

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, December 5, 2019
MRRI Auditorium, Ft. Johnson
Charleston, SC

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, B. Bailey, P. Brown, J. Massey, R. Dukes

MAC Members Absent: C. Day, E. Holder, B. Rose, F. Rourk

DNR Staff Present: P. Maier, B. Keppler, B. Dyar, M. Lucas, M. Denson, P. Kingsley-Smith, E. Weeks, J. Binz, A. Watson, T. Darden, C. McDonough, O. Bueno, M. Jamison, B. Martore, E. Berry, A. Tweel, C. Johnson, M. Reichert, M. Taliercio, M. Ingle

Guests:

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Invocation:

Chaplain Jeff Shealy led the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance – Vice-Chairman Bailey:

Vice-Chairman Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes- Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (September 2019)

5. Introduction of Guests- E. Weeks:

Ms. Weeks introduced Scott Whitaker w/ Coastal Conservation Association.

6. MRD Flounder Outreach Plan – Blaik Keppler:

Ms. Keppler briefed the Committee on MRD's Flounder Outreach Plan which they had requested be formed after the presentation at their September meeting which showed overfishing of the Southern Flounder regional stock.

She outlined the objectives of the plan and the actions being taken to ensure success of those objectives. The plan includes Educating anglers and other interested parties about the status of the fishery. They will be strategically disseminating public outreach materials through engaging with coastal media outlets, social media platforms and recreational fishery vendors. There will be a Blog to introduce the issue and provide general founder stock information to the public. The timeline for this plan began in the fall and will continue through the spring of 2020.

The Committee voiced their agreement with the implementation of the plan.

7. Sustainable management of State Shellfish Grounds – Ben Dyar:

Mr. Dyar's report focused on strategies that will address the DNR/TNC Management Report of Proactive Management of State Shellfish Grounds. There are three strategies that are deemed critical from the report. They are:

- Manage the number of fishermen on each SSG to sustainable levels (Legislative change required)
- Acquire statutory authority for DNR to establish daily quantity limits for commercial harvesters (Legislative change required)
- Establish a recreational shellfish license/stamp/endorsement with an associated fee (or free) to facilitate more accurate surveys and much better estimates of daily and total harvest (Legislative change required)

After discussion among the Committee they agreed that the three strategies be presented to the DNR Board for further consideration.

8. Overview of SCDNR Advisory Board Practices – Mary Lucas:

Mary Lucas gave the MAC an overview of SCDNR's Board policies and guidelines. As members of Advisory Boards/or Committees serving with the SCDNR they were advised that they are subject to the same guidelines applicable to DNR employees. Ms. Lucas distributed copies of the policies and guidelines to each committee member.

9. Deputy Director's Comments – Phil Maier:

Acting Deputy Director Maier briefed the Committee on the recent SEAFWA Conference held in Hilton Head and former DNR Director Alvin Taylor's receiving the CW Watson Award from the Association for his outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation during his career.

Robert Boyles has been selected by the DNR Board to become the next Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources pending Senate confirmation.

The NERR held their annual meeting in Charleston with over 700 attendees hosted by SCDNR and Partners in November.

10. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee is Friday, March 13th in the MRRI Auditorium @ 10:00 AM.

11. Meeting Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.