



**Marine Resources Advisory Council Bulletin**  
March 26, 2019

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

Michael Frisk  
Chairman

Kim Knoll  
Staff Assistant

Chairman Frisk began the day's meeting by going over the agenda. He especially wanted to clarify the much anticipated topic of Striped Bass since it was obvious that many in the audience were in attendance for this particular issue. Prior to today's meeting, Dr. Frisk sent a memo to all bulletin recipients and posted it on the MRAC web page that outlined specifically what input the Council and DEC was hoping to receive with regard to Striped Bass during today's meeting. The discussion today will be covered primarily by the Council with limited input from the audience. Since the assessment hasn't been completed as of yet, there will not be a full discussion today; that will take place at a later date when all the information is available. He wanted folks to keep in mind that The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board is scheduled to meet in April and it is at that meeting the Board will be reviewing the stock assessment results and work with the results to come up with an appropriate management plan. Prior to any changes, there will be an opportunity for voices to be heard at a public hearing. Notifications for the meeting will be posted well in advance.

The Councilors as well as James Gilmore, Director of the Marine Division of the DEC and Sean Reilly, Supervisor of Marine Enforcement, then introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes - January 22, 2019**

Councilor Witthuhn wanted it clarified that the DEC was in favor of the transit zone and would like it to be part of the Minutes (in reviewing the audio from the meeting, this statement was not found to have taken place during January's meeting but the comment actually took place during the November meeting and has been included in the Minutes (page 6, bottom paragraph). He also made a comment concerning Scup, he had stated that he did not understand why we would allow a large commercial harvest in May and June which are months in their spawning season – he had agreed with Councilor Davi to keep a higher trip quota for July and August to give spawning a chance, he would like this comment on the record. With that addition, Councilor Danielson moved to accept, Councilor Dearborn seconded. All in favor- 9, opposed -0 abstained -Motion passes.

**Public Comment – non-agenda items**

John Schoenig, representing Conservation Chairman Imperial Sportsman Club and Suffolk Senior's Fishing Club – believes that from things he has heard we will be facing status quo for this year however, he doesn't understand why the announcement doesn't come out publicly sooner. People need to know earlier in order to plan out their season. Mr. Gilmore said the problem lies in the fact that Wave 6 data comes out so late, they need to wait for that information before they can say with certainty what the regulations will be, however,

the rules will be remaining the same. (Mr. Schoenig was referring to the Summer Flounder fishing regulations.)

Ms. Nancy Solomon wanted to alert folks that there will be a workshop the following day with regard to wind farms and it will be taking place at Danford's in Port Jefferson.

Steve Cannizzo said that he, too, recalls that the DEC was in favor of opening the Block Island transit zone yet he believes that Mr. Gilmore voted against it at the recent Atlantic States Commission meeting and wanted clarification. Mr. Gilmore doesn't recall being in attendance for the vote.

Mr. August Ruckdeschel from Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning together with NY Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the LI Commercial Fishing Association have put together a survey for the commercial fishing industry. Mr. Ruckdeschel gave a presentation at the January meeting and distributed the survey; however, he would like to receive additional feedback. The survey deals with challenges in the industry and support structures and infrastructure and it is completely anonymous. He brought additional surveys with him and asked the audience to take the time to fill it out. Should you wish to do so electronically, here is the link:

[https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_brBjKWQyZQKWgjb](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_brBjKWQyZQKWgjb)

Mr. John Mihale suggested during the January Council meeting that he feels it would be in the best interest of the Striped Bass industry to work in 3-year increments as far as regulations are concerned, however, since not everyone agreed with that he believes that the number of tags being given out this year should be 87,500 expecting a 18% return and 11.1 lb. average which is the same as last year. That would get us roughly to the 796,000 lb. quota. The best data is to look at what happened the year before - we can't keep going under and leaving fish in the water. This is about filling the full allocation that is given.

#### **Update on joint meeting of the ASMFC and MAFMC:**

The following presentation was given by John Maniscalco:

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## **ASMFC/MAFMC Joint Meeting Update**

Meeting held on March 6 & 7, 2019 in Virginia Beach.

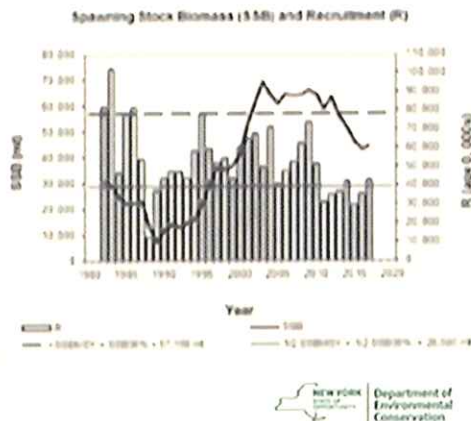
- Summer Flounder
- Black Sea Bass
- Bluefish
- Scup





## Summer Flounder

- New stock assessment:
  - Not overfished
  - Not overfishing
- New coastwide catch limits:
  - 11.53 Mlb comm (vs. 7.72)
  - 7.69 Mlb rec (vs. 5.15)
  - In place 2019-2021, + 49%
- New limits to be published by NMFS late April/early May.



## Summer Flounder - continued

- Implications for New York:
  - Status quo recreational measures (19", 4 fish, May 4-Sep. 30)
  - 510,000 pound comm. quota increased to ~800,000 pounds
    - This assumes 1993 based allocation of 7.65%
    - Marine Resources will provide a new quota distrib. plan after NMFS publishes final numbers
- Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment
  - No changes made for landings flexibility or federal licensing
  - Modified state allocation system using 9.55 Mlb trigger
    - Implementation in 2020 or 2021



## Summer Flounder - continued

	% Allocation up to and including new threshold of 9.55 million pounds	% Allocation of quota beyond threshold	Quota at 9.55 million pounds	Quota at 11.0 million pounds	% Allocation at 11.0 million pounds	Quota at 14.0 million pounds (high example)	% Allocation at 14.0 million pounds
ME	0.04736	0.3333	4,544	9,361	0.08310	19,360	0.13828
NH	0.00046	0.3333	44	4,860	0.04418	14,859	0.10614
MA	6.82046	12.375	651,693	830,514	7.55012	1,201,764	8.58403
RI	15.68298	12.375	1,498,509	1,677,327	15.24843	2,048,577	14.63270
CT	2.23708	12.375	215,664	394,483	3.55611	765,733	5.46952
<b>NY</b>	<b>7.64699</b>	<b>12.375</b>	<b>730,670</b>	<b>909,489</b>	<b>8.26808</b>	<b>1,280,789</b>	<b>9.14813</b>
NJ	16.72499	12.375	1,598,073	1,776,892	16.15356	2,148,142	15.34387
DE	0.01779	0.3333	1,700	6,516	0.03924	16,515	0.11796
MD	2.0391	12.375	194,836	373,653	3.39636	744,905	5.32075
VA	21.31676	12.375	2,036,816	2,215,635	20.14214	2,386,883	18.47775
NC	27.44584	12.375	2,622,450	2,801,269	25.46608	3,172,519	22.66085

New York State's lawsuit is ongoing.



## Black Sea Bass

- Status quo recreational measures:
  - 15.0", June 23-Aug. 31, 3 fish
  - 15.0", Sep. 1-Dec. 31, 7 fish
- Status quo commercial quota of 246,400 pounds
- Stock assessment completed mid-late 2019
  - New catch limits in place for 2020
- MAFMC/ASMFC is beginning to discuss commercial allocations and recreational management reform.

## Bluefish

- Stock assessment completed mid-late 2019.
  - New catch limits in place for 2020



## Scup

- Slight relaxation of recreational regulations that are expected to be proposed shortly:

### Tentatively

- Open year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31) around at 9" and 30 fish
- For-hire bonus season increased from 45 to 50 fish (Sep. and Oct. only)
- Stock assessment completed mid-late 2019
  - New catch limits in place for 2020



## Upcoming Meetings

- MAFMC April 8-11, 2019 in Avalon, NJ
- ASMFC April 29-May 2, 2019 in Arlington, VA



Councilor Witthuhn wanted to know if he had missed a slide that represents recreational allocation for Fluke. Mr. Maniscalco said this presentation for Fluke was strictly commercial since the recreational industry is remaining status quo. Mr. Witthuhn said he wanted to discuss the recreational allocation because he was very upset by the allocation amount; everyone in the industry believed they were going to be liberalized. Where did the newest set of numbers



come from? He continued by saying he wanted more clarification with regard to MRIP's Data collection process. The newest set of numbers is mind boggling and he wants to see exactly where the information is coming from. He believes there needs to be much more transparency, specifically - he wants to know how the information is extrapolated. Chairman Frisk said that the Council has already had a presentation from MRIP to explain how the system works; he questioned what Mr. Witthuhn is specifically looking for. Mr. Witthuhn believes there is corruption somewhere along the way and he wants to know how New York's data gets captured and processed because the results belie the information being collected. Mr. Gilmore said they will be happy to sit and explain the process with him.

Mr. Sean O'Neill questioned if they might be able to keep Summer Flounder open in November for the commercial industry. Councilor Davi answered by saying at the distribution meeting it was discussed that if they did receive a little extra, they were going to use it in November.

Ms. Davidson continued by saying they know they are getting more fish, they believe it to be ~300,000 lbs. Being open in November depends on the summer variables such as weather conditions, if they increase the daily trip limits, and the number of fish caught. Ms. Davidson said they want to ensure that there are no closures in the summer months as well. Mr. Davi said he would be happier with September rather than fishing in July.

Mr. Witthuhn is upset that the Commercial sector is getting an increase but the recreational sector is not. Mr. Maniscalco said the recreational industry numbers from MRIP showed the harvest number to have doubled, which goes into the assessment. Once the numbers are run through the models it showed the biomass to be larger than expected prior to the assessment. There is also the establishment of sector allocations of the FMP where MRFS fishery gets 60% and recreational gets 40%. They then get a new catch limit that comes out of the assessment and that 40% is 7.7 million lbs. So instead of the harvest being 3 or 4 million lbs., it is actually 7+ million lbs. If the Rhl is 7.7 and we're already at 7, there isn't enough room to make any kind of change. Mr. Witthuhn questioned if discards played a part but Mr. Maniscalco replied that it wasn't a huge part.

Steve Cannizzo also feels there is something seriously wrong. Everyone believed they were going to see some kind of liberalization and now all of a sudden the recreational industry is being penalized. The fishers know they don't harvest what they used to so where are the ridiculous numbers coming from?

#### **STRIPED BASS ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Gilmore began by trying to get everyone on the same page. Due to social media, there has been much discussion and many misconceptions surrounding striped bass that have been circulating; the shutdown of the Federal Government only compounded the confusion. Mr. Gilmore said that although the assessment was completed by the end of 2018, the results should have been discussed at the ASMFC meeting in February, however, because of the shutdown, that meeting did not take place. Because the assessment wasn't fully accepted by NOAA fisheries, nothing could be initiated. While the assessment has not been accepted as of yet, the DEC does anticipate it will be shortly. He continued by saying the assessment shows that we are in fact overfished, however, things aren't as bad as the 1980's when the fishery collapsed.

We are early in the process and Mr. Gilmore wanted to explain what to expect. Striped Bass management measures will be discussed at the Striped Bass Management meeting that is being held in Arlington, Virginia on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged any and all folks who are interested to attend, it is an open meeting. It is at that meeting (under normal process) that an addendum will be issued, it would be fleshed out, options will be put together followed by public meetings during the summer and probably have a decision sometime in the fall. Management action will not come to fruition until 2020. Some folks want things done sooner which will be discussed at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. So right now, they are looking for options to discuss at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The MRAC meeting that will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be held at Stony Brook University to accommodate a larger audience, the public will have a chance to voice their opinions and preferences for the options that come from the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Should there be a decision to have a fast track

Addendum, meaning they will have a decision in August that will be in that document. Nothing is being decided today in terms of management.

Mr. Davi wants to ensure that the commercial fishers not get penalized because they have not overharvested, this reduction should rest solely on the recreational industry. He also agrees with Mr. Mihale's recommendation from a previous meeting to have a 3 year plan for the commercial sector and not rely on doing this yearly.

The following is a presentation given by Carol Hoffman:



## NY Striped Bass

MRAC March 26, 2019

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**Commercial**

**Striped Bass**





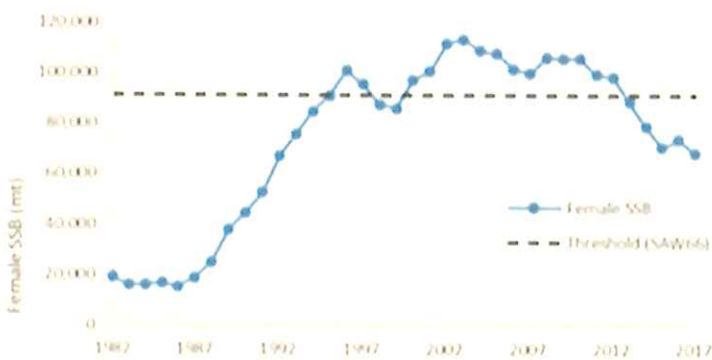
## Proposed Rulemaking:

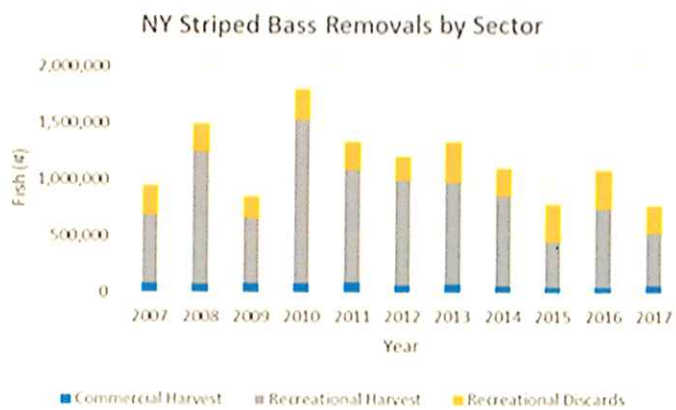
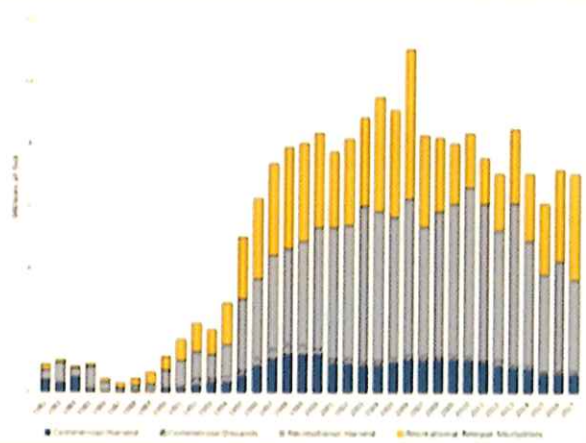
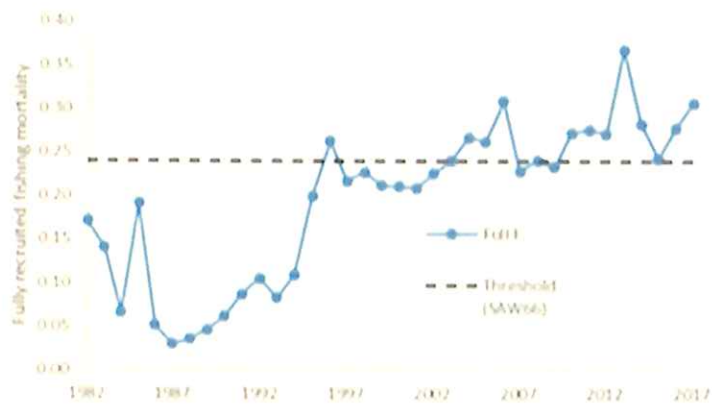
- Open Commercial Season 2 weeks earlier (May 15 instead of June 1) No change to quota or area.
- Comments accepted until April 15, 2019.
- [FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov](mailto:FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov)



***All assessment related numbers, results and conclusions presented here are tentative until the peer-review report is released and the ASMFC Board considers the results and votes on their approval***

## Benchmark Stock Assessment Preview







## Further Info:

- <https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd1901/>
- For link to Striped Bass Peer review Summary Report



Mr. Witthuhn wanted to know because we are opening up the fishing sooner, why can't we also open up some of the closed areas? Mr. Gilmore replied it's because that would be a separate and different process. It must be done in conjunction with the Health Department. Opening earlier is not changing the amount of fish being caught, just the time frame. Mr. Gilmore said the DEC is currently doing sampling for the Health Department which will determine levels of PCB contaminants in the closed areas to see if they can be re-opened and he is optimistic that such is the case. The current closures are based on studies from the 1980's.

It was questioned what sort of variables go into an assessment. Here is a link for complete information regarding the stock assessment:

<http://www.asmfc.org/species/atlantic-stripped-bass>

Options that were brought up and discussed:

1. Use of circle hooks for live bait
2. Use the best available science
3. Shorter fishing season/decrease harvest
4. Ban fishing for one year
5. Outlaw commercial fishing using nets (hook and line only)
6. Manage fishery to increase the spawning stock size
7. Fish on bigger fish
8. Fish only 28-31 inch
9. Eliminate recreational fishing
10. Eliminate surfcasting
11. Keep commercial fishery status quo
12. Daily limit on commercial harvest
13. Measures to protect Hudson River spawning season
14. Issue bass tags to recreational anglers
15. Create a slot size
16. Able to keep one large fish
17. Increase size limit gradually

18. Coast-wide measures
19. Implement measures as soon as possible
20. Season is open as long as possible
21. Eliminate treble/barbed hooks
22. Provide outreach about striped bass catch mortality rates
23. Evaluate natural mortality threats (seals, mycobacteria)
24. Guidance on catch and release practices
25. Make gamefish status
26. Reduce discard mortality
27. Overnight gill net mortality
28. Mandatory De-hooking tool
29. Open EEZ
30. Broader slot size (at least 6 inches)
31. Eliminate catch and release out of season
32. Same regulations for Hudson River, NYS Marine District, and New Jersey
33. No tolerance for poaching, increased fines
34. Evaluate environmental mortality factors

Discussion surrounding options: Numbers 1-8 were options already received by the Department and the following discussion addresses the additional options. Prior to the meeting, Chairman Frisk had asked the Councilors to reach out to folks in their industry to begin receiving feedback and the Councilors shared the opinions they received.

Councilor Jordan would like to see #5 removed, he is a hook and line guy and that suggestion is ridiculous. If there is going to be a cut, it comes out of the overall quota that the commercial industry receives. Eliminating net guys will have absolutely no effect on the quota or what they catch; their reduction will come from the number of tags they receive to be shared equally. Mr. Jordan also wanted to address Mr. Mihale's earlier comment regarding unused tags for Striped Bass. He completely agrees with him, he wanted to know how many years do we need to get tag returns of 10-20% before we increase the tag allotment to try and catch the given quota. If we're averaging a 20% return – the Department should begin to give out 10-15% more tags (keeping a 5% cushion) and see how that works. Mr. Witthuhn doesn't understand how giving out more tags will help catch the quota, fishers are already not filling out the tags given. He thinks tags should be available to persons holding a foodfish license, open it up to others in the industry. Mr. Jordan said if more fishers had more tags, there would be a better return and a better chance of filling the quota. Mr. Witek said from the written comments he has received over 25% of the people did support #5 – it's something people are thinking about and Mr. Danielson agreed, he has heard similar responses. The problem is using "gill nets" – there needs to be a better definition of haul seining, etc. Mr. Jordan said if that's the problem then the loop hole needs to be fixed. Mr. Gilmore concurred and said this is something that the DEC is looking into. Mr. Danielson said people want things closer to what Massachusetts has.

Councilor Paradiso would like to have #4 removed.

Mr. Gilmore said the problem with coast wide measures is that some states are already closed.

Mr. Witek received numerous comments and about 20% of comments he received were folks saying there shouldn't be any fishing in the Hudson during spawning season. Other comments he heard pertained to issuing bass tags – folks didn't want unlimited number of fish available to anglers during the course of a season because the commercial season is captured in the quota numbers whereas the recreational season doesn't – theoretically, recreational fishers could catch a bass a day, every day in the season and they wouldn't be stopped because there is no restriction about that.



About 76% of the people he spoke to want a change in size. About 1/3 wanted a slot with the size to range from 28" – 32", one person wanted 26" with the top end with numbers from 32" – 40", about a 1/3 of the people wanted a 36" fish and there was also support for a 32" fish but the consensus was to have a different size.

Bob Danielson would like to know specifically how long is a fish to be that is guaranteed to spawn at least once. Carol said about 9-10 years and it would be approximately 36".

Councilor Dearborn said the of people she reached out to, some were looking for a slot size and while #8 sort of covers that they were really seeking a broader range and some were looking at what we had in the late 80's with perhaps one fish over 36" and that is addressed in #16. What hasn't been represented is to possibly notch up the current size – to go from perhaps 28" to 30" or 32" – not a drastic change. Ms. Dearborn asked if geographical shifts are taken into account when the technical information is being reviewed, she thinks the public would like to have that made clear

Mr. Danielson said he heard many people say they would like coastwide measures, having everyone up and down the coast fishing for the same size fish with the same regulations. He also would like to see the Hudson area shut down during the spawning season. We know when the peak time is, so shut it down 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after. Mr. Gilmore said that coastwide measures comes with complications – you run into states that have closed their fishery – New Jersey and Delaware are two states that come to mind.

Mr. Gilmore said the Council's July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be the time to make comments. – that will be about a week before the summer ASMFC meeting.

Mr. Witek said most folks wanted changes to be made quickly, possibly by emergency measures.

Mr. Gilmore said the speed at which things move will take place on which action you are talking about, i.e., circle hooks vs. size.

Ms. Dearborn said from a recreational industry perspective, if there is going to be change involving circle hooks, a short term approach will not work simply because there isn't enough time to react – manufacturers plan 18 months in advance for production, tackle shops are already stocked for the season. This would take the industry by surprise, they need time to prepare.

Councilor Barrett believes outreach is important – educate people on the fishery. Ms. Dearborn concurred, she believes education regarding catch and release would be very beneficial.

Councilor Davi said predation plays a huge role in the Striped Bass mortality and that too, should be addressed.

Mr. Witthuhn wondered if there was something that could be added regarding the commercial Striped Bass – that would create a daily limit. He thinks price is very important and pin hookers have complained to him that there are days when they think they are going to get a good price but then a commercial fisher might bring in 20,000 lbs. of striped bass which brings the price down. This was not met with enthusiasm by any of the Councilors. Councilor Jordan said you cannot artificially protect the price at the markets.

Mr. Davi said the biomass line (threshold) has been changed a number of times over the years, why can't we adjust it again. If you're taking the best years of the best, wouldn't you be able to bring down the number to an overall average that would be better? Ms. Hoffman said it hasn't been adjusted since 1995. Mr. Paradiso said we would be changing reference points to smooth out the reduction and that's a slippery slope we should not be considering. No one else thought it was a good idea.

Audience discussion:

Timothy Frolic agrees with Mr. Davi's idea of moving the line, just a little. Maybe biomass shouldn't be the deciding factor. Year class is coming up through the ranks that no one is fishing on because they slip through the net but they



should be included. Ms. Hoffman said they are included. Mr. Frolic also thinks pollution is playing an important role – the fish are moving away because of all the trash in the water.

Mr. Joe Tangel, is a recreational fisher said he doesn't feel the commercial industry should be penalized for something that has been brought about by the recreational industry and he agrees with Mr. Danielson – striped bass is a coastal fish and it should be handled by coastwide measures and bring everyone on the same page.

Mr. Neil Delanoy feels all the recreational anglers up and down the coast should share in the responsibility of restoring the stock. First of all, we need to reduce the discard mortality, circle hooks for the bait industry is a great idea – eliminating treble hooks might also be a good idea. As far as the commercial industry, the only waste he sees that can be eliminated is the large number of unattended gill nets. That might be something that could help without putting someone out of business.

Mr. Charles Etzel thinks grey seals are pushing the animals down the beach and further offshore; the seals are a huge problem

Mr. John German is a commercial fisherman and is upset that this recreational problem may become a commercial problem. The commercial industry has to adhere to a higher accountability standard than the recreational industry does by having observers constantly monitoring the fishery and by working on a hard quota. There is no control over the recreational sector. He would like to see barbless hooks so when they are removed, the fish can survive, they are more humane.

Mr. Ralph Vigmostad would also like to see barbless hooks being used. He agrees that we are not where we were in the 80's, but he wants to make sure we don't return to that place so he would like the changes being made, to be drastic, especially in size. Mr. Paradiso replied by saying his take away from what Ralph said was that he was deeply concerned about recreational discard mortality to which Mr. Vigmostad replied yes. Mr. Paradiso said if we drastically increase the size, we will drastically increase the mortality – how would that help anything?

Mr. James Schneider said through his social media page, he has come to the conclusion that, 5% wanted to go with a larger size but 90% wanted to enjoy one fish with their family (28", 29"). He agrees that discard mortality is a tremendous problem.

Mr. Richard Columbo from Brooklyn said that whatever the change is, it needs to be done gradually. He as well as the other fishers have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in their business and equipment. This has the potential to be devastating to many of us. He does agree with mandating the use of a de-hooking tool, it will definitely save many fish.

Mr. Scott Osterech, a commercial food fish holder, does not agree at all with the numbers the DEC is working with. He recalls that on November 6, 2019 he took one last trip to catch a Mako Shark and when he was returning, he was 16 miles off the shore of Fire Island and he said there were so many striped bass in the water that he could have walked to shore on their backs.

Mr. Pat Augustine thinks the EEZ should be open for 3 years for whatever size fish is decided upon. He believes it's imperative to take the pressure off the state water fish.

Mr. Tim Andresen, he believes New York should go with 28" for the 2019 season, let the other states go coastwide, let the other states get on board with 28". Adjust the numbers next year if need be. He doesn't agree with catching bigger and bigger fish, the smaller fish are better to eat and we shouldn't be taking all the spawning fish.

Audience member, Pat, believes catching striped bass from 28" – 31" will just increase the mortality rate. He thinks the difference should be at least 6" because when you're on a party boat and you have the Captain or crew trying to



measure fish for 20 people, it would be more helpful if you could determine whether it was a keeper by not just by looking at it, it would help cut down on discard mortality.

Mr. Tony Vernola from Monkfish Charters thinks that eliminating catch and release for striped bass out of season will help as well.

Mr. Cannizzo said the line of demarcation is going to have to be very specific.

Mr. Mark LaRocca believes the seals are a tremendous problem. Say you have 10,000 seals and they each eat one striped bass a day – in one month that's 30,000 fish and in four months you have 1.2 million lbs. Striped Bass are dying in the Chesapeake because of the disease they contract - they are dying from the inside out. The warm water perpetrates the disease. It's the environmental issues that are destroying this fishery and until you address the true causes, you are never going to fix the fishery.

Chairman Frisk thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions.

#### **Update: New York Commercial Marine Licensing Effort**

Mr. Gilmore reminded everyone that Mr. George LaPointe is the consultant given the task to review the current licensing system in New York and to modernize it. The Commissioner and the Executive staff at DEC have reviewed the report. The report is not ready for prime time simply because the folks in Albany need to have some of the facets explained to them in layman's terms. An example would be if we mentioned Latent permits – to a fisher, no explanation is necessary but to an average person, they do not know what a latent permit is. Since the report will be released to the general public, the Commissioner has asked that it be written in a way that the average person could understand, this has added significant time to the actual release date. In addition, there are recommendations listed in the report but the Commissioner would like to see options for implementation to coincide with the recommendations. It is almost ready to be released. Mr. Gilmore is very pleased with the report so far. The report is about 65-70 pages and he hopes to have it for discussion at the May MRAC meeting. Recommendations requiring Legislative change will require a longer period of time to enact vs. regulatory which is relative short.

Mr. German asked if the lottery system that gives out limited entry licenses will come to fruition – Mr. Gilmore said it would and Mr. LaPointe has also included a recommendation for tweaking the system.

Ms. Nancy Solomon, Director of LI Traditions told Mr. Gilmore that she would be willing to read through the report and give her perspective if need be.

John Mihale worries about the transfer, the licenses need to go to the people who deserve them on the basis of what is decided appropriate, whatever that is. He would also like to see a moratorium even on the predesignation of beneficiaries.

An audience member thinks because the fisheries are becoming so watered down, it should be that anyone who wants to come into the fishery must purchase two licenses to receive one.

Mr. Danielson said he has heard at past commercial license sub-committee meetings; some of the fishermen would like the license to have an inherent value as does the Medallion for taxi cabs. That would go along with that.

Mr. Jordan said if the new program has a 2 for 1 program, that would only reflect what exists now that we retire two licenses before we issue another one. Every license subcommittee group in the last 20 years has come up with the same thought – there isn't enough of the resource to offer an expansion into the fishery. We are still on the same exact road, we need a reduction.

Mr. Danielson asked if he was willing to give that point of view when the younger fishers ask how they can get into the fishery. To which Mr. Jordan replied that he really doesn't understand it – he knows so many people in the fishery –

most are suffering or looking to get out. In such a distressed fishery he wonders about the motives. He doesn't feel a responsibility to those people.

An audience member question where does limited entry stand for this year? Ms. Davidson replied that the DEC just received approval the day prior to begin releasing them for 2019. They will be months late but should be ready by April.

The question was asked by a commercial fisher from Oceanside- How is the classification for latent licenses determined. Mr. Gilmore said the report will clarify that.

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Ms. Dearborn wanted to know if all the surrounding states stayed status quo for Fluke. Mr. Gilmore said all the states except for New Jersey. Mr. Maniscalco added that they will be closing one day earlier in September and opening one day earlier in May.

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Mr. Frisk reminded the Councilors to submit a photo, bio and small blurb so we can begin to update the Council's web page.

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**2019 MEETING CALENDAR** – The following dates have been chosen as meeting dates. Meetings will generally take place at 2:00 p.m. at the DEC Offices 205 Belle Mead Road unless otherwise noted. Please check the MRAC website prior to all meetings for a possible change in time or venue as well as for the day's agenda topics.

April 16<sup>th</sup>

May 21<sup>st</sup>

July 23<sup>rd</sup> (evening meeting – exact time to be determined)

September 17<sup>th</sup>

November 19<sup>th</sup>

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)).