**Commercial Fishing Safety Council**

Maine Commercial Fishing Safety Council

Janine Drouin, Chair

Rob Odlin, Vice Chair

Ann Backus, Secretary

Members:

Kris Boehmer

John Drouin

Zac Gower

Curtis Haycock

John McMillan

Parker Poole

Mark Murry, DMR staff

Jeff Nichols, DMR staff

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, June 18, 2025

Teams meeting

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

Marine Resources: Commissioner Carl Wilson; Lt Troy Dow, head, Division II MMP.

Public: Elizabeth Michaud (aunt of Tyler Michaud), founder of Green and White Hope; Brian Smith, USCG; Michael Ames.

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Janine welcomed the CFSC members and guests were introduced.

II. Presentation of Minutes March 1, 2025

The minutes of the March in-person quarterly meeting were approved.

III. Update from the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

The Commissioner’s office will support educational and informational efforts to encourage fishermen to monitor Channel 16 per FCC requirement. There will be a Channel 16 survey going out to the zone councils in September. He welcomes participation of the council members in terms of preparing an educational handout on the requirement to monitor Channel 16.

Commissioner Wilson also mentioned that the Council may want to invite an individual recently back from Scotland to talk with us about offshore fishing, and that discussions about ropeless fishing are ongoing.

IV. Discussion of harvester vacancy on the Council.

Mark will ask Melissa Smith to bring up the vacancy with the Scallop Advisory Council.

V. Nominating Committee.

Parker Poole, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Kris Boehmer, Parker Poole and Ann Backus), reported that the Officers nominated for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are Janine Drouin (chair), Rob Odlin (Vice Chair), and Ann Backus (Secretary). The nominations were accepted, and the proposed officers were elected. Rod Odlin will replace Parker Poole as Vice Chair; the chair and secretary positions will remain the same.

V. Update to the Safety Training Website (Green and White Hope) and discussion of the next phase of additions to the website resources.

Liz Michaud provided the following data about the Green and White Hope website which can be found at [greenwhitehope.org](https://www.greenwhitehope.org/). There were 543 views of which 358 were unique individuals. The Safety Education pages have been popular. Data show that 80 fishermen have taken the training offered by Fishing Partnership Support Services (FPSS) or McMillan Offshore. The Face Book page has had 11.000 views.

Some changes have been made recently to improve usability: Events became Events and News. Events as of June 18, 2025 include Maine Commercial Fishing Memorial Day, July 21, 2025, by Maine Governor, Janet Mills, and the first-ever fishing families forum to be held at Sunrise in Ellsworth in September. Operationally, Liz Michaud reports that there is a “nice cadence” for calendar updates for McMillan Offshore and FPSS dates and locations of trainings.

Liz Michaud mentioned that Green and White Hope is waiting to hear about its application for 501 (c) 3 status, and then she asked for new ideas from Council members re what else the website could feature.

Brian Smith (USCG) mentioned that those fishing beyond the Boundary Line must have CPR and First Aid training. Jeff Nichols mentioned that the Maine Lobster Association (MLA) is starting to post in parallel with Green and White Hope on their Face Book. An option for First Aid/CPR training is Lindsey Pinkham, Thomaston, Maine.

VII. Fishermen’s Forum

The first discussion about the Forum was the cost and the fact that Ann has financially supported the vendor booth for many years, and for the last two years featured the CFSC. With respect to a workshop topic, it was mentioned that the MLA is interested in sternman training, and Liz suggested the workshop focus on safety. The Forum dates are March 5,6,7, 2026. As a Council we want to advocate for having our March quarterly meeting on the premises. Ann will reach out to Kevan at MLA re sternman training and to Kathleen (Fishermen’s Forum) to request a meeting room at the Samoset for the CFSC meeting.

[Later in the meeting] The suggestion was made to reach out to Jeff Holden(?) a sternman who has started a program to train sternmen. He works out of Luke’s Lobsters/ Interstate Lobster, Portland, Maine.

VIII. Outreach to small harbor festivals. This item was tabled as being too short notice to implement. Later in the meeting, it was suggested that we reach out to summer festivals with a letter in the fall.

IX. New Business

Several Council members asked to “revisit” training for those getting into a fishery new to them. It was mentioned that clam diggers, for example, could get into the scallop fishery lottery having had no experience running or managing the gear on a scallop boat. It was suggested that lottery entrants be required to show experience on a scallop boat (or in another boat-based fishery) as a criterion for eligibility for the lottery.

Liz mentioned the FV 25 to Life fishing vessel in which two fishermen were struck by a snapped rope. One of the two died. She suggested some experienced fishermen might be willing to offer some dos and don’ts i.e., best practices. Parker responded that we tend to look at the fatalities when we should look at the things that are going well. Zac Gower offered that he has never been asked for certification. John Drouin recalled that years ago we had discussions about “towing high” (scallop industry), but that we probably never moved that issue along to the Commissioner. We could be looking at this again. Ann mentioned that the drawings done by Jeff Ciampa of different scallop riggings are now in the Archive at the Countway Library at Harvard, and that she can access them for future use.

It was suggested that we use the July workshop meeting to develop some advice re eligibility requirements for the scallop lottery.

Re sternman training (mentioned above) John McMillan will reach out to Kevin Kelly at MLA. May also talk with Patrice (Macaron) of MLA.

Michael Ames asked if the Council ever reviews incidents. Ann Backus mentioned that she frequently requests aggregated reports from the USCG, but that reports of individual incidents now require a FOIA request.

Liz Michaud asked if the Council would ever be involved in advising how to raise money.

Mark mentioned that the Maine Marine Patrol has spent three weeks searching for a lost clam digger to no avail. Airplanes and patrol boats are involved.

Janine reviewed the dates for the next two working meetings: July 23, 7:00-8:00 pm and August 20, 7:00-8:00 pm and the date for the next quarterly meeting- Sept 17, 2025, 5:00-7:00 pm on Teams.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus, MS

Secretary, CFSC