

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2013 – 6:00PM
URI Narragansett Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI

RIMFC Members Present: R. Bellavance, K. Booth, R. Hittinger, D. Monti, W. Mackintosh, III, J. Grant

Chairperson: B. Ballou

RIDEM DFW Staff: J. McNamee, P. Duhamel

RIDEM Staff: G. Powers

RIDEM Law Enforcement: Sgt. Thomas Silvia

Public: Approximately 12 people attended the meeting.

B. Ballou called the meeting to order. The first item was approval of the agenda. He inquired as to any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, he asked if there were any objections to approving the agenda. Hearing no objections, the June 4, 2013 Council agenda was approved.

The second agenda item was the approval of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) meeting minutes from April 1, 2013. B. Ballou inquired as to any comments or modifications to the minutes. Hearing no objections, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. D. Monti motioned to approve; R. Bellavance seconding. Hearing no objections to the motion, B. Ballou approved the minutes of the April 1, 2013 RIMFC meeting.

New Business:

The third agenda item concerned RIMFC approval to amend the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting agenda scheduled for July 8, 2013, to include a discussion about potential amendments to DEM's gillnet regulations. B. Ballou asked if members were comfortable with tasking this matter to the IAC; and also if the gear topics combined with the licensing issues may be too much for a single meeting and if the meeting should therefore be split into two separate meetings. Upon conclusion of discussion, it was determined that the agenda would be reorganized such that the gillnet and rockhopper gear regulations would be placed as the first two agenda items and the licensing topics would be moved as the last agenda items. An August 14, 2013 meeting is to be tentatively scheduled and held to discuss commercial licensing in the event that it cannot fit into the July 8 meeting. B. Ballou asked for a motion for agenda approval; motion for the approval for the revised agenda was made by K. Booth; seconded by W. Mackintosh; all members voting for approval. After a comment made by K. Booth for clarification, and in consideration of the audience that would attend, B. Ballou determined that both meetings would be held and the agendas split as discussed.

B. Ballou brought forth the final agenda item concerning review of an IAC member application from Mr. Steven Anderson for the open "Commercial Fishing License Representative" slot. Upon conclusion of discussion, D. Monti motioned for approval of Steven Anderson for this position on the IAC; W. Mackintosh seconded. B. Ballou asked for discussion or objections. Hearing none, the motion was approved.

Public Comment

B. Ballou then asked the public for any comments on any items not on the agenda. A member of the public offered that the gillnet regulations were discussed in 2009 and consensus reached but no action was taken due to lack of quorum at IAC meetings. He requested that the Council be diligent in assuring attendance at the IAC meeting so that the matter could be brought forward and the regulations revised. B. Ballou offered that the Council would reach out to assure IAC member attendance.

B. Ballou then asked if there was any other business or comments to come before the Council. Hearing none, B. Ballou offered appreciation and thanks to Nancy Scarduzio for her good work during her years as DFW staff person to the RIMFC. B. Ballou then asked if there were any objections from Council members to adjourn the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM.

Prepared by Peter Duhamel