

NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

**Galloway Township Public Library
Jimmies Leeds Road
Absecon, New Jersey
January 7, 2010**

In Attendance were: Chairman Gilbert H. Ewing, Jr.
Councilman Scott Bailey
Councilman Erling Berg
Councilwoman Eleanor Bochenek
Councilman Patrick Donnelly
Councilman Edward Goldman
Councilman Richard Herb
Councilwoman Frances Puskas
Councilman Joseph Rizzo

Absent: Councilman John Maxwell

Also in attendance representing the Division of Fish and Wildlife:

David Chanda, Director
Thomas W. McCloy, Administrator, Marine Fisheries Adm.(MFA)
Brandon Muffley, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries
James W. Joseph, Chief, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Jeffrey Brust, Research Scientist, MFA
Mark Chicketano, Captian, Bureau of Law Enforcement
Russ Babb, Supervising Biologist, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist
Mike Celestino, Principal Biologist, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Linda Barry, Assistant Biologist, MFA

Mr. McCloy read the compliance with the Sunshine Law. Notice of meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on December 9, 2009. Minute from the November 9, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

Audience Conduct

Mr. Ewing asked that we all respect the Library rules when attending the Marine Fisheries Council Meetings. Please do not congregate near doorways and park in the back lot farthest from the front entrance doors.

Mr. Ewing introduced and welcomed Mr. Scott Bailey to the Council as the new Chair of the Delaware Bay Shellfish Council. Mr. Bailey is replacing Mr. Barney Hollinger on the Council and on any Council Committees.

Law Enforcement Report

Captain Chicketano presented the Law Enforcement Report.

District 7 Highlights

October – November 2009

CO Swift recently settled a case in Highlands Borough Court stemming from fillet permit violations observed by undercover officers on the party vessel Elaine B II on 7/31/09. The mate and captain pleaded guilty and paid a total of \$600.00 in penalties plus costs. The vessel also had its fillet permit suspended for a period of 60 days. CO Scott also settled a case in Middletown Township Court involving a commercial conch pot fisherman. The individual pleaded guilty to this second violation for placing of conch pots in a marked or chartered channel. He paid a penalty of \$750.00 plus costs. On 11/7/09, CO Soell settled a case in Barnegat Light Municipal Court involving an individual who was apprehended with 48 tautog over limit and 30 undersized tautog. This individual pleaded guilty and was assessed a penalty of \$2340.00 plus court costs.

On 11/15/09 District 7 CO's conducted a plainclothes operation at Barnegat Light State Park jetty in response to complaints by local citizens of fishermen running fish to their vehicles. The plainclothes officers posing as fishermen, observed many violations where fishermen deliberately attempted to conceal their illegal catches and avoid detection. A total of 15 individuals were apprehended by the officers with a total of 23 summonses issued. Summonses issued included: 2 for possession of a total of 23 winter flounder out of season; 8 for possession of a total of 23 tautog over the bag limit; 4 for possession of a total of 10 undersized tautog; and 9 for interfering with the duties of a CO.

On 11/22/09 CO's Scott and Swift observed a fisherman returning to the Neptune City ramp. They recognized this individual as a persistent marine fish violator who is currently awaiting trial on another case involving 47 summer flounder out of season. An inspection of the vessel revealed 6 undersized striped bass. Summonses were issued for 6 short striped bass and 2 over limit. CO Scott later inspected the charter fishing vessel, Right of Way II that just returned to the Belmar Municipal Marina in Shark River, from a tautog fishing trip. The inspection was uneventful. A short time later, CO Swift while driving through the Belmar Marina parking lot, observed a well-dressed individual carrying a bag of three, large tautog. When questioned by CO Swift, this individual claimed he bought the fish from the Right of Way II. CO Swift took the individual back to the vessel to point out the seller, who turned out to be one of the patrons. A summons was issued to the patron for sale of tautog without a permit. Earlier that day while on boat patrol with USCG Sandy Hook, CO Scott inspected a sport fisherman in possession of 12 tautog, 6 over the daily possession limit. A summons was issued for the overage.

CO Dravis conducted a dockside inspection of a sport fishing vessel in Brielle on 11/22/09. As he approached this vessel, he observed some of the three occupants scurrying around to fill out striped bass bonus tags. CO Dravis asked what they had caught and one of the fishermen stated they had 8 striped bass. At the time they had not filled out any of the bonus tags. When CO Dravis told them he was going to inspect the vessel's fish holds, one individual told them they were also in possession of a summer

flounder. The holds contained 8 striped bass and a 24 inch summer flounder. A summons was issued to the captain for not filling out the bonus tags and possession of summer flounder during the closed season.

District 7 Highlights

November – December 2009

Joint operations with NMFS agents and NJ CO's were conducted in response to the black sea bass closure in federal waters. On 11/3/09 CO Scott along NMFS agents boarded the party fishing vessel Ocean Explorer in Belmar. Undercover agents aboard the vessel documented the vessel fishing for black sea bass in federal waters as well as short black sea bass filleted by the mate and hidden on the vessel. CO Scott issued a summons for undersized black sea bass to the mate. A federal case has been initiated for the closure and other violations. On 11/9/09 another joint operation for black sea bass enforcement was conducted aboard the party fishing vessel Dauntless in Point Pleasant Beach. Undercover agents documented this vessel fishing for black sea bass in federal waters. The agents also observed the mates filleting undersized black sea bass which were discarded as the vessel entered the Manasquan Inlet prior to docking. This is a violation of the requirements of the vessel's State-issued fillet permit. When the vessel docked and the officers boarded the vessel, the patrons left behind 152 undersized black sea bass and 45 legal size black sea bass. Based on information supplied to CO Swift, three patrons were issued summonses for possession of undersized black sea bass. The vessel's owner, captain and two mates were issued summonses for filleting undersized black sea bass and discarding carcasses prior to docking. Along with penalties ranging from \$300-3000, a 60 day suspension of the fillet permit will be assessed upon conviction.

CO Swift was provided information in reference to the party fishing vessel Queen Mary II keeping striped bass that were caught on their annual Thanksgiving Day fishing trip. On Thanksgiving Day, CO's Scott and Swift boarded this vessel as it returned to its dock in Point Pleasant Beach. The inspection uncovered five undersized striped bass carcasses. A summons was issued to the captain.

On 11/28/09 CO Dravis inspected a recreational vessel named "Early Bird" as it pulled into Southside Marina in Brielle. When the three occupants of the vessel observed CO Dravis at the dock they pretended they were having trouble docking the vessel and stated they would be going to a more sheltered slip on the other side of marina. As they pulled away, CO Dravis reacted by jumping off the dock onto the deck of the boat. CO Dravis found one bluefish and nine striped bass. Eight of the stripers measured less than 28 inches. The captain/owner of the vessel was written a court mandatory summons for possession of eight undersized striped bass and three over limit.

CO Swift settled a case in Neptune City on 12/3/09 in reference to the FV Last Lady II where a \$300 penalty was assessed and a 60 day fillet permit suspension for discarding scup carcasses prior to docking.

CO Jones settled a case in Matawan Borough Municipal Court in reference to an Asian restaurant possessing 18 undersized, live tautog and failing to provide records. A plea

agreement was made that included a total of \$2040.00 in penalties plus court costs. The information for this case was provided by CO Scott as he stopped by the restaurant on his day off for lunch and observed a fish tank containing what he accurately suspected to be undersized tautog.

On 12/3/09 CO's Scott and Swift conducted a patrol of the Barnegat Light jetty in the Barnegat Inlet. Inspections were made as fishermen exited the jetty and returned to their vehicles. A total of 13 summonses were issued for possession of undersized tautog and possession of over daily bag limit of six tautog. A summons for interference with the duties of a Conservation Officer was issued to an individual who tried to elude detection by the CO's. A total of 30 illegal tautog were seized by the officers.

District 8 Highlights

December 2009

On December 18th Lt Canale assisted National Marine Fisheries Service Special Agent Jason Couse with the boarding of FV Carol Marie at Lunds Fisheries in Cape May. The FV Carol Marie was landing a General Category sea scallop trip also known as a "day" scallop trip limited to 400 lbs. The vessel which was identified as a result of their vessel monitoring system was observed entering the Hudson Canyon Closed Area which is located 80 miles from the coast of NJ. Lt Canale and SA Couse inspected the vessel when it landed, interviewed the captain and crew about their recent, as well as their two previous trips into the closed area. Officers seized their catch of 400lb of sea scallops. During this investigation, while the crew was being identified, one crewman provided a false name, date of birth and social security number. Numerous warrants for this individual were identified. Officers turned the individual over to Lower Twp police for processing on the active warrants.

On December 12th, weather conditions created blow-out condition at low tide. Lieutenant Canale assisted CO Nicklow on a patrol of the dock areas along the bay-shore in Brigantine. CO Nicklow and Lt. Canale apprehended three commercial clammers harvesting clams within dock areas off of 17th St. South. Appropriate enforcement action was taken and all clams were returned to the water.

Legislative Report

Mr. McCloy presented the Legislative Report. Several resolutions were recently introduced. AR216 encourages a reduction in bluefish tuna fishing. SR136 and AR215 oppose the federal closure on the recreational black sea bass fishery closure. If these resolutions don't pass before the end of the legislative session they will die. Mr. McCloy updated Council on the Senate Environmental Committee action on S2194, for a free saltwater angler registry. The Committee's Chairman would not release the bill from Committee because he felt it was irresponsible to move legislation through that would cost the State money without a way to pay for it.

ASMFC Report

Mr. McCloy deferred to Mr. Berg for the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board meeting since it was a joint meeting with the MAFMC. He mentioned

that the next ASMFC meeting was February 1-4, 2010. He also informed Council that the MAFMC/ASMFC Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee would be meeting with the MAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to further discuss the 2010 black sea bass quota.

Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Report

Mr. Berg presented the MAFMC Report. The MAFMC met with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board (Board) and adopted 2010 recreational fishery management measures for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. For the recreational summer flounder fishery, the Council and Board adopted the conservation equivalency alternative in lieu of a coastwide option. This decision requires states to develop state-specific management measures. For the 2010 recreational scup fishery, the Board voted to adopt conservation equivalency for state waters. For federal waters, the MAFMC voted for a 10 fish possession limit and an 11 inch minimum fish size in 2010. The federal season would open January 1 through February 28 and June 12 through September 26, 2010. For the 2010 recreational black sea bass fishery, the MAFMC and Board voted to adopt a 12.5 inch minimum fish size and maintain the current 25 fish possession limit. The season would be open June 1 through June 30 and September 1 through September 30.

The MAFMC and the Board also voted to initiate a review of the RSA process to determine the effectiveness of NMFS monitoring of RSA recreational fishery catches and landing for party/charter boats.

The MAFMC also adopted quota and management measures for the 2010/2011 spiny dogfish fishing year. A commercial quota of 12.0 million pounds was approved and would be divided into two semi-annual quota periods.

The MAFMC recognized Laurie Nolan of New York with its 2009 Ricks E. Savage award. The MAFMC also recognized Jeff Deem of Virginia with its 2009 Fisheries Achievement Award.

Several Committees met to discuss and recommend draft accountability measures to be included in the Omnibus Amendment dealing with Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures. Recommendations developed by each Committee will be forwarded to the Fishery Management Action Team for its review and analysis.

The MAFMC received a presentation on Draft NOAA Catch Share Policy. They also agreed to convene a Mid- Atlantic Council Catch Share Workshop during the first quarter of 2010 to explore the appropriateness of implementing additional catch share programs for fisheries managed by the MAFMC.

Shellfish Council Reports

Delaware Bay Shellfish Council

Mr. Bailey presented the Delaware Bay Shellfish Council Report.

2009 Direct Market Program Summary

The direct market program closed on November 20, 2009. The season lasted for seven months and involved 75 of the 79 vessels that originally expressed interest in this year's season. The final quota was set at 85,162 bushels, which was 5,442 bushels less than 2008. Industry boats fished 1,259 days with an average catch per unit effort of 64 bushels per day, which was down slightly from 2008's average of 67 bushels. A total of 80,691 bushels were harvested, which ranked among the top harvests over the last decade. With a dockside value of approximately \$40/bushel, the 2009 harvest yielded over \$3.22 million to direct market program harvesters. Using an economic multiplier of six which is typically applied to seafood products, the 2009 harvest contributed approximately \$19.4 million to the State economy.

2010 Oyster Stock Assessment Workshop

On February 1-3, 2010, the tenth annual Delaware Bay Oyster Stock Assessment Workshop will be held in Bivalve, NJ. Workshop participants and committee members review the quantitative status of Delaware Bay's oyster resource based on the fall random survey ('09) of the seed beds conducted by Rutgers University. The committee – consisting of state and federal biologists, scientists, industry representatives and academia – makes harvest allocation recommendations and formulates various management options for consideration by the Shellfisheries Council and the Department.

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Council (ACSC) Report

Due to Mr. Maxwell's absence there was no report from the ACSC.

Mr. Joseph reported that the next meeting of the Aquaculture Advisory Council would be on January 15, 2010.

Mr. Rizzo inquired if there will be a Spring Oyster season in the Mullica River since the fall season was cut short by bad weather. Mr. Joseph indicated that the ACSC would take it under consideration.

Committee Reports

Eel Committee Report

The Eel Committee Report was presented by Mr. Rizzo.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council's Eel Committee met on November 23, 2009 to discuss the potential development of management options to protect current fishery participants. In attendance were Committee members, fishery advisors and Division of Fish and Wildlife staff.

Staff presented a summary of data collected from three years (2007-2009) of Miniature Fyke mandatory reporting forms. Staff also informed everyone that a coastwide stock assessment is in progress, and will monitor any future development of the ASMFC eel management plan.

Three options for fishery regulations were discussed at length: seasonal closures, limited entry for miniature fyke licenses and pot limits.

Advisors were requested to speak with other industry members to get a better understanding of industry's opinion. Due to the lack of participation at meeting, advisors in attendance asked for more fishermen to be invited to the next meeting to have a better representation of the fishery.

At this time, the Committee recommends that they meet with advisors again in a few months to discuss specific options and possibly make recommendations for implementation.

Regulatory Update

Mr. Muffley updated Council on numerous regulatory actions.

The long awaited marine fisheries multi-species rule proposal first developed in 2007 has yet to be approved for publication in the NJ Register. Although the Commissioner's Office has signed off it is still in Governor Corzine's Office. He reminded everyone that the proposal included ASMFC mandatory provisions for sharks. It is likely NJ shark fisheries will be closed in 2010 for non-compliance with the January 1, 2010 ASMFC shark plan implementation date.

Mr. Muffley called Council's attention to several other handouts of a regulatory nature in the Council packet including: the NJ Register copy of the adoption of winter flounder provisions, the filed Notice of Administrative Change (NAC) regarding the commercial black sea bass trip limits for 2010, and a draft NAC for weakfish that would implement the ASMFC required measures for weakfish. The Council will take action on the weakfish NAC at their March meeting along with summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

Old Business

Mr. McCloy brought Council's attention to correspondence included in their packet including letters regarding the federal recreational black sea bass closure and the issue of exemptions for species with season closures during the annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament always held in October. In the future the Council will be involved in any discussion of possible exemptions during the Governor's Tournament.

Dr. Donnelly reintroduced his motion to send a letter expressing concern about the federal research-set-aside (RSA) program that was postponed from the November meeting. Council members reviewed and discussed the draft letter which was read into the record for the public's benefit. The motion to send the letter to the ASMFC, MAFMC, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) copying all NJ Federal Legislators was approved.

Mr. McCloy updated everyone on the Federal Angler Registry Program. NJ saltwater anglers will have to register with the NMFS before fishing in 2010. There are some exemptions. He referred everyone to the NMFS website for more information as well as

registration. Registration can also be done via toll free telephone. Handouts of the website and telephone number were provided at the back of the meeting room.

Mr. Goldman brought up a postponed motion from the November meeting to petition the ASMFC for a change in New Jersey's current recreational striped bass regulations (2 fish @ 28 inches or greater) to one fish at 24 inches and greater and one fish at 32 inches and greater.

The Chairman took comments from the public on the motion.

Meers, Bogan, Yates, Kennedy, Szulczewski, Pritchard, Gutman, Rush, preferred a small fish.

Meers, Showell and Meimbriese supported a smaller fish with an upper 'cap'.

Mr. Verdi would only support a small fish if it was a true slot fish (had an upper limit).

Mr. McClintock supported a small fish but suggested that the 'bonus' fish be changed to a trophy size fish.

Mr. Nowalsky, speaking for the Shark River Surf Anglers, was opposed to a change but would support a 'true slot' fish if it happened.

Mr. Sicliano indicated that the Jersey Coast Anglers Association had not taken a position.

Mr. Yates asked if a true slot fish could be considered. Mr. McCloy explained the ASMFC approval process and indicated that states always had the option to be more restrictive (which would be the case if a true slot were implemented).

Mr. Buzas requested the Council ask the Legislature to give the striped bass bonus quota back to the commercial fisherman.

Ms. Puskas expressed concern about being able to take too many large fish and suggested a maximum size limit or slot.

The motion to submit the Council plan to ASMFC passed.

Mr. McCloy informed Council that the request to ASMFC will not make the February Board Meeting so they will not consider it until May.

New Business

Mr. McCloy called Council's attention to a Federal Register Notice looking for nominations to a newly created Recreational Fisheries Working Group (RFWG). Mr. Rizzo made a motion seconded by Dr. Donnelly that the Council nominate Mr. Goldman to serve on the RFWG. The Council approved the motion and requested a letter of nomination be sent to NMFS.

Ms. Puskas reflected on the recent tragedies at sea on commercial fishing vessels. She encouraged all fisherman to take extra safety precautions.

Chairman Ewing recognized Mr. MacFarland (with the Cape May County Party and Charter Boat Association) who had requested time on the agenda to address Council. Mr. McFarland addressed Council previously regarding the coalition they were forming to support a saltwater fishing license to fund management of marine fisheries. The coalition

has grown from 100 supporters to over 8000 from various sportsman's organizations. He recognized past efforts to look at alternate funding sources and nothing has become a reality. He reminded everyone that the federal registration was free this year (2010) but a fee would be charged beginning in 2011. He referenced New Jersey's recent efforts to establish a free New Jersey registration. He asserted that if that occurs the State will not have the funds to defend New Jersey angler's share of the coastwide fisheries. He stressed the urgency and asked the Council to support the concept of a saltwater fishing license as a means to fund management for the ultimate benefit of New Jersey anglers. Mr. MacFarland indicated that in addition to providing funding for management, a saltwater license would make New Jersey eligible for more federal-aid funds and would satisfy the federal angler registration requirement. He offered his coalition to work with the Council to properly design a license.

Mr. Herb reiterated Mr. MacFarland's point that a free New Jersey registration would only address the federal registration requirement while a license could address the critical funding need and the federal registry. Mr. Herb compared New Jersey to other states in the terms of marine fisheries value and funding and how New Jersey has lost out on fisheries (tautog, winter flounder) because the funding to conduct the necessary studies does not exist. He stressed if the funding issue was not resolved quickly New Jersey anglers were going to lose more fisheries. He further stated that New Jersey was the ONLY state on the Atlantic coast that has not taken some action on a saltwater license. Besides New Jersey, Maine and Rhode Island are the only states that do not have licenses but both have tried. (Subsequent to the Council meeting, Rhode Island implemented a license in mid-January).

Mr. Herb made a motion seconded by Dr. Donnelly that the Council establish a Committee to research a saltwater fishing license and report to the Council at their May meeting and in the interim to send a letter to Governor Elect Christie, incoming Assembly Speaker Oliver and incoming Senate President Sweeney supporting the concept of a saltwater fishing license.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the motion.

Ms. Bockenek expressed concern that the current appropriation would be lost. Director Chanda indicated the current appropriation was only \$1.7 million. He indicated that marine fisheries management should be funded from a variety of sources including an appropriation, commercial and recreational license fees and federal aid. He spoke about the history of the Hunter and Angler Account (account where hunting and freshwater fishing fees are deposited). This license money is protected from diversion because federal aid is dependant upon protection of these license monies. Diversion of license fees would result in the loss of federal aid (currently \$7 million to the Division). Saltwater license fees would have the same protection. He also addressed one of the common misconceptions of a license is that the fee can be increased by the Division. Any fee increase would require that it go through the Legislature which requires the constituents support. The freshwater fishing and hunting license fees are the same in 2010 as they were in 2000. Director Chanda also commented on the many presentations given on the federal registry program and how an overwhelming number of the audience

indicated they supported a saltwater license. Mr. McCloy had the same experience with the presentations he gave.

Chairman Ewing reminded New Jersey anglers fishing in Delaware and New York that they have to get a non-resident license and the money goes toward better research in those states to use against New Jersey.

Dr. Donnelly commented that New Jersey not having adequate budget to research tautog led to more stringent regulations (2008). He further stated that the Council would be irresponsible not to address ways to fund marine fisheries management for the ultimate benefit of New Jersey fisherman.

Mr. Rizzo and Mr. Goldman disagreed with that aspect of the motion to send a letter to the Governor and Legislature.

Mr. Herb once again stressed the urgency in moving something forward. Waiting until the May meeting to contact the Legislature would be too late to fit into their schedule. He indicated that it was important for the Legislature to at least know about the critical funding issue facing marine fisheries.

Dr. Donnelly concurred with Mr. Herb.

Mr. Goldman indicated the Council had done that in 2002. Chairman Ewing indicated that the Legislature (at that time) ignored the 2002 funding effort request.

Based on various comments from the Council the motion was perfected to read, "Move that the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council establish a Committee to research a saltwater fishing license and other funding options, report back to the Council at the May 13, 2010 meeting and in the interim send letters to Governor Elect Christie, future Senate President Sweeney and future Speaker of the Assembly Oliver indicating the Council supports the concept of a saltwater fishing license and requests involvement with the New Jersey Legislature in any efforts to develop one.

Chairman Ewing took public comment on the motion.

Mr. Bogan was opposed to the motion.

Mr. Connell supported a Committee to review funding options but not the part to notify the Legislature.

Mr. Nowalsky recognized the marine fisheries funding needs but indicated that fisherman all ready contribute via significant tax revenues.

Mr. Siciliano asserted that fishermen do not have any confidence in the State or Council because they do not stand up for fisherman. He cited the recent black sea bass closure and indicated the State should have sued the Federal government.

Mr. Rush asserted that New York and Delaware would not provide license reciprocity.

Chairman Ewing provided an overview of the process the Council went through in 2002 to identify what needed to be done to make New Jersey marine fisheries competitive with the other coastal states. He also explained the analysis conducted by Southwick's Associates that looked at various funding sources and how much they could generate for marine fisheries management. Many of those options (lottery, percentage of the sales tax, license plates) have been suggested repeatedly since 2002 but no concrete steps were ever taken to seriously pursue any of them. Chairman Ewing took exception with Mr. Siciliano's comments and indicated the Council HAS stood up for New Jersey fisherman (tautog) but without the financial resources to collect the biological information there is NO science to support the Council's position. Chairman Ewing

indicated that he originally was opposed to a saltwater license but he is now convinced that it is currently the most promising funding mechanism. He has seen the fisheries NJ anglers have lost (due to no data) and what they stand to lose.

Dr. Bochenek asked about amending the motion and Chairman Ewing indicated the process to do so. No motion to amend was forthcoming so the Chairman called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Motion passed 7 in favor, 2 against.

Public Comment

The meeting was opened to general comments from the public.

Several individuals (Bogan, Gutman, Rush, Bradshaw) brought up the Federal Research-Set-Aside (RSA) Program and stressed the importance of allowing party and charter boats to participate so their businesses would survive.

Mr. Gutman asked when a decision would be reached on the RSA for 2010. Director Chanda replied that this issue would need to be discussed with the incoming Administration before any decisions were made.

Mr. Nowalsky indicated that all recreational anglers should have the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Himchak enlightened the Council about the situation in New York with numerous boats involved in the RSA and the added administrative responsibilities. He asked if anyone could provide any insight into how New York dealt with the added burden. He also mentioned that the MAFMC had enforcement concerns.

Mr. DiDomenico indicated that New York had stepped up enforcement efforts.

Dr. Bochenek gave Council an overview of the number of boats involved in 2009 (she is the RSA coordinator for the National Fisheries Institute).

Council then discussed changing the location of their March meeting (March 4, 2010) to a more northerly location. The March meeting is always well attended since the Council sets recreational measures for the year. The Council decided to move the March meeting to Toms River. The specific meeting location and time will be sent to the NJ Secretary of State and posted on the Division website.

MEETING AJOURNED