

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

September 24, 2024

The meeting of the Marine Resources Commission was held at the Marine Resources Commission main office at 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia with the following present:

Jamie L. Green	Commissioner
A.J. Erskine William Bransom Jeremy Headley Jeanette Edwards Thomas Preston	Associate Members
Kelci Block	Assistant Attorney General Via phone
Jamie Hogge	Recording Secretary
Rachael Peabody	Director of Environmental Policy
Gerald Pitt	1 st . Sgt., Marine Police
Zach Widgeon	Director of Communications
Pat Geer	Chief, Fisheries Management
Randy Owen	Chief, Habitat Management
Adam Kenyon	Chief, Shellfish Management

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

Lyle Varnell	Alex Sabo	Rom Lipcius
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Others present:

Nathan Reynolds	James Smith	Roger Evans
Marshall Cox	Albert Clark	Julie Kacmarcik

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Jackie Shannon Tim Wivell Ed Tankard
Chris Moore and others.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA. – Commissioner Jamie Green asked if there were any changes from the Board members or staff.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., requested to present Agenda #8 before Agenda #7 because the Chairman of CMAC, Ed Tankard was present but had another engagement that he needed to attend.

Associate Member Headley moved to approve the agenda amended. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-0.

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MINUTES: Commissioner Green asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the August 27, 2024, Commission Meeting minutes.

Associate Member Erskine moved to approve the minutes as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-0.

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

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2. PERMITS (Projects over \$500,000.00 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).

There were no Page 2 items presented.

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3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Consent Agenda Items presented.

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4. CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL. – No meeting needed

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5. ROGER EVANS, JR. #24-1089

Requests authorization to construct a 30-foot long by 14-foot wide open-sided single slip boathouse over an existing boat lift, adjacent to property situated along Cod Creek at 485 Clarke Lane in Northumberland County. This project is protested by an adjacent property owner.

Randy Owen, Chief, Habitat Management, gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff’s evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. for the Associate Members. Mr. Owen’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

No one spoke in support or opposition of the projects.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Bransom moved to approve the project as presented. Associate Member Headley seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-0.

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6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eddie Smith:

Mr. Eddie Smith, waterman, asked for return of his Commercial Fishermen's Registration License. Mr. Smith transferred it to a family member in 2014 and the family member has not renewed it. Commissioner Green advised Mr. Smith to talk to the Chief of Fisheries and Shellfish about the delayed entry process and how to enter fisheries. His comments are part of the verbatim record.

Julie Kacmarcik:

Ms. Julie Kacmarcik, Virginia resident, spoke about the link between menhaden and osprey populations. Her comments are part of the verbatim record.

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Presented as Agenda Item #8

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-740-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Snagging or Towing of Fish" to allow recreational anglers to snag Atlantic menhaden and mullet species in the Mugel genus (white mullet, striped mullet, and flathead grey mullet).

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Debbie Cambell, Silver Lakes Beach, was sworn in and spoke in opposition to the regulation change due to the lack of Menhaden. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Bransom made a motion to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-740-10 et seq., "Pertaining to the Snagging or Towing of Fish" to allow recreational anglers to snag Atlantic menhaden and mullet species in the Mugel genus. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-0.

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Presented as Agenda Item #7

8. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Staff presentation, public comment opportunity, and Commission discussion to guide the October Commission decision regarding potential regulatory amendments for the winter crab fishery.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Rom Lipcius, VIMS, provided further information regarding conservation equivalency measures for extending the crab pot season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Ed Tankard spoke about Crab Advisory Committee Members. He stated that they prefer the fall crab season as well as the crabbers that may not wish to participate in the crab dredge fishery. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Chris Moore, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, further explained the votes of the past meetings. He also stated that the facilitated process helped the meeting. He also stated that he is not in favor of opening the Crab Dredge fishery season for this upcoming season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mark Sanford spoke in opposition of opening the Crab Dredge Fishery season this year. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Nathan Reynold was spoke in support of the crab pot season extension. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Erskine made a motion to advertise for an October public hearing to amend Chapter 4VAC20-270 "Pertaining to Blue Crab Fishery," to close the 2024-25 crab dredge fishery and to extend the crab pot season, while staff continues working toward a framework for a crab dredge fishery. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4-1. Associate Member Headley voted no.

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9. DISCUSSION: Recommendations from the Recreational Fishing Advisory Board.

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Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

No one spoke in support or opposition of the funding request.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Headley made a motion to recommend funding 17 of the 18 proposed projects in addition to the Saltwater Tournament and Tagging Program interim staffing needs, totaling \$1,110,556 from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund. Associate Member Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-0. Associate Member seconded the motion. The motion carried, -0.

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There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next Commission meeting will be meeting on Monday, October 28, 2024.

Jamie L. Green, Commissioner

Jamie Hogge, Recording Secretary