

Maine Commercial
Fishing Safety Council

Janine Drouin, Chair

Parker Poole, Vice Chair

Ann Backus, Secretary

Members:

Kris Boehmer

John Drouin

Zac Gower

Curtis Haycock

John McMillan

Rob Odlin

Mark Murry, DMR staff

Jeff Nichols, DMR staff

Commercial Fishing Safety Council

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, September 13, 2023

6 pm-8 pm

Held virtually.

Present: Ann Backus, Kris Boehmer, Janine Drouin, John Drouin, Parker Poole, Rob Odlin, Zac Gower, and DMR staff: Sgt. Mark Murry, Jeff Nichols*

Public: Michael Ames, Brian Smith (USCG)*

**Review of the list of CFSC Council members and public attendees needed for accuracy.*

Invited Guest Speaker: Commissioner Patrick Keliher

Absent: Curtis Haycock

I. Welcome – Ann Backus, CFSC Secretary

Ann welcomed the CFSC members and the new members Rob Odlin and Zac Gower.

II. Presentation of Minutes of March 15, 2023 and June 14, 2023

The minutes for the past two quarterly meetings were approved.

III. Update on harvester/diver position on the Council

Mark Murry reported that Commissioner Keliher has vetted and approved the appointment of Rob Odlin to the CFSC as a harvester.

IV. Update on harvester/diver position on the Council

Mark Murry reported that Commissioner Keliher has vetted and approved the appointment of Zac Gower to the CFSC as a harvester/diver.

V. Update on the National Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee meeting – Kris Boehmer

Kris Boehmer reported on the May 23-25 meeting of the (National) Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee held in Norfolk Virginia. This Committee is chartered under the

Department of Homeland Security / United States Coast Guard (USCG) and reports to the Commandant of the USCG and through the Director of Inspections and Compliance, USCG.

The May 2023 meeting focused on man overboards, Personal Locator Beacons (PLB,) Watch keeping, getting a website to distribute critical information, the best way to inform crew on the risk on their vessels, making sure that the crew has safe access to all areas of the vessel, and watch alarms.

VI. Update on the death of Tylar Michaud – Mark Murry and Commissioner Keliher

Mark Murry and Commissioner Keliher commented on the sad situation – the loss of life of an 18 year-old, experienced lobsterman, Tylar Michaud. A recent high school graduate from Steuben, Michaud was reported missing on July 21. His body was found near Petit Manan Island on August 8, 2023 by a Jonesport lobsterman.

Our lengthy discussion included topics of age, training, experience and weather (a non-issue); we focused specifically on experience and fishing alone. A statement was made by Mark that it was believed by people who had been on scene that it looked like he had been dragged over board, likely from being caught in the rope as they had seen signs of a struggle. It was recommended that fishermen be reminded to carry a dedicated knife on their person when on the boat to help ensure the best possible chance of surviving a rope entanglement, although not a guarantee.

VII. Review of the Annual Report to Commissioner Keliher.

The Council members reviewed a draft of the report prepared by Ann Backus, CFSC secretary, and made suggestions for wording changes. The bylaws of the Maine Commercial Fishing Advisory Council require that the Council provide an annual report to the Commissioner that describes the efforts of the past year and the plans for the next twelve-month period. The CFSC approved the report pending changes as suggested.

VIII. New Business – Ann to attend IFISH6 – the International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference in Rome, January 8-12, 2024.

This item was tabled until the next meeting for lack of time to discuss.

IX. Other business

No other business was presented.

X. Next meetings: October 18, 7:00-8:00 pm and November 15?? 7:00-8:00 pm, Quarterly meeting December 13, 6:00-8:00 pm

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Backus, Secretary

December 8, 2023