

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, September 25, 10:00 AM
Waddell Mariculture Ctr/Virtual Meeting Via GoToMeeting

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, P. Keener, C. Woods P. Brown, B. Rose

MAC Members Virtual: J. Massey, R. Dukes, E. Holder

MAC Members Absent: F. Rourk

DNR Staff Present: P. Maier, T. Snoots, E. Levesque, M. Denson, N. Wallover, Officer Pope

DNR Staff Virtual: J. Binz, E. Weeks, T. Darden, W. Jenkins, B. Keppler, S. Johnson, J. Ballenger, L. Bowman, B. Dyar, M. Ingle

Guests: Chaplain Jeff Shealy

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

2. Housekeeping- Julie Binz:

Julie reviewed the processes for those attending via Virtual Meeting.

3. Invocation- Pastor Jeff Shealy:

Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance- Phil Maier:

Deputy Director Maier led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (June 2020). P. Keener made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. B. Rose 2nd. Motion carried unanimously

Chairman Swygert informed the Committee that the Flounder Management Recommendation the MAC sent forth from their last meeting was passed by the DNR Board at their last meeting and would be presented in DNR's 2021 Legislative Package.

6. Introduction of Guests/Public Comments: Erin Weeks:

N/A

7. USFWS Boating Infrastructure and Clean Vessel grant programs at SCDNR: Nick Wallover:

Nick's presentation covered the history of the BIG Grant which falls under Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Program managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Individual States receive grants through them.

Users pay taxes on equipment, fuel, and import duties from pleasure crafts which in turn provide the funding for the States' infrastructure for transient

vessels. In partnership with marinas up and down the SC coast they provide, strengthen, create and protect these infrastructures for the vessels. Examples would include: floating docks, facilities at the marinas, repairs and upgrades as needed.

The CVA portion of his presentation explained the Act created in 1992 to provide sanitary pump out facilities at marinas to protect water from toxic waste. DNR started the program in 2003. Currently working with 20-30 participants a year. With the massive increase in boating during the COVID pandemic, these programs are more critical than ever.

8. Waddell Mariculture Center Hatchery Renovation for Stock Enhancement

Success: Erin Levesque:

Erin's presentation reviewed the extensive renovation of 3 large, 9 medium and 12 small ponds at the facility. The renovation of these ponds allow(ed) for significant stocking in 2020 shrimp production and the mariculture/ stock enhancement of Inshore Fisheries. Some of the species they focused on were: Red Drum, Cobia, Tripletail, baitfish and Diamondback Terrapins. She noted that Cobia were a targeted species and were the primary candidate for off-shore aquaculture. They are produced in tanks and ponds and will be identified by both external tagging and genetic tagging. They will be monitored by both fishery dependent and independent reporting.

9. Deputy Director Comments – Phil Maier:

D.D. Maier's comments included:

- Welcoming of the Marine Advisory's two newest members Paula Keener and Charles Woods
- Working on increasing License Fees
- OSS Director Robert McCollough's recent retirement after many years in DNR Law Enforcement and OSS Divisions.
- Staff Recognitions – thanking Staff for working diligently to provide a smooth meeting for virtual attendees.
- Statute Changes in Shellfish management to allow more Agency regulations in the fishery.
- OFM Director Mel Bell as the new Chairman of the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

10. Election of New Vice Chairman – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called for a nomination for a new Vice Chairman for the MAC. C. Woods nominated Brian Rose, P. Keener 2nd. A roll call was made for all Committee members present. Motion passed unanimously and Brian Rose is the new Vice Chairman of the Committee.

11. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting – Chairman Swygert:

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Friday, December 11th at Ft. Johnson.

12. Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:40.