

PROCEEDINGS
of the
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION

October 26, 2006

Sheraton Atlantic Beach
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

George Lapointe, Maine DMR
Patten White, Maine Gov. Apte.
John Nelson, New Hampshire F&G
Ritchie White, New Hampshire Gov. Apte.
Dennis Abbott, NH Legislative Comm.
Bill Alder, Massachusetts Gov. Apte.
Vito Calomo, Proxy for Anthony Verga, MA
Eric Smith, Connecticut DMR
Lance Stewart, Connecticut Gov. Apte.
Gordon Colvin, New York DEC
Pat Augustine, New York Gov. Apte.
Brian Culhane; Proxy for Owen Johnson, NY
Tom McCloy, New Jersey DFG&W
Leroy Young, Proxy for Douglas Austen, PA
Eugene Kray, proxy for Curt Shroder, PA
Frank Cozzo, Proxy for Curt Shroder, PA
Roy Miller, Delaware Div. of Fish and Wildlife
Bernard Pankowski, Proxy for Robert Venables,
DE

Howard King, Maryland DNR
A.C. Carpenter, Potomac River Fisheries Comm.
Jack Travelstead, Virginia MRC
Preston Pate, North Carolina, DMF
Damon Tatem, North Carolina Gov. Apte.
Jimmy Johnson, proxy for William Wainwright,
NC
John Frampton, South Carolina DNR
Robert Boyles, Jr. South Carolina Leg. Comm.
Malcolm Rhodes, South Carolina Gov. Apte.
Susan Shipman, GA DNR
Spud Woodward, GA DNR
John Duren, Georgia Gov. Apte.
Luiz Barbieri proxy for Gil McRae, FL
April Price, Florida Gov. Apte.
Bill Johnson proxy for Mitch Needleman, FL
Wilson Laney, USFWS
Chris Moore, NMFS

Bob Beal
Tina Berger
Vince O'Shea
Vince O'Shea
Erika Robbins

ASMFC Staff

Brad Spear
Mike Howard
Toni Kerns
Jessie Thomas
Nichola Meserve
Chris Vonderweidt

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Summary of Motions

October 26, 2006

Move to approve the 2007 Action Plan as Modified.

Motion by Mr. Nelson, Second by Mr. P. White; motion carries by a voice vote.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee I wish to nominate Mr. George Lapointe for the office of chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for 2007. Motion by Ms. Shipman, second by Mr. Calomo; motion carries.

I wish to nominate my distinguished neighbor to the north, Mr. Robert Boyles for the office of vice chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for 2007. Motion by Ms. Shipman, second by Mr. Augustine; motion carries.

The meeting of the Business Session of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Fear/Outlook/Atlantic Room of the Sheraton Atlantic Beach, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, on Thursday, October 26, 2006, and was called to order at 11:21 o'clock, a.m., by Preston P. Pate, Jr.

-- Welcome; Introductions --

CHAIRMAN PRESTON P. PATE, JR.: I'd like to convene the business session.

-- Approval of Agenda --

And the first item is **approval of the agenda**. Any changes recommended for this agenda? The action plan is on here.

-- Approval of Proceedings from February 23, 2006 Meeting --

Next is the approval of the minutes from the February 23rd, 2006 meeting, any changes or comments on those minutes? Seeing none, any objections to approval? Seeing none, **we will consider them approved by consent**.

-- Public Comment --

Any comments from the public? Yes, sir, Jeff. Come up to the mic and identify yourself, please.

MR. JEFF KAELIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Jeff Kaelin, Portland, Maine. I know you've got the action plan on the agenda. And I know there is the \$18,000 for the Multispecies Technical Committee to be started.

And I just wondered if there is a timetable for that committee to be appointed, if that might be discussed when you bring up the action plan. I know there are two meetings scheduled and we're kind of curious when the first meeting might be and what your plans are to put that into place. Thank you.

MR. ROBERT E. BEAL: Okay, thank you. In response, I think the timeline, Jeff, which really isn't, is kind of tentative at this point will be if the action plan is approved, including that money, later on this meeting, we will send a letter out to the states soliciting nominations for that committee essentially immediately, hopefully form that committee by the end of the year. And they should be able to have their first meeting in the first quarter of next year to start working on the tasks that the Management and Science Committee outlined. And we will also likely go back to our Stock Assessment Committee which is now the Assessment Science Committee and ask them, for additional questions or tasks that they may see, that the Multispecies Committee can work on as well.

MR. KAELIN: I thank you for that. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN PATE: Thank you, Jeff. Any comments from the public? The next item on the agenda is the report from the Resolutions Committee. Dennis.

-- Report from the Resolutions Committee --

REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS ABBOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize this week I was going to have to become a reporter. But with the help of my able beat reporter Malcolm Rhodes and the help from the people back in the Press Room, Editing and Press Room of Tina and Laura we were able to put together for you a resolution and I will read it for you. Resolution in Appreciation of the Host State.

WHEREAS, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission conducted its 65th Annual Meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, which provided an opportunity for the 15 states to come together to conduct business, celebrate their mutual accomplishments, and

strategize on ways to meet their collective challenges; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina provided a spectacular fall week with fair skies, the beautiful ocean, spectacular views, and cool temperatures that failed to dampen our spirits; and

WHEREAS, the Wind and Sea Restaurant prepared an abundance of fresh and delicious seafood to the delight and fulfillment of all gathered at the newly-refurbished entertaining Pine Knolls Shores Aquarium; and

WHEREAS, the commission took the opportunity to recognize the important contributions of Laura Leach during her 25 years with the commission and presented her with a stunning crystal bowl to commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Randy Gregory the NCDMF staff organized a very successful 15th Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament and participants were able to sample the outstanding fishing opportunities in the area, allowing many commissioners to show off their fishing prowess on the pier while catching bluefish and flounder; and

WHEREAS, dinner at the Dunes Club was a delicious success with some very sentimental moments, including recognizing the retirement of long-serving commissioner Doc Gunther; and

WHEREAS, our Executive Director coordinated an important meeting between members of the commission and the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission that allowed the two commissions to develop a better understanding of the problems each faces and develop a respect and working

relationship that serves both parties well in the future; and

WHEREAS, the 16th Annual Captain David H. Hart Award recognized Mr. John Dunnigan for his significant contributions to the management of Atlantic coastal fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the NCDMF hosted a oyster and clam roast that concluded in grand fashion a week of fellowship and genuine friendship; and,

WHEREAS, we will soon say goodbye with sadness and trepidation but wishes for fair winds and following seas in retirement to our host and chairman of the commission, Mr. Pres Pate, with gratitude we salute him for his outstanding leadership;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission expresses its deep appreciation to the North Carolina commissioners, Pres Pate, Damon Tate, Representative William Wainwright, and Jennifer Floyd, for the terrific assistance in the planning and execution of this outstanding 65th Annual Meeting in conjunction and with the able and professional assistance of Laura Leach. Thank you all very much.

CHAIRMAN PATE: Thank you for that, Dennis. Thanks everyone for their kind comments also. The next item on the agenda is the review and consider approval of the action plan for 2007. And George Lapointe is going to lead that discussion.

-- Review and Consider Approval of the 2007 ASMFC Action Plan --

VICE CHAIRMAN GEORGE LAPOINTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of you were at the action plan workshop we held earlier in the

week. And we went through this document extensively so I'm not going to go into it in detail. Bob Beal has the changes that were proposed to the document which he will run through and then we will consider approval.

MR. BEAL: Thank you, Mr. Lapointe. Real quickly, up on the screen is a summary of the changes that came out of the workshop that George mentioned. That workshop is not a decision-making body so if there is objection or changes to these from the policy or from the business session this is the time to do it.

Now the first task or first modification was Task 113 which is Atlantic herring. We were going to also add the, an effort control or a days-out meeting in light of the reduced quota for Area 1A.

Task 114, striped bass, we're going to modify the language in there to reflect an Addendum I schedule. That document was postponed until next year's Annual Meeting. And we will also add an advisory panel meeting, changing that from a conference call to a face-to-face meeting.

Task 124, bluefish, we'll add an advisory panel conference call to that group. For tautog we will move that entire task up above, what we call "above the line" which is under 1.1 rather than 1.2 since there is significant work going on with Addendum IV and potential reductions in that fishery management program.

In general Goal Number 5, the workshop agreed to continue working toward the National Fish Habitat Partnership and the document as it is currently written reflects the resources both in staff time, Habitat Committee time, and financial resources that are needed to move forward with that project.

In general under Goal Number 6 there was a discussion to increase outreach to the commercial industry so we will modify some of the tasks under Goal Number 6 to reflect that increased outreach to the commercial industry.

Goal Number 7 is an additional workshop which is, will be held to discuss state perspectives on the Pew and Ocean Commission reports and implementation of those reports. You know, how are those documents being addressed at the state level.

Task 8.5.3 is a new task and this is to research opportunities in the D.C. area for mid-grade commission staff to receive training on -- actually, this doesn't fully reflect it but -- on leadership training for commission staff. We can make that money or that opportunity available to state agencies and see if they have any interest in having their folks participate.

Goal Number 8 is to an additional workshop under Goal 8 which is hold a workshop for LCMTs and advisory panel chairs to kind of educate them and get them fully up-to-speed on how the ASMFC process works.

Sometimes those individuals are obviously involved in our process but a little bit removed from how the actual management and decision process occurs. So we'll add that task as well. So that's a summary of what came out of the workshop, George.

VICE CHAIRMAN LAPOINTE: Thank you, Bob. I just want to add under the fish habitat partnership there was considerable discussion and I think it was a formal motion during the workshop to commit a significant amount of commission funding, I think \$37,000, to that process and to direct the Habitat Committee, I think Megan used the number, to spend about 50 percent of their time, 50 to 60 percent of their time, on the development of this partnership.

So it is to put a major emphasis on this habitat partnership and people should be aware that -- up to \$37,000, excuse me. Questions from any commissioners? John Nelson. Do we need formal approval?

MR. JOHN I. NELSON JR.: Thanks, George. **I would move approval of the 2007 action plan as modified.**

VICE CHAIRMAN LAPOINTE: And it is seconded by Pat White. Any questions or comments on the motion? We have a motion.

CHAIRMAN PATE: Oh, I'm sorry. I was moving on to the next item. Motion to approve the action plan for next year. Did we get a second?

VICE CHAIRMAN LAPOINTE: We did.

CHAIRMAN PATE: All those in favor please signify by saying aye; all opposed; any null votes? The motion passed and, therefore, the action plan for next year is approved. Vince O'Shea has got the lead on the next agenda item.

-- Elect Commission Chair --

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN V. O'SHEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Remember I did this one time and I think there was a motion to suspend the rules and then I got to be the chairman. But I think I know what you all want to do and I would like to recommend, recognize Susan Shipman from the Nominating Committee.

MS. SUSAN SHIPMAN: Thank you very much. The Nominating Committee consisted of myself, Gordon Colvin, John Nelson, and our outgoing Chairman Preston Pate. We have met by conference call and concluded our deliberations and we do have recommendations to the commission to present this morning.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee I wish to nominate Mr. George Lapointe for the office of chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for 2007.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR O'SHEA: I want to thank you and I see a second from Vito Calomo. Are there any further nominations? Seeing

none, will all states in favor of approving George Lapointe as chairman please raise your hand; anybody opposed; nulls; abstain. I declare George Lapointe the next chairman of the ASMFC. Congratulations. Susan.

-- Elect Commission Vice-Chair --

MS. SHIPMAN: Thank you. I also, we have another recommendation and on behalf of the Nominating Committee **I wish to nominate my distinguished neighbor to the north, Mr. Robert Boyles for the office of vice chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for 2007.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR O'SHEA: Thank you. I see a second from Pat Augustine. Are there any further nominations? Then will all states in favor of accepting Robert Boyles as vice chairman of the commission please raise your hands; anybody opposed; anybody abstaining; any nulls? Then Robert Boyles is our new vice chair. Congratulations.

And before I turn the mic over to our new chair I just want to say from the perspective of the executive director my boss for two years has been Pres Pate and he has been an absolutely terrific boss for me and I want to publicly acknowledge how much I've enjoyed and how much I've learned working with Pres. And it has been a real privilege for me to do that and I want to say that publicly. So, Pres, thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GEORGE LAPOINTE: Having started as a commission member 19 years ago I've got to tell you I'm honored to be your chair. I'm not going to say too much today. I have three remaining business items, the last being adjournment.

Laura asked me to make some announcements. Lunch is going to be at noon and we're pretty close to that time and so we will have lunch at noon. The ACCSP Coordinating Council will

go into a closed session at 12:30 for about 45 minutes to deal with some personnel issues.

And then the next item, I'm going to echo Vince's comments. This commission has been blessed to have Pres as a commissioner. And this may well be his last meeting before all of us so I want to give him a round of applause personally, for me, and on behalf of the commission.

MR. PATE: I'll just tip my hat and let it go at that. Thank you.

-- Other Business; Adjourn --

CHAIRMAN LAPOINTE: And then the last action is we are adjourned; the business committee is adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2006.)
