

PROCEEDINGS
of the
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
56TH ANNUAL MEETING
BUSINESS MEETING

October 23, 1997
Hershey Lodge & Convention
Center
Hershey, Pennsylvania

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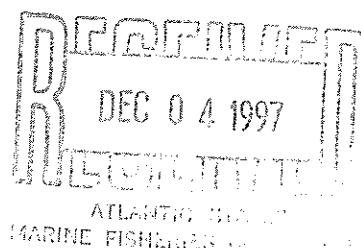
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ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

56TH ANNUAL MEETING

Hershey Lodge & Convention Center Hershey, Pennsylvania

October 19-23, 1997

BUSINESS MEETING

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The 56th Annual Business Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Cocoa Ballroom of the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania, Thursday afternoon, October 23, 1997, and was called to order at 12:30 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Paul Sandifer.

CHAIRMAN PAUL SANDIFER: I'd like to call the Annual Business Meeting of the full Commission, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to order. I'm Paul Sandifer, chairman.

I'll ask the executive director to call the roll.

(Whereupon, the roll call was taken by Executive Director John H. Dunnigan.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN DUNNIGAN: Mr.

Chairman, I think we can note for the record that Mr. Conklin is here; he's just out of the room at the moment. Mr. Chairman, all of the states that are members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are represented by one or more commissioners, and you have a quorum.

I would also note for the record that there are many commissioners who are not here for this business session, but who were here earlier in the week, and I think that all of the states and all the commissioners are certainly to be commended for the outstanding participation that we have had at this meeting this week. We even had a quorum of the Legislators, which is a terrific sign of the commitment that the states have to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you.

Are there any changes to the agenda? We'll proceed with the agenda as distributed then.

I'll invite any public who are here who would like to address the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on any topic, we'd be delighted to hear from

you.

Seeing no interest from the public, we'll move on to Item 4 on your agenda, which is the report of the ISFMP Policy Board, and I have the pleasure of giving that report. The board met late yesterday and early this morning, discussed a number of management issues, but we did not have amendment to the American Lobster FMP or the amendment to the Summer Flounder FMP as anticipated to present to you at this time. Therefore, the ISFMP Policy Board has no actions to present to the full Commission at this business meeting for your consideration.

The ISFMP Policy Board has had a very active meeting and has taken action on the items that come under its jurisdiction, but there's nothing that requires the action of the full Commission at this time.

Any questions on the ISFMP Policy Board?

MR. ANDREW MANUS: Does the full Commission need to take action on the splitting of the Horseshoe Crab and American Eel Plan?

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: I've been advised, Mr. Manus, that that is not required. That comes under the purview of the ISFMP Policy Board itself, and the ISFMP

Policy Board has taken action to split the American Eel and Horseshoe Crab Management Plan into two separate plans contingent upon provision of the necessary resources to hire an additional staff coordinator. Thank you.

Mr. Dunnigan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Mr. Chairman, on the agenda for this meeting were Amendment 3 to the Lobster Plan and Amendment 11 to the Summer Flounder Plan. Just for the record, it's appropriate to indicate that Amendment 11 to the Summer Flounder Plan was not adopted by the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board, and was therefore not referred to the ISFMP Policy Board. And I think the decision has effectively been made that the Commission will not proceed with that amendment.

With respect to lobsters, however, that item is still alive, and states should be aware that the Lobster Management Board is continuing to work on that and intends to bring it back to the Policy Board and the full Commission in the very near future. We are looking at the possibility of a Commission meeting during the second week of December, and there are still some scheduling issues to be worked out. But all of the states and commissioners

should be prepared to see a special meeting of the Commission called, along with the Policy Board, for the second week of December to consider the Lobster Amendment 3.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you, Jack. It was my understanding we'd also look at the possibility of a November date.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: The Lobster Management Board is looking at the possibility of a November date to do further work on the plan that would be made available or brought to the Commission at that meeting in December.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: The clear understanding from the ISFMP Policy Board was the desire to be able to have the Commission meet and deal with any recommendations from the American Lobster Management Board prior to the time that the National Marine Fisheries Service has to go out with a proposed notice, I guess.

All right. Let's move on to the Executive Committee report. That's also mine. We have at least one action that needs to come before the Business Meeting of the Commission. That is a recommendation for a dues

arrearage policy that was distributed earlier at the Executive Committee meeting, and the Executive Committee has moved adoption of that policy.

Any comments, discussion? All in favor of approving the dues arrearage policy as submitted by the Executive Committee, please say Aye; opposed, No. Abstentions? Passed unanimously.

Item 6 on our agenda is the Law Enforcement Committee report. That has already been given. I don't think it's necessary to repeat it. It's available both in writing and on the record from the Executive Committee, so I won't go through that. There was nothing that was presented to us that requires action by this body.

I'm trying to find my chair of the Resolutions Committee, Mr. Conklin. Has anyone seen him?

MR. ERNEST E. BECKWITH, JR.: He's gone. He had his suitcases, and he was heading out.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Okay. We have a couple of resolutions that were to be forthcoming from that committee, so does anybody have the report? I think Lori's coming with them. Resolutions are being passed around.

Mr. Goldsborough.

MR. WILLIAM GOLDSBOROUGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the only surviving member of the Resolutions Committee, I guess it falls to me to present to you what we have to present in the way of resolutions. There are three for you. I will start with the two that came by way of the Management and Science Committee, first of all a resolution concerning citizens' tagging programs. And I understand I'm to read these into the record.

WHEREAS, fisheries mark and recapture, i.e. tagging programs, are of great value to scientists in collecting information on the life history, movement and individual stock identification and verification for a variety of finfish species; and

WHEREAS, citizens' tagging programs are beneficial in increasing citizen involvement and awareness of fisheries issues; and

WHEREAS, citizens' tagging programs are becoming more popular and thus expanding in number and intensity; and

WHEREAS, citizens' tagging program data may not be collected, managed or maintained for scientific

and management purposes; and

WHEREAS, citizens' tagging programs may not have set goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, citizens' tagging programs may have significant problems related to improper handling of fish, poor tagging technique and the quality and quantity of tagging data; and

WHEREAS, improper tagging techniques can cause undesirable mortality; and

WHEREAS, there is increased need for education, training information, data management, and incentive programs; and

WHEREAS, improperly conducted citizens' tagging programs may negatively impact state or federal tagging programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission urges all states to establish their authority to coordinate and control fish tagging efforts conducted in their waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will work cooperatively

with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a plan for national coordination and registration of tagging programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, through the Management and Science Committee, will endeavor to conduct a tagging protocol workshop to develop a citizens' tagging guidance document focusing on broad regional issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, implement an Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Tagging Program including a comprehensive data base to include citizens' and scientific tagging data.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you, Mr. Goldsborough.

Before we accept this as a motion on the floor, I need to ask for unanimous consent to consider these resolutions, since they were not distributed --

rather, to suspend the rules so we can consider these resolutions.

MR. CUPKA: So moved.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Moved by Mr. Cupka.

MS. SHIPMAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Seconded by Ms. Shipman. All in favor, say Aye; opposed, No. Unanimous consent.

This is now -- the first resolution has been put before us, motion of the Resolutions Committee. Do I hear any discussion? Mr. Dunnigan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUNNIGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like at this time to acknowledge the assistance and encouragement that the Commission has received from the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Interjurisdictional and Recreational Fisheries. They have made a major commitment to cooperative tagging programs and addressing the significant needs for tagging and development of information and coordinated tagging programs.

They are going to continue to follow through with us on this program, and certainly we thank

Dick Schaefer and Bill Price and Jenny Fay and everybody else in the office for all of their assistance in carrying these issues forward. It will be the staff's intention, as a part of our public announcement of this resolution, to acknowledge their support and participation.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you.

All in favor of the resolution, signify by saying Aye; opposed, No. Any abstentions? The Ayes have it.

Continue, Mr. Goldsborough, please.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second resolution for consideration is the resolution for the development of coordinated fisheries independent sampling programs.

WHEREAS, shared authority and jurisdiction for management of many fish stocks by state and federal fishery management agencies promote the use of cooperative fisheries data collection programs to ensure all agencies collect information in the most efficient manner, and have access to the best scientific data available; and

WHEREAS, the collection of fishery independent

data is critical to produce relevant and scientifically valid stock assessments used to develop and amend state, federal and interstate fishery management plans; and

WHEREAS, there are a variety of fishery independent sampling methods used by state and federal marine fisheries agencies and universities, such as trawl surveys, seine surveys, gill net surveys, and acoustic surveys, which provide essential data for assessing the status of marine fisheries; and

WHEREAS, current fishery independent data collection programs are largely not coordinated among state and federal agencies and university programs, in terms of geographic and temporal coverage, sampling design and survey procedures; and

WHEREAS, there are large areas of Atlantic coastal waters that are not sampled or receive less than adequate coverage by the current fishery independent data collection programs; and

WHEREAS, there is uncertainty as to the continued availability of presently utilized vessels;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and its member states, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will facilitate the development of a coordinated fisheries independent sampling program along the Atlantic coast; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this coordinated program will expand on existing surveys and develop new surveys to fill gaps in sampling to ensure consistent and comprehensive data for use in state, federal and interjurisdictional fisheries management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design of this program will include the development of a funding initiative to achieve the goals set forth in this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that data from such a coordinated fisheries independent sampling program will be ultimately be coordinated with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program and data from such a program will be used in conjunction with

fisheries dependent data to develop fishery management plans using the most scientifically valid data available.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you.

This resolution has been moved by the Resolutions Committee. Any questions or discussion? Unanimous consent to suspend the rules? Any objection? Seeing none, all in favor of the resolution as presented, say Aye; opposed, No. Any abstentions? Carries unanimously.

Mr. Goldsborough.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now have the distinct honor of reading into the record the resolution of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recognizing and thanking Pennsylvania, the host state of our 56th Annual Meeting.

Before doing so, I want to give credit for most of this language to the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Ed Conklin, who could not be with us; also due credit to Representative Dennis Abbott and to Lori Rosa for developing this language. In other words, if any of it offends anybody, it's not my fault. (Laughter)

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has enjoyed the gently rolling hills, fall foliage and crisp but not too cold weather afforded by our heartland America host; and

WHEREAS, the well-organized and ever-helpful Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has shown the rest of us how to lift the lowly but highly valued American shad to ever higher levels, even scaling mighty rivers in a single bound; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pete Colangelo, duffer extraordinaire, holding true in his role as a most gracious host, made sure that all golfers scored better than he, including his lovely wife, Carol; and

WHEREAS, the Hotel Hershey was a uniquely gracious and opulent setting for an evening of stimulating conversation, fine spirits and hovering around the food trays; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission thanks Representative Jeff Coy for inviting us to marvel at the majestic Commonwealth Capitol Building, finished to a baroque level unequaled on the Atlantic Coast and found nowhere

else outside of the Vatican; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was amazed to learn that the Governor of Pennsylvania has shot, gutted, plucked, hooked, gaffed, trapped, netted, snared, blasted, and otherwise captured every form of wildlife and fish available for harvest in this great state, a record no doubt unequalled by sports persons anywhere; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Fred Rice, with the personal assistance of the Laura Leach Tournament staff, has provided a smallmouth bass fishing experience unparalleled in Eastern America, the up till now nearly unknown Susquehanna River fishery beneath the glowing towers of Three Mile Island; and

WHEREAS, the Singing Lions entertained and wowed their audience with fabulous harmony and song and dance routines not normally seen outside of Pennsylvania;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, staff, friends and families recognize the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the sweetest visit we can remember

and gratefully thank our host for a wonderful time.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Pete.

MR. PETER COLANGELO: Paul, can I make a comment?

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Please.

MR. COLANGELO: And Fred, if you want to, you're welcome to do so also. But just to say that we really enjoyed having you visit our state and giving us the opportunity to host it. In working with Jack's staff, Laura Leach -- our people from the Commission just marvel at Laura and her personality and just enthusiasm -- it was great. And I want to thank all my staff, and I know Fred Rice did a fabulous job. We've been planning this for about six months. But Fred went overboard with what he did.

One of the things I want to do, we're looking forward to the year 2012. That's when you're going to return to Pennsylvania.

Fred.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Pete, I'm going to recognize Caroline Waddell and Louise Becker, too, over

here, for the outstanding job they did. We really appreciate it. (Applause)

Fred.

MR. FRED RICE: I'd like to apologize for overlooking Dave Borden when I introduced everyone on Tuesday night. I had him set up for the kill and didn't follow through, and he's been worried to death what I'm going to do to him. But it was really just a faux pas on my part.

But I want to say that I have never worked with finer people than Jack, your staff, and the Fish and Boat Commission. In my short life, I've worked with a lot of people in government and in the military, but, you know, I never had to raise my voice, we got everything done, and the people in Central Pennsylvania backed us up something just great.

But thank you so much and come back again whenever you want to go fishing. Thanks. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Thank you all.

Now, Gordon, can we move to the Nominating Committee report?

MR. GORDON C. COLVIN: Mr. Chairman, the

Nominating Committee has met and has prepared a slate of recommended nominations for the officers of the Commission, and if I may, I'd like to present those at this time. The Nominating Committee offers the nomination of Dr. Paul Sandifer as chairman of the Commission, and at this time it would be the pleasure of the chairman of the Nominating Committee to move that nominations be closed and the election be concluded by acclamation.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Any objection?
(Applause) Thank you.

MR. COLVIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The committee would like to offer its nomination for vice-chairman, Mr. David Borden. Once again, the committee would move that the nominations be closed and that the election be concluded by acclamation.

CHAIRMAN SANDIFER: Any objection? So ordered. (Applause) You're stuck with us again.

Is there any other business to come before the Commission? I have one final item, and that is we cannot say thank you enough, both to the State of Pennsylvania, Fred, Pete and all of the folks that have worked so hard to make this meeting such a great success,

and to the staff of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, who not only work so hard for us, but, as I said yesterday, are great friends to every one of us in this room. We really appreciate your support.

Thank you very much, and we stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 o'clock p.m., October 23, 1997.)

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