



Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

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RIMFC: Molly Moran-Ogren, *Chair*; Coral Aiello; David Bethoney, Ph.D.; Andy Dangelo; Katie Eagan; Melva Treviño Peña, Ph.D.; Mike Roderick; Russell Sylvestre; Greg Vespe

MEETING SUMMARY

April 7, 2025

Chairperson: Molly Ogren

Council members: Mr. Vespe absent

Division of Marine Fisheries: S. Olszewski, J. Livermore, J. Lake, N. Costa, K. Rodrigue, N. Ares, P. Duhamel

Division of Law Enforcement: Sgt. Jeff Mercer

1. Approval of the agenda: Ms. Ogren inquired to any objections to approving the agenda or if there were any requests for modifications. Hearing no objections or requests for modifications from the Council members, the agenda was approved by consent.
2. Approval of minutes from last meeting on March 27, 2025: Ms. Ogren inquired to any objections to approving the minutes, or if there were any requests for modifications. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by consent.
3. Public comments regarding any other matters not on agenda:
 - Mr. Dean Pesante asked that the Division explore a new management plan for striped bass, and offered that the state of New York has an effective plan.
 - Mr. Ken Murgo asked that the Division consider an increase in the minimum size of black sea bass, particularly if such increase could result in additional quota for Rhode Island.
4. Proposed regulations publicly noticed:
 - a. Commercial menhaden management:
 - Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Ms. Eagan, to recommend the following amendment:
 - 6,000 lbs/vessel/week possession limit regardless of MMA status, provided that the State's quota has not been exhausted or if the Episodic Event Set Aside Program has been enacted in Rhode Island.
 - Open days Monday and Thursday only.
 - RI resident only.
 - Hand haul seine, cast net, and floating gill net gear types authorized; maximum net size 480 feet by 48 feet.

- Open April 1 – April 30 with a 100,000 lb maximum allowed harvest; open May 1 – May 30 with a 100,000 lb maximum allowed harvest.
- Maintain harvest prohibition in Providence River and Greenwich Bay.
- Revisit this matter next regulatory cycle to analyze and determine needed revisions.
- Motion to amend: Motion made by Ms. Eagan; 2nd by Dr. Treviño Peña, to add June 1 through June 30: 100,000 lbs. The motion to amend passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused).
- Main motion as amended:
 - 6,000 lbs/vessel/week possession limit regardless of MMA status, provided that the State's quota has not been exhausted or if the Episodic Event Set Aside Program has been enacted in Rhode Island.
 - Open days Monday and Thursday only.
 - RI resident only.
 - Hand haul seine, cast net, and floating gill net gear types authorized; maximum net size 480 feet by 48 feet.
 - Open April 1 – April 30 with a 100,000 lb maximum allowed harvest; open May 1 – May 30 with a 100,000 lb maximum allowed harvest; open June 1 – June 30 with a 100,000 lb maximum allowable harvest.
 - Maintain harvest prohibition in Providence River and Greenwich Bay.
 - Revisit this matter next regulatory cycle to analyze and determine needed revisions.

The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused).

- b. Black sea bass pots: Motion made by Dr. Treviño Peña; 2nd Ms. Eagan, to recommend removal of redundant and unnecessary language as noticed. The motion passed 7-0.
- c. Horseshoe crab management:
 - Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Mr. Roderick, to recommend status quo for the bait and biomedical harvest of horseshoe crabs and adopt proposal 2 as noticed. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused).
 - Motion made Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Dr. Treviño Peña, to recommend that the Division re-visit the closure of coastal salt ponds to biomedical harvest during the next regulatory cycle. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused)
- d. Dealer accounting: Motion made by Mr. Sylvestre; 2nd by Ms. Aiello, to recommend status quo of dealer reporting weigh out regulations and that this matter be re-visited during the next regulatory cycle. The motion passed 6- 1 (Mr. Roderick opposed)
- e. Aggregate Program closure trigger for black sea bass and summer flounder for the summer/fall period:

- Motion made by Ms. Eagan; 2nd by Dr. Bethoney, to recommend status quo for the summer/fall aggregate program triggers for both summer flounder and black sea bass. The motioned failed 5-0-1-1 (Dr. Treviño Peña abstained, Mr. Sylvestre recused).
 - Motion made by Mr. Dangelo; 2nd by Mr. Roderick, to recommend that the black sea bass closure trigger be amended from 85% to 70%, and that the summer flounder closure trigger be changed from 85% to 70%.
 - Motion to amend: Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Ms. Eagan, to recommend that the black sea bass closure trigger be changed from 85% to 70% and to maintain status quo for the summer flounder closure trigger. The motion to amend passed 5-1-1 (Mr. Dangelo opposed; Mr. Sylvestre recused).
 - Main motion as amended: Recommend that the black sea bass closure trigger be amended from 85% to 70% and status quo for the summer flounder closure trigger. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused).
- f. Aggregate Program possession limit for black sea bass for the summer/fall period: Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend adoption of proposal 1 as noticed to decrease the black sea bass possession limit from 7 times to 6 times the daily for the 10/16 – 12/31 subperiod. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Sylvestre recused).
 - g. Aggregate Program penalties for non-compliance: Motion made by Mr. Dangelo; 2nd by Ms. Aiello, to recommend adoption of the aggregate program vessel non-compliance language as noticed. The motion passed 7-0.
 - h. 2025 recreational cobia management: Motion made by Mr. Dangelo; 2nd by Ms. Aiello to recommend adoption of two fish/day possession limit, 43” minimum size, for recreational cobia management, and that the ASMFC management regions be re-evaluated in the future. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Sylvestre opposed).
 - i. Lobster LCMA 1 and LCMA 3 management: Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Dr. Treviño Peña, to recommend adoption of language such that LTA holders in LCMAs 1 and 3 are not eligible for routine gear loss tags. The motion passed 4-3 (Mr. Roderick, Mr. Sylvestre, and Ms. Eagan opposed).
 - j. Lobster FMP compliance measures (min. size, min. escape vent size corrections): Motion made by Dr. Bethoney; 2nd by Mr. Roderick, to recommend adoption of lobster FMP compliance measures as noticed with the exception of the LCMA 1 gauge change. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Sylvestre opposed).
 - k. Ninigret Pond-Foster Cove sub-area 1 and sub-area 2 (Ninigret Pond Shellfish Management Area): Motion made by Dr. Treviño Peña; 2nd by Mr. Dangelo, to recommend adoption of the Ninigret Pond-Foster Cove Sub-Area 1 and 2 language as noticed. The motion passed 7-0.
5. Any other matters: No other matters were discussed.
 6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 8:31pm.

Note: This document represents a meeting summary of the actions taken and/or future actions that will be addressed at subsequent meetings. The full video recording of the meeting is available at the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel [here](#).