



# Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

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November 4, 2013  
URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium  
South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI

## MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson: B. Ballou

RIMFC members present: K. Booth, R. Bellavance, D. Monti, W. Mackintosh, J. Grant, C. Rein, M. Rice

RIMFC members absent: R. Hittinger

DEM: M. Gibson, J. McNamee, J. Mercer, P. Duhamel

Public: Approximately 20 people attended the meeting, including a group of M. Rice's students; K. Eagan, J. King, S. Parente

1. **Approval of the agenda:** *B. Ballou* inquired as to any suggested changes to the agenda. He offered a suggested change to include an FYI as agenda item 6 regarding two vacant seats on the RI Seafood Marketing Collaborative's Advisory Council; with a particular emphasis regarding the vacancy for the "fisheries management" seat. Hearing no other requested modifications on the agenda, the revised agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of RIMFC meeting minutes from October 7, 2013:** *B. Ballou* inquired as to any modifications to the minutes or any objections to approving the minutes. *D. Monti* offered a motion to approve the minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by *M. Rice*. Hearing no objections, the motion passed with a vote of 7 – 0.

3. **Other matters not on agenda:** *B. Ballou* inquired to the Council and then the public as to any matters not on the agenda. Mr. William Heagney provided a letter addressed to the Council regarding his concern about the setting of fixed gear (traps) within the channel into Wickford Harbor. He asked that the Council consider adopting regulatory language prohibiting such activity due to navigational safety concerns. *W. Macintosh* offered that such a prohibition is not best suited for DEM regulations, but rather should be within the town regulations and local Harbor Management Plan. *B. Ballou* offered that he made an inquiry to CRMC regarding their role in the matter, and referred Mr. Heagney to that agency. The matter was taken under advisement for possible future follow-up.

4. **Approval of the meeting minutes of the Shellfish AP meeting (10/17/13):**

*J. Grant* provided a summary of the meeting; namely that of the discussion of the Shellfish Management Area winter harvest schedule and a brief description of the Shellfish Transplant

program. Upon conclusion of discussion, *B. Ballou* inquired as to any objections to accepting the minutes and placing on file. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

5. **Winter Shellfish Harvest Schedule for Shellfish Management Areas:**

*B. Ballou* offered that the proposed schedule and corresponding proposed regulatory amendments were summarized as part of discussion of the Shellfish AP meeting by *J. Grant*. He offered that the proposed changes were approved at the Shellfish AP. *M. Gibson* offered that the Division had no scientific basis with which to either endorse or oppose the proposed schedule. *D. Monti* offered a motion to recommend adoption of the proposed schedule as presented and approved by the SAP; 2<sup>nd</sup> by *M. Rice*. *K. Eagan*, representing East Bay shellfishermen, offered a proposed change to the schedule as presented and motioned on; to change the schedule proposed for the Bristol Harbor Management Area to allow harvest from sunrise to sunset, seven days per week. *J. Grant* offered that he had no objection to this suggested change. *M. Gibson* also offered no objection on behalf of the Division. Upon conclusion of the discussion, *D. Monti* offered a friendly amendment to revise his motion to accept the suggested change as offered by *K. Eagan*; *M. Rice* concurred. **The motion passed with a vote of 7 – 0.**

6. **RI Seafood Marketing Collaborative Advisory Council – Vacant seats:**

*B. Ballou* offered that the Director is seeking candidates to fill two seats on the Collaborative's Advisory Council. One, which had been held by David Preble, is slated for someone with background and experience in marine fisheries management. *B. Ballou* said that if anyone on the RIMFC, or anyone in the audience, were interested he/she should contact Bob, who would pass along the recommendation to Director Coit.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Prepared by P. Duhamel