

# Marine Resources Advisory Council

Marine Resources Advisory Council

May 8, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

Sean Barrett

Robert Danielson

John Davi, Jr.

Melissa Dearborn

Vincent Finalborgo

Thomas Jordan

Hank Lackner

Joseph Paradiso

Christopher Squeri

Charles Witek

Steve Witthuhn

Dean Yaxa

The evening's meeting began with introductions by the Chairman and Councilors present as well as James Gilmore, Director of the DEC's Marine Bureau. Dr. Frisk then went over the evening's agenda. Prior to this meeting, the Legislative Review meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. which reviewed Legislative Bills currently in the hopper; there is a separate bulletin for that.

## Public Comments

Marc Hoffman who is a member on the ASMFC Advisory Panel for seabass, scup and fluke referenced an article that was in Newsday in April; it was in regard to the steep decline of soft-shell clams along the New England coast. Researchers attribute the decline to predation as well as algal blooms that render the shellfish unsafe to eat. Just recently they were boasting about their large seabass population and now their clamming industry is in trouble, he believes this further substantiates the case to increase the seabass quota.

Mr. Richard LaRocca, commercial fisher from Shinnecock posed a question on behalf of himself and many of the commercial striped bass tag holders; he wanted to know if any progress had been made with regard to an early opening. Mr. Gilmore said there still needs to be a 2-year study taken, however, he hopes to be able to accelerate a piece of it. Mr. LaRocca also believes the recreational fishers owe Mr. Gilmore and his staff thanks for getting them higher quota as well as an extended season. He hopes that he will be able to help the commercial sector too.

Nancy Solomon, Director of LI Traditions, wonders where things stand with regard to the new DEC Headquarters. Mr. Gilmore said they are on track with their plans and they hope to be in the new offices by 2020. The location of the new facility will be the Nissequogue State Park.

Mr. Carl Lobue of The Nature Conservancy wanted to mention that Governor Cuomo is putting a bill together that prohibits off shore oil drilling in New York waters.

## Announcement

Mr. Gilmore continued speaking with regard to the Governor's bill. Governor Cuomo has introduced legislation that would prohibit leases for drilling underwater within three miles of New York's coastline. Cuomo's "Save Our Waters" bill also would prohibit drilling-related infrastructure on state land and block navigation on New York waters of crude oil associated with offshore production in the North Atlantic. There will still be a push to have 800 megawatts of wind power but the difference is – it's a structure and being such, you will be

Michael Frisk  
Chairman

Kim Knoll  
Staff Assistant

able to fish off it whereas with a oil/gas tower structure, you won't be able to get within a few hundred feet because of Homeland Security.

Governor Cuomo has also been instrumental in moving forward with the artificial reef program. The DEC had reached a stalemate in their dealings with the folks from The Tappen Zee Bridge. The DEC then contacted the Governor's office and things were expedited and the program received an additional boost because there have also been offers for barges and tugs from the old Erie Canal System, rock and pike from the D.O.T. and they get calls every day so it's very exciting to get this program back on track.

### Black Sea Bass

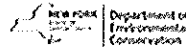
The following presentation was given by John Maniscalco.

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## **ASMFC Addendum 30**

Management Board voted on February 8 to approve Add. 30:

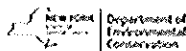
- Regional management
- Allocations
- More consistent regulations within a region



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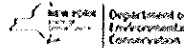
## **ASMFC Addendum 30 (continued)**

- Allocations voted on in February left the northern region with a 12% reduction
- NY-MA appealed the decision, which would have resulted in a 6% regional reduction for the northern states
- March 27 public meeting in response to Add. 30:
  - Public opinion did not support a 12% reduction or an appeal for a 6% reduction



## ASMFC Addendum 30 (continued)

- Marine Resources worked with ASMFC staff to develop an alternative 0% reduction proposal
- ASMFC met on May 3 to consider appeal and the alternative proposal
- ASMFC approved the alternative proposal for a ~0% reduction



## 2018 NY Rec Black Sea Bass Scenarios

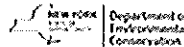
2017: 3 fish 6/27-8/31, 8 fish 9/1-10/31, 10 fish 11/1-12/31

For 2018:

Original Add. 30 (-12%): 3 fish 7/3-8/31, 5 fish 9/1-12/31

Appeal (-6%): 3 fish 6/29-8/31, 7 fish 9/1-12/31

*Alternative Proposal (+2%): 3 fish 6/23-8/31, 7 fish 9/1-12/31*



## Proposed Federal Rules

12.5" minimum size, 15 fish possession limit, open season May 15-December 31

- Fall closure has been removed

If ASMFC had not been able to reach agreement on the alternative proposal, NMFS would have imposed non-preferred coast-wide measures:

- 14" minimum size, 5 fish, open season May 15-September 15

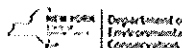


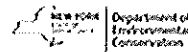
Table 1 State by State Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures for 2018

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State	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	Open Season
ME	13"	10 fish	May 15-Sep 21; Oct 18-Dec 31
NH	13"	10 fish	Jan 1-Dec 31
MA	15"	5 fish	May 15-Sep 12
RI	15"	3 fish	Jun 24-Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1-Dec 31
CT, Private/Shore	15"	5 fish	May 15-Dec 31
CT, Authorized Piers/Charter	15"	5 fish	May 19-Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1-Dec 31
NY	15"	3 fish	Jun 21-Aug 31
		7 fish	Sep 1-Dec 31
	12.5"	10 fish	May 15-Jun 22
	12.5"	2 fish	Jul 1-Aug 31
NJ	12.5"	10 fish	Oct 8-Oct 31
	13"	15 fish	Nov 1-Dec 31
DE, MD, VA, & NC (North of Cape Hatteras)	12.5"	15 fish	May 15-Dec 31

Note: Cells are shaded to help with table readability and do not indicate regional alignment.

Table from the  
ASMFC 2018  
Spring  
Meeting  
Summary  
(page 25)



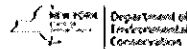
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## Next Steps at ASMFC

*"address the changes in black sea bass abundance and distribution by initiating management actions to consider management based on the distribution of the resource along with any other options recommended by the Management Board. The Policy Board requests a new action to address the 2019 recreational fishery."*

And

*"task the plan development team to develop a white paper that would identify the actions of considering the changes in the black sea bass abundance for future commercial and recreational management actions."*



Mr. Maniscalco said the ASMFC realized that this is basically just a band aid and the DEC will be working for a more equitable distribution for New York State.

Councilor Witthuhn hopes that the northern states will work together with us to which Mr. Gilmore replied that they already have; at the February meeting, Maine and New Hampshire abstained but when it went to the Policy Board, they voted in favor of "the fix." North Carolina was the only state to vote against it.

Mr. Danielson asked if we would be better off if we go with the preferred federal regulation. Mr. Maniscalco said the only way it could be put in place is if the northern states constrained their harvest (basically every state from Massachusetts to New York would have to adopt this). Mr. Gilmore said it would kill the state fishery.

Councilor Dearborn questioned if the idea is to have more consistency within the region, why then does Connecticut and Massachusetts get to open so much earlier. Mr. Maniscalco replied that while Massachusetts opens earlier, it closes earlier, but Ms. Dearborn said the same isn't true for Connecticut. Mr. Maniscalco said there was so much back and forth going on at the meeting, some things were good, some were not.

Councilor Danielson wanted to know if there was a possibility for New York to follow the same methodology that New Jersey used concerning the fluke fishery with regard to mortality discards – to reduce the size limit? Mr. Maniscalco said that New Jersey had lost their appeal at ASMFC so what they did wasn't technically appropriate or correct. The reason they got away with what they did was purely political, there was nothing scientific about it. So, no, this is not something New York could/would follow.

Audience member Jaime Quarasimo asked why do we even have federal size limits and quotas if you're not allowed to land anywhere with them? If you fish in federal waters and you catch 12.5" seabass – you're not allowed to come home with it. Mr. Maniscalco agrees, it is messy. Summer Flounder have much cleaner rules and the discussion at the Commission was to move forward mimicking Summer Flounder regulations.

Mr. Joe Tangel from Center Moriches thought that last year's regulations were better than the current prospects especially considering they should be reflecting a 2% increase. He believes most people would be happier with status quo.

Mr. Maniscalco said he does understand the frustration due to the discrepancy between New York and New Jersey's regulations but the 2% liberalization that is felt as a reduction will most likely result in a higher harvest overall. You are capturing additional days in June and the increase in effort will result in a higher harvest. You cannot have more than seven fish under Addendum 30; this is what was agreed to at the ASMFC meeting. It was questioned where the fish that fall under the liberalization would be coming from to which Mr. Maniscalco replied that the expectation is that biomass is going to decline in the north because we are still fishing very heavily on the 2011 year class; therefore, this was the justification they gave to the federal government. So ASFC staff and New York Marine Resources staff both tried to make an argument within feasible lines that would prevent NY from having to take a reduction. 12% would have been the cleanest and easiest thing to do, however, no one wanted that.

Councilor Danielson said the fact still remains that there is a 240% overage of biomass on the 2011 year class that we're still fishing on and NMFS and NOAA have taken such a strict position on harvest that we can assume they would rather have the fish die of old age rather than on the deck of a boat. What, if anything, can New York do to get the National Marine Fisheries to liberalize our fisheries based on the 240% over target? Mr. Gilmore said the problem is that they can't fix this all in one year because of the numbers they were given to work with. Based on the math, Mr. Maniscalco worked out the best deal for next year and they realize it isn't perfect but there isn't much they can do about it. Believe it or not, there are folks that are happy about the regulations that have been worked out. They aren't at today's meeting because they are happy and don't have a complaint. We are trying to bring sanity back to the fishery and come up with a better management plan overall.

Mr. Danielson realized the fix will not happen in a year's time and he does appreciate all the hard work that the DEC has put into this, however, he also understands the frustration that many in the fishery are facing knowing that the biomass is up 240% and wanted it in the Minutes to show what is being done to alleviate this over constrictive methodology.

Mr. Hoffman suggested going to a 13" size limit because you would save greatly on discards. Smaller fish weigh less; when we're catching larger fish you reach the quota quicker but have actually less fish.

Mr. John Mihale agreed with Mr. Hoffman, he continued by saying that Black Sea Bass are all born as females, when they reach 2 years of age or about 10", they begin to spawn and eventually turn male. So, when you're fishing on 15" fish, they are all male. He would also like it noted that when we fish - the smaller the fish, the shallower the water, the higher the retention. The 13, 14 and 14.5 inch fish that you release is going to have a higher discard mortality. You eventually have to find a way in the management plan to come up with a size limit for everyone, both the commercial fisher and the recreational fisher and it should be around 12, 12.5 inches. If you are taking all the male fish out of the

fishery, the female won't have a chance to spawn. If they don't find a partner, they will all turn to male. This was met with applause from audience members.

It was stated that venting increases the survival rate for Black Sea Bass. It doesn't work with all species but it does work well for Black Sea Bass so it is encouraged.

Mr. Paradiso questioned when the next stock assessment will be coming out and the answer was 2019. He continued by saying that if we don't fix the Federal Fisheries Law, we will continue to have problems. The Addendum needs to be reviewed and changed.

Mr. Mark Cusumano asked - at what point do you look at the fishery do you realize the impact on the industry is just too great, no one is able to sell boat trips when the catch is only 3 fish. When you figure the cost of the boat trip itself, the fisher's gas, possible toll, having to get up at 4:00 a.m. - the average person will not continue to do this when the outcome is only 3 fish. Why would a person spend \$50,000 to purchase a Grady White to only catch 3 fish. Ridiculous.

Mr. Jaime Quarasimo said he's sick and tired of hearing that the DEC is doing the best that they can - he will be out of business soon. They are still facing a reduction, he is not happy with what has been decided.

An audience member agreed with Mr. Quarasimo. He said the DEP in Connecticut seems to really help out the party and charter boats by having separate party/charter boat bag limits. Is this something the DEC could look at - giving them a few extra fish could really go a long way in helping their businesses out. He said he fishes out of Montauk and is in the water with Connecticut fishers who brag that they have a separate category. Mr. Gilmore said he would look into it.

Lee Zeldin's representative said this deal is not a victory for New York. NY continues to roll over for the ASMFC. New York needs to be on a level playing field with New Jersey and Connecticut. He will not accept anything less than parody - he said those are Congressman Zeldin's words. He said the fishers may go home but this is not over.

Mr. Gilmore said they do the best they can and New York did not "roll over" they worked 14 days straight trying to find a solution.

Councilor Davi supported the DEC's efforts - he said it's very hard to manage a fishery that someone else is making the rules for, specifically the Federal Government. Mr. Gilmore and his staff work hard to try and get the best regulations for the fishers, folks should realize this by now.

#### **Updates from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting**

Mr. Gilmore said for the full set of meeting notes go to:

<http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/2018SpringMeeting/2018SpringMeetingSummary.pdf>

At the summer flounder, scup and black sea bass management board meeting, the main topic being discussed was the **summer flounder** commercial fishery and the amendment that is trying to fix the commercial allocations. Right now the best New York could get is 10% (it's currently 7%) and they would like to be more equitable with New Jersey and Rhode Island which are at 15%. New York's representatives wanted to put 2 more options in; 1 that would allow quota transfer between the states and the 2<sup>nd</sup> option is if this *cannot* be resolved, to go to coastwide measures. This would have ensured a new baseline so we wouldn't be working on 1980's data any longer. Unfortunately both of those measures were defeated. Even though they lost it brought to light that there is no long term solution for the commercial quota in terms of what this amendment is going to do - clearly it is not going to fix the problem. This will set up the petition response from New York and if that doesn't work, we will have a clearer case for litigation.

Mr. Richard LaRocca said that not too long ago we opened in the Spring with a quota of 500 lbs and now were down to 50 lbs - has the stock diminished that much? And is it really necessary? Mr. Maniscalco replied that this is the second

lowest coastwide commercial quota in the history of management since 1996; we are at a very low coastwide level which means New York's allocation is also very low.

**Bluefish** – There is a new amendment that is being put forward to fix the allocation. New York has been getting transfers for the past decade and we are looking to get a fair allocation through an amendment. Two years ago an issue came up between the commercial and recreational fishery and the transfer almost didn't happen. Without that transfer, New York's commercial fishery would have been in serious trouble. Mr. Danielson questioned if another stock assessment is coming up? He, along with many others realize they are just not seeing the same number of bluefish as in years past and he thinks something needs to be done. Mr. Maniscalco said that part of the new MRIP re-estimation is they must do an operational assessment for each species we care about before we can use the new MRIP data catch limits – otherwise it will be like looking at apples and oranges. He believes it will be done quite soon.

**Striped Bass** - Management Board met; however, no decisions were made

**Atlantic Menhaden** – Mr. Gilmore stated that next to the Black Sea Bass meeting, this meeting held the highest interest by far. Last year regulations were passed that changed the quota from 250,000 lbs to 3,500,000 lbs. in the bait fishery. Virginia was not happy with that because of the reduction fishery. They had a slight increase in the total allowable catch (TAC) but there was also a bay cap implemented stipulating a reduction from 80,000 metric tons to 52,000 mt for fishing within the Chesapeake Bay area. Virginia did not change their rules so a motion was made to find them out of compliance, the motion; however, has been postponed until August so they will have until then to change their rules. (The Commonwealth's General Assembly which oversees Atlantic Menhaden management in Virginia, was still in session at the time).

**Lobster** – Since they were in the middle of a new peer assessment, talk on lobsters was tabled.

**Winter flounder** – New York is currently living under a 50lb commercial by catch limit in state waters. Rhode Island came up with a proposal/motion to have 2-year state enacted pilot program, allowing for a aggregate 250 lb weekly trip limit that would be subject to daily reporting requirements. The feeling of the Board was that if you raised the limit that high, it would once again become a targeted fishery so the motion failed. We are staying at the 50lb by catch limit.

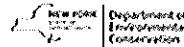
**Summer flounder** – The Summer Flounder Board actually met *after* the policy board had met *after* they came up with the black sea bass proposal and essentially they instituted that they would come up with other motions to try to put sanity back into the fishery.

#### **Update on Sharks/Squid/Cod Proposed Rules**

The following presentation was given by Gina Finelli (Gina.Fanelli@dec.ny.gov)

## Shark/Cod/Squid Proposed Rules

- Purpose of the rulemaking is to ensure consistency between federal and state fishery management plans for:
  - Coastal Sharks
  - Atlantic Cod
  - Longfin and *Illex* squid



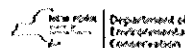
## Shark

- Prohibit food fish license holders from harvesting or possessing any non-prohibited sharks managed by NOAA Fisheries in excess of current federal daily harvest limits.
- Set recreational minimum size limits for shark harvest consistent with current federal size limits and measured in *fork length*.
- Prohibit the commercial and recreational possession of Blacknose shark.



## Atlantic Cod

- Decrease the commercial size limit for Atlantic cod from 22 to 19 inches. This will make the size limit for cod in New York consistent with neighboring states and federal waters.
- Set commercial possession limit for Atlantic cod for NYS Food Fish License holders. Federal permit holders and dual federal permit/state license holders must follow federal rules.

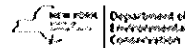




## NYS Fisher Cod Landings 2015 - 2017

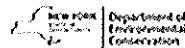
- Minimum Federal possession limit is 25 lbs
- 2015-2017 average catch landed is 35 lbs
- 72% of total trips landed under 35 lbs.
- 60% of landings and 88% of trips are  $\leq$  75 lbs
- 74% of landings and 96% of trips are  $\leq$  100 lbs

Looking for feedback from MRAC regarding potential trip limits



## NYS Fisher Cod Landings 2015 - 2017

Year	Landings(lbs)	Trips	Average Catch (lbs)	Participants
2015	3290	88	37	21
2016	2697	91	30	30
2017	3341	83	40	31



## Longfin and Illex Squid

- Set commercial trip and/or possession limits for longfin and Illex squid, including no possession (fishery closure).
- Due to differences in federal permitting and commercial quota management, the rules will be implemented differently for each species group.

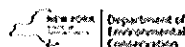


Figure 1 Total Longfin Squid Landings, Trimester II (May – August)

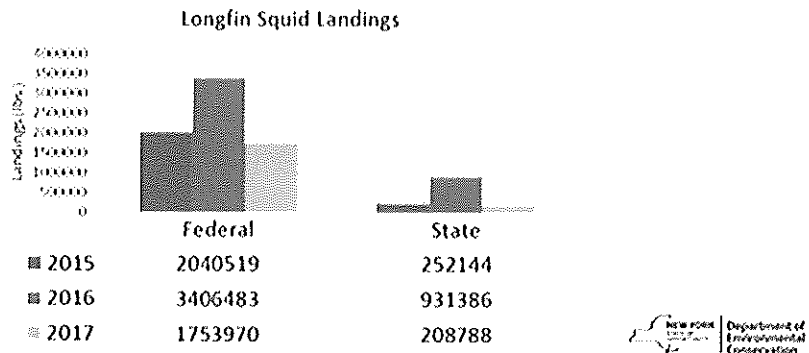


Figure 2 Total Longfin Squid Harvest Participants Trimester II (May – August)

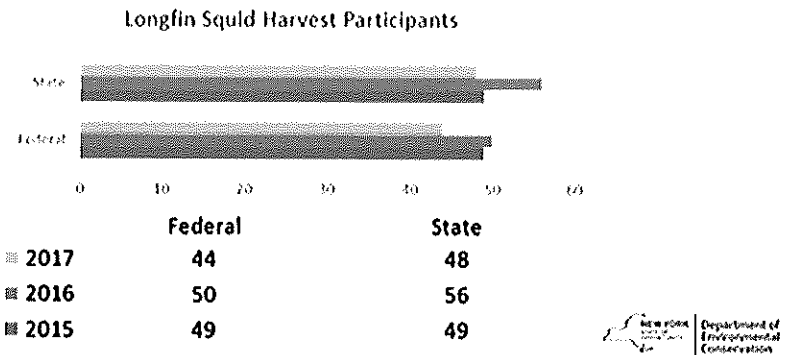
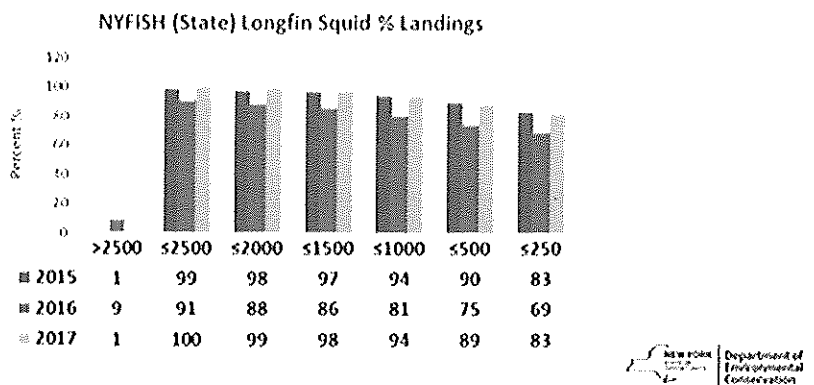


Figure 3 NYS Permit holders only: Frequency of trips reporting landings (lbs.) at different thresholds



## Regulatory Proposal Timeline

- Summer/Fall
  - Develop regulatory package
  - Internal review and sign off
  - publish in DOS register – 60 day comment period
  - Assessment of public comments
- Fall/Winter
  - Adopt the rules



### Discussion:

Mr. Mihale feels if you ever want the cod fish population to come back, we need to have sensible regulations for everyone.

Councilor Jordan said his greatest concern for high trip limits would be that state water fishing is almost non-enforceable at this point. Anyone who fishes offshore and crosses the line is good with any kind of trip limit we set - we do not want to encourage that kind of participation.

Ms. Finelli asked if the Council wanted to offer any specific numbers to be used in state waters. Mr. Jordan said he doesn't even feel it's fair in the history of the multi-species license, to even mirror the hand B gear permit initially. Years ago if you decided to keep your multi-species license, you made that decision. There was a 2-year buy-out program and many people sat back in year one waiting to see what would happen so they would know where they were at in year 2 and Mr. Jordan was one of those people. Then along came a federal suit in between year one and year two so now Mr. Jordan owns, under his multi-species license in codfish, .0001% and 50 lbs. of redfish. That was such a disaster, he cannot see creating a state fishery that's larger than what we have now. Trying to pick a fair number where federal permit holders don't feel they are being abused by the state permit holders, the number could be anywhere between 25 – 300 lbs. The higher the limit the more poaching will be involved.

Mr. Davi said in talking to some folks, the thinking is why do we have to be consistent with the feds when we don't have a limit right now. Ms. Finelli said because the stock is in trouble. He wonders if it is the same fishers who are bringing in the large numbers (300+lbs) of fish? If they are, it's clear they are doing this to make money and he doesn't think it would be right to take that ability away from them by coming up with a low catch number. Mr. Davi thinks the limit should be ~500 lbs. Mr. Jordan thinks it should be 50 lbs. because they should be fishing in state waters. They have no legitimate right to be fishing in federal waters and catching hundreds of pounds of cod in New York State. The likelihood that they are in federal waters is 98.9% and they are breaking the law – that is the point of this conversation. The minute you open the door you open the door to piracy. Mr. Davi said he would be okay with 100 lbs – he doesn't believe it's a lot of fish.

Councilor Jordan made a motion to recommend 50 lbs. Seconded by Councilor Witek.

An audience member wonders if some of the larger catches came out of Shinnecock because there is about 2-3 weeks in November when the fish are on the move and come down the beach, that's when the Shinnecock boats pick up a sizable number of cod. His other comment was that whatever poundage gets chosen, he thinks it would be easiest to go with a

number equivalent to what would fill a "box." Mr. Maniscalco said that the size of a box is different for different species. For cod it's 100 lbs.

Mr. LaRocca thinks it should be 200 lbs. and have it for a short time, say only for 2 months - November and December.

Chairman Frisk asked what is the Department seeking from the Council with regard to this. Ms. Fanelli replied that listening to the comments and conversation, she is finding this to be very helpful. Mr. Maniscalco added that in listening to the comments, he realizes there are a few areas that were not looked at, that should be before making any decisions. More information regarding seasonality and legalities will be looked at. Mr. Jordan agreed having more information would be helpful so he postponed his motion. The Department will gather the information and have it for a future meeting.

## Squid


The Department is looking for the authority to set trip limits for squid. It is the hope to have this authority implemented by the fall/winter season. This would be a pre-emptive measure to protect the New York fisher when the federal quota drops to 250 lbs.

Mr. Davi said there are many who count on this fishery to pay their bills. He thinks the minimum catch should be 1,200 lbs.

## Terrapin Excluder Device

The following presentation was given by Kim McKown ([kim.mckown@dec.ny.gov](mailto:kim.mckown@dec.ny.gov))


DO YOUR PART  
TO PREVENT  
UNNECESSARY  
DEATHS OF  
DIAMONDBACK  
TERRAPINS



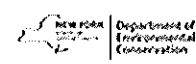
With a TED, the crab pot is modified so that the terrapin can enter the pot but cannot escape. The TED is a device that is placed at the entrance of the crab pot. It has a series of bars that the crab can pass through, but the terrapin cannot. The TED is made of metal and is easy to install. It is a simple and effective way to protect the terrapin from being caught in the crab pot.

### TED Poster

- Available from Department
  - Electronic
  - Poster copy
- Display at shops which sell non-collapsible crab pots



www.dec.ny.gov



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Recreation Nature Protect & Control Pollution Regulatory News & Learning

Crabbing in NY

NYMCC Blue Crab Tagging Program

Recreational Blue Crab Survey

Home » Outdoor Activities » Fishing » Saltwater Fishing » Crabbing in NY

## Crabbing in NY

### Crustacean Omnibus Regulatory Package Update



This regulatory package, effective March 29, 2018, includes the requirement for **sepioid excluder devices (TEDs)** measuring 4.5'4" x 4.5'4" on **commercial and recreational crab pots** set in near shore harbors, creeks, coves, rivers and bays in New York's Marine and Coastal District.

**An interactive map (link leaves DEC's website) is available for your reference.**

Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) are found in the tidal bays and estuaries of the marine district, and may enter crab traps in search of food. Once inside a crab trap, many terrapins cannot find the exit, they cannot surface or breathe, and they drown in the trap. Installation of TEDs on crab traps prevent many terrapins from entering crab traps.

A small number of TEDs (provided by The Nature Conservancy and Truist) will be available to crab pot fishers that have reported blue crab landings within the last two years, on a first come first serve basis at no cost. Please contact us at 631-444-6429 or [terrapin@dec.ny.gov](mailto:terrapin@dec.ny.gov) for more information.



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Crabbing in NY for Deceleration Requirements



## Interactive Map

- Click on area to get more detailed view of areas where TEDs are mandated



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## Interactive Map

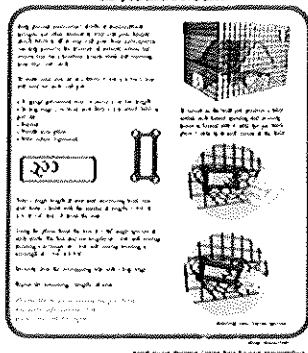
- Click on area to get more detailed view of areas where TEDs are mandated



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Division of Fish & Wildlife  
600 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12242  
518-402-6200 • 1-800-457-3333 • www.dec.ny.gov

#### Example of suitable equipment



## TED Availability

- TNC & Seatuck donated 7,000 TEDs (mixture of plastic and wire)
- Make your own
- Maryland Coastal Bays Program (mdcoastalbays.org)



Because there currently isn't a registry for recreational crabbers, it's difficult for the Department to get in touch directly with the folks involved in this fishery. The DEC does have a website that is useful and provides a lot of information for the crabbing community: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/75333.html>

There are also interactive maps that can also be referenced. Currently The Nature Conservancy and Seatuck are *giving* the device to crab pot fishers. For more information call (631) 444-0429.

Councilor Dearborn questioned who the ownership is on for complying - the tackle shops selling equipment or on the actual recreational fishers using the equipment? Officer Riley said most of the areas do not require them, it's only in the estuary areas. The same protection can be acquired by simply using two twist ties and making the area shorter. The final size is 1 3/4 x 4 3/4 inches.

### Marine Registry Permits

A question has come up regarding what is acceptable as far as when you need to show your permit. Do you need an actual printed copy or will a screen shot on your phone suffice. Officer Riley said as long as they have proof - whatever form isn't important. He said that he finds it funny that fishers may go fishing without their wallet but they would never think of going fishing without their non-waterproof cell phone. FYI: the DEC has a new app that will display your license.

### MRIP

The council engaged in a conversation regarding the methods that MRIP utilizes to estimate recreation catch. Director Gilmore thought it best to get someone directly from NOAA who would be better able to explain the inner workings of the MRIP process. Mr. Vecchio said he will contact David Baard and see if he would be able to come to a future meeting. A MRIP specialist will attend the September MRAC meeting.

Mr. Jordan wanted to add his appreciation to Mr. Maniscalco and Mr. Gilmore for the tireless work they did to help New York fishers get a better deal with Black Sea Bass. He has been a Councilor for many years and he knows the amount of work and strategic thinking that went into this matter and doesn't think people realize what they were able to accomplish on their behalf.

Mr. Squeri said he found it ironic that the Congressman's aid who is coming from the Federal side, actually criticized the work that the DEC put in to get what they did when it's the Federal side who has screwed things up to begin with. The Congressman can lean on NMFFS, he can get Magnuson changed and yet they choose to throw the DEC under the bus.

Councilor Dearborn also wanted to add her thanks and she said the most important thing to come out of this ordeal is the fact that the federal government now realizes that there needs to be a change. The DEC pushed things as hard as they could and in doing so, they have opened the door for something better for next year.

#### 2018 Meeting Schedule

July 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences – Stony Brook University

September 11<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m. DEC Offices

November 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m. DEC Offices

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For further information about the Marine Resources Advisory Council, past and present bulletins, as well as any pertinent graphs, charts or data, please check the Council's web page: <http://you.stonybrook.edu/mrac/meetings/>

Should you wish to suggest an agenda topic, contact the Chairman, Michael Frisk, ([Michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu)); phone 631/632-8656; Staff Assistant, Kim Knoll, ([kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu](mailto:kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu))