installation;
6. Prior to the installation of the intake and outfall structures authorized herein, the Permittee agrees to implement or fund one or more waterway blockage removal projects or fish passage projects, to restore anadromous fish habitat to a minimum of one-half mile of waterway within the Chickahominy River watershed. The mitigation project selected shall be evaluated and approved by Commission staff. The Permittee further agrees the funding for the mitigation

project shall be confirmed, or the specified project completed, six months prior to the initiation of project construction authorized herein. Such confirmation shall be provided in writing to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Permit	\$100.00
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- 3. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.** There were no consent items to be heard

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- 4. **CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL.** No closed meeting was necessary.

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- 5. **CITY OF HAMPTON, #17-1061,** requests authorization to install a 147-foot by 165-foot floating aqua park surrounded by a 200-foot by 215-foot safety buoy system approximately 320 feet north of the Buckroe Fishing Pier a maximum of 240 feet channelward of mean low water along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline at Buckroe Beach in the City of Hampton. The project is protested by a City resident.

Mike Johnson, Environmental Engineer, Sr., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff’s evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Johnson’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Johnson answered several questions from associate members concerning the installation of the structure, the amount of time for removal of structure in case of a storm, the effects of the nearby fishing pier, water level to access the park, the concern of SAV in the area of proposed park and liability issues if injuries occur. Associate member Block advised that the liability would fall on the City of Hampton.

Allison Eubank, City of Hampton representative, was sworn in and her comments are a part of the verbatim record. She spoke on behalf of the project and provided a detailed explanation, to include open water conditions, anchoring of the structure, structure removal, maintenance procedure, research of injuries, admission price and safety measures. Ms. Eubank answered questions from associate members concerning insurance, safety records of other parks similar to proposed project, injuries due to sudden storms, dislodging of structure due to storms and access from outsiders.

Kevin Myers, City of Hampton representative, was sworn in and his comments are a part of the verbatim record. Mr. Myer’s spoke on behalf of the project to explain the after-hours security measures that will be in place.

Bonnie Brown, Legal Governmental representative was sworn in and her comments are a part of the verbatim record. Ms. Brown provided information on park functions. Ms. Brown answered questions from Associate Member Zydron concerning the amount of insurance that the City will have as well as liability and litigation concerns. Associate Member Block advised that the permit is only permitting the use of state bottom.

Mary Bunting, City of Hampton manager, was sworn in and her comments are a part of the verbatim record. Ms. Bunting provided further information to explain the indoor use of the inflatables during off-season.

Ann Wallace, property owner near the proposed aqua park was sworn in and her comments are a part of the verbatim record. Ms. Wallace spoke in opposition of the proposed project. Ms. Wallace has concerns with the anchoring system in regards to the effects on mammals and sea life. Ms. Wallace requested the public view the information that was presented at the meeting due to the limited information of the project that was initially provided to the public. Although having a better understanding of the project, marine wildlife was a concern.

The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action.

Associate member Neill and Associate member Zydron had questions regarding the security boundary for boaters outside of the boundary to the park. Associate member Block advised contacting Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to prohibit boat traffic around perimeter of park and deem the area as a swimming area. Discussion of the procedure for removal of structure due to weather was clarified in further detail. Associate member Everett had concerns regarding future cases with similar requests such as the proposed project. The Associate members agreed that future projects in similarity would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Associate member Tankard moved to approve the project conditioned upon the development of a storm contingency plan and a confirmation from the product manufacturer that the water depths at the proposed site are appropriate for the deployment of the product. Associate member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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6. **KENNETH CAMPBELL, #17-1647**, requests authorization to construct 52 linear feet of riprap marsh sill and backfill the sill with sand to support the planting of wetland vegetation at 3904 Parkway Road in Chesapeake. This project requires a wetlands permit.

Rachael Peabody, Environmental Engineer, Sr., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mrs. Peabody's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Board is acting as Wetlands board. Ms. Peabody advised that this would be a living shoreline project.

Commissioner Bull opened the public hearing to comments and there were none. The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action

Associate member Everett made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to approve the project conditioned on receiving authorization from the City for any work conducted within the City right-of-way. Associate member France seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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7. **NANCY MILLER-GREINER, #17-1739**, requests authorization to construct 159 linear feet of riprap revetment with a 24-foot return wall along the Eastern Branch Elizabeth River at 4030 Tanglewood Trail in Chesapeake. This project requires wetlands and subaqueous permits.

Rachael Peabody, Environmental Engineer, Sr., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mrs. Peabody's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Board is acting as Wetlands board.

Richard Calvert, agent for Nancy Miller Greiner, was sworn in and was present to answer any questions that Associate members may have in regards to Ms. Greiner's application.

Commissioner Bull opened the public hearing to comments and there were none. The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action

Associate member France made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to approve the project as proposed. Associate member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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8. **STEPHEN C. BUNCE, JR., Oyster Planting Ground Application #2016-077**, requests authorization to lease 98.63 acres of oyster planting ground in Nassawadox Creek in Northampton County. The project is protested by nearby property owner.

Hank Badger, Environmental Engineer, Sr. gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Badger's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Stephen Bunce, applicant, was sworn in and answered questions from Associate members pertaining to nearby leases and if the application is for spat on shell or oyster cages. Mr. Bunce stated that the area is too deep for cages.

Harry Bowen Jr., in favor of the application, was sworn in. Mr. Bowen stated that the lease does not interfere with boat traffic. Associate member France asked if the area near the lease is productive. In response to the question, Mr. Bowen state that it was productive at times.

Mike Crist, was sworn and spoke in opposition of the application. Mr. Crist's concerns were navigation due to the area being shallow and shells may make navigation worse entering and exiting the creek. Mr. Crist was also concerned with the possibilities of oyster cages, poles to mark the leased ground and shell piles due to the water depth at low tide. Discussion in reference to water depth, shell piles, cages and the navigational matter took place. Associate member Everett inquired about the navigation concern entering or exiting the creek. Mr. Badger explained if the lease became a navigational issue due to oyster cages or shell pile, it would go back before the Commission.

William Bott, was sworn and spoke in opposition of the application. Mr. Bott also had navigation concerns. Associate member Zydron asked Mr. Bott if a compromise moving the southern application line north to would address his navigational concerns. Mr. Bott was in favor of reducing the lease application as discussed by Associate member Zydron.

Stephen Bunce, applicant, explained the existing lease in detail and also explained where shell is located. Associate members asked questions regarding the water depth of the area, existing shell and whether Mr. Bunces' intention is for shell or cages. Mr. Bunce stated that his intentions are for shell only and not to impact navigation. Mr. Bunce also stated most of the area had been leased in the past and that moving the southern line north would cut his application into two parts and would require additional stakes to mark.

Commissioner Bull closed and placed the matter before the board for discussion and action.

Associate member Minor made a motion to approve the application for the lease. Associate member France seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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9. MR. and MRS. RICHARD F. WILLIAMS, Oyster Planting Ground Application #2015-109, request authorization to lease 1.51 acres of oyster planting ground in Craddock Creek in Accomack County. The project is protested by a nearby property owner.

Hank Badger, Environmental Engineer, Sr. gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff’s evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Badger’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Applicant was not present.

John Stephens was sworn and spoke in opposition of the application. Mr. Stephens presented pictures and expressed his concern for navigation, water depth, and access to his property that would become impeded if cages were placed on the lease.

The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action.

Associate member Zydron made a motion to deny the application for the lease. Associate member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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10. PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments to be heard.

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12. DISCUSSION: A briefing on the Elizabeth River Project’s work to clean up contaminated river bottom and restore the health of the Elizabeth River through the Living River Restoration Trust, which is the only federally sanctioned mitigation program in the nation for mitigating impacts to the bottom of a waterway.

Marjorie Mayfield Jackson, Executive Director, explained in detail, the progress of the Elizabeth River Project’s with a PowerPoint presentation. Joe Rieger, Project Manager, also explained the mitigation success and answered questions from associate member Everette in regards to the sediment that still exist. Ms. Jackson and Mr. Rieger’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

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11. OFFENDERS.

Jackie Lee West (2752) – was present and sworn in.

Marine Police Officer's Patrick West and Jamie Hogge were sworn in and they gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

February 10, 2016, Officer Patrick West, Unculled Oysters--§28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia; 4 VAC 20-260-30.

Disposition:

April 20, 2016, Newport News General District Court.

Fine: \$150.00, Court Cost: \$91.00.

May 2, 2017, Officer Jamie Hogge, Obstructed Cull Rings—4 VAC 20-700-20

Disposition:

July 12, 2017, Gloucester County General District Court.

Fine: \$100.00, Court Cost: \$86.00

May 2, 2017, Officer Jamie Hogge, Improper Placement of Cull Rings -4 VAC 20-700-20

Disposition:

July 12, 2017, Gloucester County General District Court.

Fine: \$100.00, Court Cost: \$25.00.

July 1, 2017, Officer Patrick West, Obstructed Cull Rings – Crab Pot -4 VAC 20-700-20

Disposition:

September 13, 2017, Gloucester County General District Court.

Fine: \$50.00, Court Cost: \$96.00.

July 1, 2017, Officer Patrick West, Obstructed Cull Rings – Crab Pot -4 VAC 20-700-20

Disposition:

September 13, 2017, Gloucester County General District Court.

Fine: \$50.00, Court Cost: \$25.00

MATRIX GUIDELINE SUGGESTION: 2 YEAR PROBATION (§28.2-232 of the Code of Virginia)

Joe Cimino, Deputy Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., explained to the Commission the matrix guidelines. Mr. Cimino’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The Commission’s matrix guidelines for sanctions specify that two convictions of obstructed cull rings, within a two-year period, should result in a two year probation. In accordance with §28.2-232 of the Code of Virginia, the matrix guidelines suggest to the Commission to place Mr. West on probation for a period of two years from the date of this Commission meeting, December 12, 2017, through December 11, 2019. Any failure on Mr. West’s part to obey any of the laws or regulations relating to the Marine Resources of the Commonwealth during the two-year probation would result in Mr. West appearing before the Commission for a hearing on a license revocation.

Associate Member Tankard made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 13. PUBLIC HEARING:** Request to establish emergency amendments as a permanent part of regulation to Chapter 4 VAC 20-260-10 et seq., " Pertaining to Designation of Seed Areas and Clean Cull Areas," that established the basket as the only measure for oyster culling tolerance.

Andrew Button, Head, Conservation/Replenishment, presented the information provided in the staff’s evaluation for the Board members. Mr. Button’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Staff recommends the Commission adopt emergency amendments as permanent and additional amendments to Chapter 4VAC20-260-10, et seq., “Pertaining to Designation of Seed Areas and Clean Cull Areas”, to establish the basket as the only measure for oyster culling tolerance.

Commissioner Bull opened the public hearing to comments and there were none. The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action.

Associate Member France made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 14. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., "Pertaining the Taking of Striped Bass," to reinstate the allowable Coastal Area Striped Bass Commercial Fishery Harvest Quota for 2018, following a decrease in the 2017 quota.

Jill Ramsey, Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist, presented the information provided in the staff’s evaluation for the Board members. Ms. Ramsey’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Staff recommends approving amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., “Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass,” to establish the 2018 Coastal Area Commercial Fishery Striped Bass quota.

Commissioner Bull opened the public hearing to comments and there were none. The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action.

Associate Member France made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 15. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., "Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass," to simplify permitting and increase reporting accuracy for the charter and private recreational striped bass fisheries.

Sara Blachman, Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist, presented the information provided in the staff’s evaluation for the Board members. Ms. Blachman’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Staff recommends the Commission amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., “Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass,” to rescind the year-round reporting requirement for the charter fishery.

Commissioner Bull opened the public hearing to comments and there were none. The public hearing was closed and the matter was before the board for discussion and action.

Associate Member Minor made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Neill seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 16. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-950-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," to establish a February 2018 recreational black sea bass fishery and associated permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Joe Cimino, Deputy Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., presented the information provided in the staff's evaluation for the Board members.

Staff recommends making amends to Chapter 4 VAC 20-950-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Black Sea Bass," to establish a February 2018 recreational black sea bass fishery and associated permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements.

Mr. Cimino answered question from associate members in regards to the call in program for reporting catch and when vessel will return to the dock.

Wes Blow, recreational Fisherman, was in favor of the proposal and the mandatory reporting program.

Associate Member Neill made a motion to accept the staff recommendation and advised that there would be a Public Hearing in February if needed. Associate Member Zydron seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 17. REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-1120-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Tilefish and Grouper," to increase the recreational possession limit for golden tilefish.

Joe Cimino, Deputy Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., presented the information provided in the staff's evaluation for the Board members.

Staff recommends the Commission advertise for a January 2018 public hearing to modify the recreational harvest and possession limit for golden tilefish.

Associate Member Neill made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Zydron seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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- 18. REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-510-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Amberjack and Cobia" to consider adoption of a more restrictive possession limit for the commercial hook and line fishery.

Ryan Jiorle, Fisheries Mgmt. Specialist, presented the information provided in the staff's evaluation for the Board members. Mr. Jiorle's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Staff recommends advertising for a January 2018 public hearing for proposed amendments to Chapter 4VAC20-510-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Amberjack and Cobia," to establish new possession limits for commercial hook-and-line fishing for cobia.

Wes Blow, recreational Fisherman, spoke in favor of restricting the commercial hook and line fishery and in favor of a gaffing prohibition for all cobia fishing.

Associate Member Minor made a motion to accept the staff recommendation. Associate Member Neill seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0. Chair voted yes.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 23, 2017.

John M. R. Bull, Commissioner

Jamie Hogge, Recording Secretary