



# Marine Resources Advisory Council

# BULLETIN

The Marine Resources Advisory Council  
September 15, 2015

XXVI, No. 5

Michael Craig

Robert Danielson

John Davi, Jr.

Melissa Dearborn

Paul Farnham

Thomas Jordan

Joseph Paradiso

John Renaldo

Paul Risi

Christopher Squeri

Charles Witek

Dean Yaxa

Michael Frisk  
Chairman

Kim Knoll  
Staff Assistant

After introductions by the Councilors present as well as Mr. Jim Gilmore, Director of the NYS DEC, Mr. Gilmore made several announcements. One announcement being that the DEC is working on an endeavor regarding safe harbor issues. Major Huss from DEC's Enforcement Unit stated that he will be contacting commercial fishermen in the hopes of setting up one or more informal meetings to cultivate protocols pertaining to safe harbor issues. For instance, what should the protocol be for a vessel experiencing mechanical problems that needs to land in an area where their fishing permit and limits are not recognized (perhaps they were on their way to another state when the problems occurred). Due to the many possible facets to such a document, Enforcement is very interested in receiving feedback from the fishing community before moving forward. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

### Public Comments

Mr. Patrick Augustine, who sits on the Advisory Panel for Highly Migratory Species had two topics he wanted to speak about. Speaking for the recreational fishery, his group is looking into legislation that would require the use of circle hooks ONLY when shark fishing in tournaments along the eastern coast. For this, he will be contacting Assemblyman Steven Englebright's office where he will present the data necessary to support this request. For the commercial fishery, Mr. Augustine's group is concerned that New York is the only state where commercial fishermen have to bring their shark catch to the dock without fins. This is in complete contrast to the National Marine Fishery Service regulation but believes there should be a consistent policy and would like New York to follow NMFS guidelines. Again, Mr. Augustine will be speaking to Mr. Englebright regarding this topic as well.

Mr. Ron Turbin, representing the Coastal Conservation Association and Gateway Striper Association wanted to speak about Marine Enforcement concerns. He believes that in total for the various marine regions, there are 9 officers that are expected to cover roughly 500 miles of shoreline. He thinks we need much more manpower to cover such a significant territory. He would like the DEC to press for additional officers. He thinks it will be a deterrent to illegal poaching which seems to be more prevalent lately. He would also like to have the Enforcement Highlights brought back. Captain Huss wanted to remind everyone that the Marine Enforcement Bureau doesn't work alone, they have a great working relationship with the Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies as well. He continued by saying that he will put together highlights to be included with the bulletin.

Mr. Ralph Vigmostad representing the New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing is greatly concerned about the future of the entire blackfish population. Once live fish were wanted, the market price of blackfish went way up causing the strain on the blackfish fishery. We need more enforcement *specifically* in this area. It's his personal opinion that Commissioner Joseph Marteen didn't quit his post for a better job, he quit in disgust because he wasn't able to do more because of the confines of the budget.

Mr. Arnold Leo, representing the fishing industry for the Town of East Hampton finds it ironic that recreational fisherman are concerned about lack of enforcement while they are vehemently opposed to paying \$10.00 for a recreational fishing license. The money garnered from the license would go a long way in raising monies needed to support additional enforcement agents. This comment was countered by the audience saying that the more serious recreational fishermen ARE willing to pay the \$10.00 fee, it's more the casual, once in a while, fishermen who are opposed to the fee.

Councilor Paul Farnham would like an update on the Northeast Fisheries disaster fund. Since that isn't on today's agenda, Mr. Gilmore suggested he talk to Steve Heins after the meeting who would be able to fill him in. Mr. Farnham also requested that summer flounder be put on November's agenda. Specifically, he would like to discuss cumulative trip limits. We should reach out to the participants to see what they would like to see, what they need.

Councilor Melissa Dearborn would like a quick synopsis for the upcoming hearings concerning the undermanaged forage species. It is her understanding that the Mid Atlantic Council would like to shut down any forage fisheries that are currently not being managed (i.e., Atlantic silversides, Spanish sardines, red herring, silver anchovies, bay anchovies, etc). Since they do not have any information or data, they feel shutting it down might be the best solution.

Approval, draft Minutes, May 21, 2015

Councilor Jordan made a motion to accept as written, Councilor Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval, draft Minutes July 14, 2015

Councilor Paradiso made a motion to accept as written, Councilor Yaxa seconded. All in favor – 4, Opposed – 0, Abstentions – 3. Motion passes.

DEC Presentation of whelk & horseshoe crab legislation regulations (see attached)

Ms. Kim McKown repeated the presentation (with certain updated data) that was shown at the July Council meeting.

Mr. Gilmore said the initial reason for even considering enacting regulations is due to data they have received wherein it shows a decline in the whelk population. The DEC feels that the decline is significant enough to warrant action that will forestall any further deterioration.

Ms. McKown confirmed that all data used in her presentation has come via Connecticut trawl surveys. She agrees that while the data collected isn't an absolute measure of abundance, the DEC feels confident in the findings since they perform the survey consistently each year.

Currently the only regulation on the books is for the DEC having the ability to shut down any whelk harvesting due to the presence of bio contaminants. Mandatory whelk permits was instituted in 2000 and in 2004 it became a limited entry license meaning only a certain percentage of licenses that aren't renewed will be issued each year. Currently there is no reporting requirements, however in 2011, the DEC revised the reporting requirements for foodfish, crab and lobster permit to require all species be reported when using any of those permits which include whelk. In 2013 there were still 17 permit holders that did not have a foodfish, crab or lobster license so they would not be required under any license to report. Compliance has also been an issue. Because of these things the DEC doesn't believe strongly in the landings information, they believe it to be seriously under reported.

Repopulation in whelk is difficult because they are a slow growing species and even though there isn't much data on whelk, there has been much done on maturity issues, they are very slow to maturation as well.

Councilor Dean Yaxa is upset that the presentation being shown is about Massachusetts waters, he feels that he and everyone else in the room is only concerned with Long Island waters and this data is not pertinent. Ms. McKown said they did look at Long Island waters; her presentation is an overview. There have been many discussions between Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, the data holds true for all states.

Councilor John Davi disagrees with the notion that the decline is due to overharvesting especially when looking at the data because it shows knobby and channel both declining at the same rate; Mr. Davi said that knobby whelk don't pot so the statement he believes is false. You cannot make that statement if you are not actually catching the knobs. He thinks when the survey is performed, they should actually put a fisherman on board who would be able to target whelk more specifically and have better results, therefore, better data. When the DEC is relying on data for instituting regulations, the data should have been targeted specifically for the species in question, it shouldn't be a random bottom trawl survey. Ms. McKown reiterated that because the survey is performed consistently each year, they are able to compare.

Mr. Yaxa brought a copy of the trawl survey compiled by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Conservation and stated that he read the report and it refers to fish and lobster but he found nothing wherein it refers to whelk. This report focuses on fish and lobster. Mr. Yaxa continued by saying that there is a law on the books that New York State cannot have a dredge that uses propulsion except when retrieving bay scallops, how is it that it's okay to use Connecticut's data when the gear they goes against New York's policy? How can that be okay? The Town of Huntington has been in existence for 300 years and the conch have always been small – there has never been 5" conch. Ms. McKown believes no matter what, the whelk that have been captured are extremely small.

Councilor Michael Craig wanted to make the point that the market does dictate the size of the conch the people want harvested and believes it's the way it should be. Looking at the larger picture in the state of New York, the conch are smaller in the western sound and in the Great South Bay but if you go to the Peconic Bay and the Eastern part of the Sound, the conch are bigger that's just the way it is. You cannot paint the whole picture with one broad stroke, it's common sense that things grow differently in different areas. He believes the size is just the way it is. Ms. McKown said regardless of where the conch were caught, whether it was the Great South Bay, Western or Eastern Long Island Sound, they all showed the same size of immaturity. Mr. Craig said if the conch are so immature – how are they reproducing? Ms. McKown said there is minimal data in general to which Mr. Farnham inquired, "Then how can you make such a broad statement and regulations on such limited data?"

Councilor Charles Witek Charlie wonders if maturity is delayed in the southern animal; Ms. McKown said she wasn't sure.

Mr. Yaxa asked in what year did New York State define conch as a predator and the reasons behind doing so? Ms. McKown and Mr. Gilmore were uncertain which further flummoxed Mr. Yaxa. He then stated that it is a known fact that conch's favorite diet mainly consists of oysters and clams. The conch's predation is nullifying the work most towns are doing to try and restore the oyster and clam populations. He doesn't believe the whelk population to be in any danger.

Councilor Davi brought a presentation given to him by Dr. Stephen Tettebach and Dr. Matthew Scalfani from Cornell Cooperative Extension. It was filmed in the Peconic Bay waters; the actual goal of their study is to help them understand how to improve restorative efforts for shellfish but Mr. Davi thought it would be a valuable tool for today's meeting. The film showed that there was an area in Peconic Bay that was cleared of conchs, scallops and clams. First they added scallops and clams, they were planted into designated areas and later the conch were added manually into an area away from the scallops and clams. Dr. Tettebach was amazed at the speed in which the conch moved into the scallop and clam area and began feasting, which was visible in the film's footage. The conch/whelk can completely devour a scallop in less than 5 minutes. The film clearly left the impression that conch are very much predators themselves and by saving them, all you are going to do is promote predation for shellfish which are already in danger. Mr. Davi said that for many years, when lobsters were being targeted conch were not and even though no one fished for conchs, the fishery didn't flourish. How will setting regulations now be beneficial to the conch? He believes conditions play a larger role in the health of this fishery than actual fishing does. He has spoken to many people in the industry and there might have only been one or two people who would be in agreement with setting regulations.

Ms. Dearborn wondered if the DEC were considering one size limit across the board or would different areas have different size limits?

Councilor Tom Jordon said that looking at the trawl survey data presented by Ms. McKown, he keeps going back to the size maturity charts and if the data is true, something needs to be done, *however*, he believes that you need to listen to the people who actually fish in those waters – they are saying that there have never been conch of that large size in certain areas so something isn't right. Ms. Dearborn concurred, she said that Long Island is unique and believes that the different areas might need different regulations but she did not say she was in favor of a regulation just that one size does not necessarily fit all.

The DEC is going to proceed as they think best for the industry. There will be options being presented at public meetings where people will be able to weigh in on their preferences.

Mr. German said this was brought up last year and it was voted down, so now it's brought up again (without bringing up any new data of substance) – what's the point? He feels that the DEC is going to do whatever they want to do regardless of what people want or say. This is a waste of people's time.

Mr. Yaxa wanted his last point to be that if conch are left alone, they will wipe out the lobsters, scallops and clam industry for Long Island. This is a very serious issue and it worries him.

Mr. Craig thought the film was "mind blowing" and doesn't feel we need to worry too much about conch.

Councilor Risi also speculated about the time of day the trawl survey has taken place because the film stated that conch like to rest in the sand during the day and if that's the case, when the trawl sweeps by in the day, they might be buried in the sand resting and you're not getting a true read of the conch population.

Most of the Councilors agreed that a pot survey would be the best way to collect data. Mr. Gilmore said there isn't time to do a 3-year pot survey. Right now they think the best thing would be to set a size limit and continue to collect data, if they can amend or lift the regulation at a later date, that's what will happen.

John German, President of Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association said this was brought up last year and it was voted down, so now it's brought up again (without bringing up any new data of substance) – what's the point? For 300 years conch were considered a predacious species, you would even get a ticket if you threw one back in the water if you inadvertently caught one now you want to give out tickets if the conch isn't big enough, it's ridiculous. If the DEC tried to set regulations for another species such as Striped Bass with such poor data – it would never happen then why is okay for this species? He worries that the DEC is going to do whatever they want to do regardless of what people want or say. If that's the case, then just go ahead and do it and stop wasting people's valuable time but he hopes the DEC will actually listen to the people and this idea goes down in a hurry.

Mr. Mike Tanawhite said he fishes in many areas from April through Thanksgiving and he has found an increase in his catch in 75% of the areas he fishes in and he sees conch 2", 3" and 5".. He doesn't believe there is a problem.

Mr. George Doll of Northport had a copy of Cornell survey which he handed out. In one part of the survey, it showed 68% of conch caught in the month of June were under 5" and 61% of conch caught in the month of May were all under 5". 5" size or better would put them out of business. In the 15 years he has been fishing for conch, the size remains the same. The size he catches today is the same size as when he began and he doesn't believe the data shown today. If the eggs only dispense from conch's 5 ½" or larger there must be 5 ½" conch's around. Huntington law still states that it is illegal to throw them back in the water alive. The data in the Cornell survey comes directly from Mr. Doll's pots and he would be more than happy to share the information with the DEC.

Ms. Nancy Solomon, Director of Long Island Traditions thinks at the very least, there should be reporting requirements. There should also be a dedicated pot survey for data and not rely on trawl survey statistics. If there are going to be regulations put in place to only have them in place for 2 seasons, just enough time to compare pot data vs. trawl data to see how reliable the trawl survey data truly is.

There was a question from the audience as to whether or not Ms. McKown saw a correlation between water quality vs. size of the conch? Ms. McKown did not.

Mr. Davi believes they must spawn at a smaller size than 5". Kim said it can take 8-10 years for a fish to mature.

Mr. Gilmore said that unfortunately there isn't money for a pot survey but believes there is immediate need for a management action. When this topic came up last year at another Council meeting, it was followed by a pause simply because we were talking about a body of water that is shared with Connecticut and at that time, Connecticut did not have regulatory authority. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> their Fisheries Management Group will have regulatory authority. Mr. Gilmore has already met with them and both states are in agreement that management measures need to be put in place. New York will continue to meet with Connecticut and together they will come up with a proposal to keep regulations consistent. It will be handled as a normal rule making procedure complete with public meetings and discussions.

Mr. Davi made a motion to keep things as status quo until a time when there is more data for pot survey. Mr. Yaxa seconded. Discussion: Mr. Witek said that the one thing they agree on is that we need better data. And while he sympathizes with the fishermen who are frustrated because of the lack of data, he believes this is the time that you should be more precautionary. Mr. Witek said he will vote against this motion.

Councilor Paul Risi said that the precautionary approach is working well for sea bass (sarcastically). He would trust the data provided by the men who actually do the work, he does not trust the data provided anecdotally by a random trawl survey. He will vote in favor of the motion.

Mr. Craig said the fishery actually is regulated, however, it's the marketplace that does the regulating.

Mr. Gilmore said he could talk for hours about fisheries that are regulated by the market and how they don't exist any longer. It's not the way to manage a fishery.

Councilor Chris Squeri said that he will be abstaining on this vote since he arrived late and doesn't have the benefit of having heard both sides of the argument.

Mr. Augustine said the reality is that an action has to be taken on Mr. Gilmore's behalf. Perhaps since the DEC does not have money to fund their own pot survey, Cornell and possibly some conch fishermen can get together with their data and give it to the DEC as a starting point. As much as Mr. Augustine isn't comfortable with the data presented by Ms. McKown to make a hard judgement that will affect people's lives, it's the only data they have and it is showing consistency. He also stated that if Long Island fishermen are convinced there are different sizes for Long Island Sound, perhaps there should be talk about declaring Long Island a "region". In any event Mr. Gilmore needs to come up with a plan and we need to work together on this.

Mr. German hopes that if the Council does vote for status quo that the DEC will actually listen to what this advisory Council has to say. He believes this is the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning conch and many people have taken valuable time out of their days to present their case, he only hopes the DEC listens. To him, this will be a test to see how much the DEC even listens to the Council's advice or decisions.

Mr. Bob Leske who works for The Department of Maritime Service in the Town of Huntington was invited to the meeting by a Council member. He found the presentation informative up to a point. He knows that other states have set up regulations but he would be very interested in hearing the rationale behind their decisions and any results from their new regulations. He believes collecting and pooling the data would be a perfect job for a graduate student and while the data would be for waters that aren't "our waters", it would still be a good foundation when making a decision.

Mr. Jordan doesn't understand this motion because no matter what, you are not going to stop this ball from rolling. You can vote for status quo tomorrow and for the foreseeable future, it does not stop the State's responsibility to formulate a plan, you are just postponing the inevitable.

Mr. Farnham feels this might be the only way to get the point across as to the frustration they are feeling regarding insufficient data.

Mr. Gilmore said this vote won't really mean anything, it's like voting on the air. There will be formal meetings with options and that is what you will need to vote on. Until such time, things will be status quo anyway.

Vote on motion: All in favor -4 Opposed -1 Abstentions-6. Motion carries.

Mr. Arnold Leo, as spokesperson for the Fishery Advisory Committee for the Town of East Hampton stated that their group would like to see a ring size for the conch instead of a length measurement size.

#### Horseshoe Crab Legislation and Regulations

As part of the management and conservation measures authorized under subdivision 7 of section 13-0331 of the environmental conservation law as pertains to horseshoe crabs, the department of environmental conservation shall consider the following:

- (a) the use of bait bags in whelk pots;
- (b) the impacts of establishing seasons during spawning and non-spawning seasons;
- (c) the impacts of establishing harvest limits based on sex; and
- (d) ecologically based consideration of harvest limits and quotas to include factors such as shore bird consumption based on information collected and used by the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission.

#### *Current Section 7 of § 13-0331*

*7. The department may, until December thirty-first, two thousand seventeen, fix by regulation measures for the management of crabs of any kind including horseshoe crabs (Limulus sp.), including size limits, catch and possession limits, open and closed seasons, closed areas, restrictions on the manner of taking and landing, requirements for permits and eligibility therefor, recordkeeping requirements, requirements on the amount and type of fishing effort and gear, and requirements relating to transportation, possession and sale, provided that such regulations are no less restrictive than requirements set forth in this chapter and provided further that such regulations are consistent with the compliance requirements of applicable fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and with applicable provisions of fishery management plans adopted pursuant to the Federal Fishery Conservation and Management Act*

Choices (a) (b) (c) and (d) above are what management must consider when thinking of management measures. It will then come to MRAC for discussion.

Mr. Gilmore continued. New York has already put reduction/management measures in place. Our quota is 360,000 crabs making it a 50% reduction. They have also identified spawner areas in different towns and on Fire Island National Seashore. They have tried to make a compelling case that management is the way to handle this fishery verses just shutting it down. Maryland and Delaware put a "male only" fishery in place and it has created nothing but havoc for them, they are now very concerned about reproduction issues and are working toward correcting their dilemma. New Jersey put a moratorium into effect on a relatively healthy population which has driven the price up, which in turn has led to poaching. By shutting the fishery down in order to protect it will only serve to have the opposite effect. Because of poaching, the fishery will be disseminated.

People on the Council as well as many audience members congratulated Jim Gilmore on being a voice of reason at the Horseshoe Crab meeting. Mr. German believes that politics played a tremendous role and there was really nothing else he could have done. He doesn't believe that the politicians or the people realize that the allowable quota was actually cut down to 50%. To further

complicate matters, the 50% was actually meant to be used by the fishermen on Long Island but it's now supplying the coast and it was never meant to be that way.

### **Fisheries Updates**

#### **Summer Flounder**

- Allowable Biological Catch reduced by 29%
- MRIP data through Wave 3 (May and June) available
- Coast-wide through Wave 3, 2015 harvest is down 14% vs. 2014
- In contrast, 2015 NY harvest is 185% of its 2014 Wave 3 estimate

Mr. Gilmore said The SSC (Science and Statistical Committee) decided that in lieu of a 43% reduction in one year, they would spread the reduction over a 3 year period. Keep in mind also that Wave 4 statistics won't be available until mid October and remains the largest wave for New York and New Jersey. At the August meeting, Mr. Gilmore was pleasantly surprised that most states still want to go with regional management even though there will be a significant decrease. The next step is to come up with the best way to spread out the 29%.

#### **Scup**

- No significant changes expected for 2016 in both commercial and recreational fisheries
- Coast-wide harvest in 2015 is 20% less through wave 3 than it was in 2014
- NY surveys are showing very large numbers of YOY(young of year) scup

#### **Black Sea bass**

- Mid Atlantic still under constant catch limits
- MAFMC SSC meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> to formally consider an alternative
- 2015 coast-wide recreational harvest through Wave 3 is 25% greater than it was in 2014

#### **Bluefish**

- Allowable Biological Catch reduced by 10%
- This will not impact the recreational fishery
- Commercial fishery may see greater than 10% reduction but 2016 quotas cannot be finalized until full 2015 recreational harvest is known.

#### **Tautog**

- Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 1 to the FMP is on [www.ASMFC.org](http://www.ASMFC.org) for review and comment through October 23, 2015
- PID includes:
  - Regional Management
  - Major issues and possible alternatives. Your comments are wanted!!!!
- A NY spring recreational season is NOT part of the ASMFC Amendment. That is an issue specific to NYS.

For both commercial and recreational

#### **Lobster**

- Lobster Stock Assessment completed in June 2015
- SNE stock is severely depleted, especially inshore
- ASMFC subcommittee meets on October 2, 2015 in Old Lyme, CT to consider next steps

#### **Jonah crab**

- ASMFC FMP adopted in August 2015
- Mandatory reporting – dealers and harvesters
- Directed fishery participants limited to lobster permit holders or fishers w/ Jonah Crab landings prior to 6/2/15
- Incidental bycatch of up to 200 crab/day allowed, 500 crab/multi-day trip for non-trap gear
- Whole crab only, 4.75" carapace width, No eggies
- Claw landings exempted in some states

#### **Blueline Tilefish**

- MAFMC is developing management measures in response to recent increased landings
- Emergency federal measures include:

- 300lbs commercial possession limit per trip
- 7 fish per person per trip recreational possession limit
- Commercial and for-hire vessels must hold open access golden tilefish permit to land blueline tilefish

Mr. Jordan questioned if there will be a stock assessment for striped bass due in 2016 and the answer was yes, it will “happen” in 2016.

Mr. Farnham said there will be a 29% reduction of Summer Flounder in 2016 but what do you think we’ll see in 2017 and 2018? Mr. Gilmore said when looking at the specific numbers, it doesn’t appear to add up correctly but it is correct. Mr. Farnham asked if the calculations could change depending on what the survey in 2016 says? Again, the answer was yes. Dr. Frisk sits on the SSC and said he understands why the committee did what they did but there is a risk in doing it this way. Should the trend continue to go down, we could be looking at more reductions. Everyone is hoping for a good year next year.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Squeri do not believe the data that was brought up regarding fluke. Seeing the numbers makes you have no faith in the system, it’s a slap in the face. Especially in view of the fact that May and July were terrible weather wise not to mention how bad the catch was. The season really didn’t even begin until July 4<sup>th</sup>. July and August was great months weather-wise and catch-wise so they are really concerned what the numbers are going to reflect.

Mr. Witek said that where he fishes on the South Shore, there weren’t any fish. He’s talking about 18, 20 and 22 inch fish that usually fill the box. The Northfork was a little luckier but you still had to work very hard to catch the fish.

Ms. Dearborn also sees this as very alarming. She knows what the sales were at her shop and the numbers just don’t match up.

Mr. Craig wanted to know about the blackfish landing license. Audience member John Mihale believes it passed in the Assembly but it will need to be resubmitted for the Senate.

Ms. Dearborn would like to look ahead to next year’s opening dates and would prefer a Saturday opening date for blackfish rather than a Tuesday or Wednesday. This will be placed on November’s agenda in order for it to be handled in a timely fashion for 2016.

Mr. Paradiso agrees with Ms. Dearborn because with the 29% reduction what will there be to fish for in May? A spring blackfish season might help.

John Mihale thinks that the regional approach might work for summer flounder but he doesn’t think it will work for the commercial side of blackfish; recreational side – possibly. New York is limited to 25 blackfish, however, NJ has a permit where you can harvest an unlimited number of blackfish on any particular day; they have an annual quota of a little over 100,000 lbs. Should we switch to the regional approach, we would just end up with numerous closures. We’ve worked really hard over many years to have a fishing mortality rate of .15 and finally four years ago we reached that goal. When you read this plan, it says that blackfish reaches sexual maturity at 3-4 years of age, 7-12 inches. Since we reached .15, none of the fish that have come into existence, we are not able to harvest because they haven’t reached the 16” size limit. Aside from his tremendous concern about the commercial regional approach, we might be jumping the gun. We have waited a long time to get to .15, we need to give it a chance. We would lose in a big way.

#### **Sandy Disaster Grant**

People are now able to apply for a grant to replace lost income or revenue due to Hurricane Sandy. For assistance in filling out the appropriate forms, people will be directed to visit the Small Business Center. Unfortunately the amount of the grant coincides with the number of people who apply, for example if 100 people apply, the money will be divided by 100, should only 4 people apply, the amount gets divided by 4. The application period will be approximately 90 days, with the middle of December will be the cut off. There will information on the DEC webpage. They learned from their mistakes when New York Rise was rolled out and they feel this will run more smoothly.

#### **Forage Fish**

Ms. Dearborn questioned a ruling made by the Mid-Atlantic Council regarding the prohibition of developing a forage fishery in the EEZ; she would like more specifics. Mr. Heins said this will not affect state waters. The Council recognized that Atlantic silver sides and sand eels are used as bait for recreational fishing, so they are aware these are existing fisheries, however, they are not managed nor do they have any data on those particular species. There will be scoping hearings to get public input.

The final meeting for the calendar year 2015 for the Marine Resources Advisory Council is:

**November 17<sup>th</sup> -- 6:00 p.m.\*\*** - Stony Brook University, 120 Endeavour Hall - for driving directions, check MRAC's web page:  
<http://you.stonybrook.edu/mrac/meetings/>

For agenda items and any pertinent graphs, charts or data, please check the Council's web page 2 weeks prior to a meeting.  
<http://you.stonybrook.edu/mrac/meetings/>

For further information about the Marine Resources Advisory Council or items covered in this bulletin, to make arrangements for addressing the Council on an agenda item or submitting written comments on an agenda item, or to suggest an agenda item, contact: Chairman, Michael Frisk, Marine Resources Advisory Council ([michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu](mailto:michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu)); phone 631/632-8656; secretary, [kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu](mailto:kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu)

**\*\*Please note time/location change**