

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**  
**Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) Minutes**  
2600 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA  
VMRC Commission Room, 4<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members Present

Jeff Deem (Chairman)  
Skip Feller  
Jack Austin  
Ernest Bowden  
Chris Ludford Proxy for Scott MacDonald  
David Agee Proxy for Hon. Ken Neill  
Beth Synowiec  
G. Wayne France  
Meade Amory  
Walter Rogers  
Robert Weagley

VMRC Staff Present

Joe Cimino  
Lewis Gillingham  
Joe Grist  
Rob O'Reilly  
Sally Roman

Members Absent

Andy Hall  
Tom Powers  
Russell Gaskins

Others Present

Bob Allen  
Chris Ludford  
Susanna Musick  
Mark Sanford  
Tim Wivell  
Roger Parks  
J.C. West  
Jan McDowell  
Doug Jenkins Sr.

**I. FMAC Introductions; Announcements**

The meeting was called to order at 6: 00 pm and a quorum was present with 11 members in attendance. A recording of the minutes can be found on the agency's website.

**II. Approval of FMAC minutes from November 19, 2014 meeting**

Minutes from November 19, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

**III. Old Business**

- a. Discussion: Speckled Trout
  - i. Management background information
  - ii. Status update for North Carolina Stock Assessment of speckled trout
  - iii. Continued discussion of FMAC suggested management provisions

A discussion on speckled trout led by Mr. Joe Cimino (VMRC) and Ms. Susanna Musick from VIMS. Management background information focused on the history of the VMRC management measures from 1992 through 2014. The schedule of the assessment, data inputs, and preliminary (not peer-reviewed) results were discussed. Landings data for both the commercial and recreational sectors were reviewed for different time periods. Different trigger scenarios for the commercial sector were discussed, but Mr. Cimino indicated that if the trigger value was increased, the quota may be exceeded by the time

the notice to close the fishery was given. Ms. Susanna Musick gave an update on speckled trout tagging from the VGFTP through 2014. Results indicated 2014 was similar to previous years' tagging efforts.

Mr. Meade Amory made a motion to increase the commercial quota by 10 percent, remove the term bycatch from the regulation, and establish a 150 pound vessel limit when 80% of the quota is reached. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Weagley. Motion passed: 10 favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Ms. Beth Synowiec made a motion to increase the recreational possession limit from 5 to 7 fish and have two fish 24 inches or greater from April 1 through November 30. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernest Bowden. Motion passed: 11 favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention.

**b. Update: ASMFC Review of 2015 Striped Bass Management Proposal.**

Mr. Joe Grist gave an update on the 2015 striped bass fishery management measures for the commercial and recreational sectors and the ASMFC Technical Committee's review of proposed state implementation plans.

**c. Discussion: Spiny Dogfish management background information.**

Mr. Cimino gave an overview of spiny dogfish management, limited entry criteria, and fishery performance. Mr. Bowden made comments about the fishery, increasing participation in the fishery, having a control date if needed to address capacity, and trip limits. He thinks FMAC should start a dialogue about increasing participation.

**IV. New Business**

- a. Discussion: Blueline and Golden Tilefish
  - i. Management background information
  - ii. MAFMC White Paper Discussion for golden tilefish
- iii. SAFMC Proposed Amendment 32 to end overfishing of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic

Mr. Grist gave an overview of the tilefish issue for consideration at the next meeting.

**b. Discussion: Recreational gill net issues**

Mr. Cimino distributed the email on the recreational gill net issue for FMAC to review for the next meeting.

New business was tabled to the next FMAC meeting due to inclement weather.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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