

Maine Commercial Fishing Safety Council

Aka Commercial Fishing Safety Council (CFSC)

Minutes of the Meeting (draft) September 16, 2021 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Present: Ann Backus, Kris Boehmer, Janine Drouin, Curtis Haycock, Marc McCole, Mark Murray, and Jeff Nichols (Maine Marine Resources)

Absent: Genevieve Kurelic-McDonald, John McMillan.

I. Welcome – Janine

II. Minutes of the Meeting of June 24, 2021.

There being a quorum present, it was moved, seconded and voted that the minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2021 be accepted.

III. Council Membership Update

It was announced that Genevieve Kurelic-McDonald has resigned from the CFSC. The Lobster Advisory Council needs to propose a representative. John (Drouin) will get the issue of membership on the LAC agenda. A diver (scallop or urchin) is also needed. Curtis will ask Melissa for a list of those who attend scallop meetings and Mark offered to contact supervisors in Southern Maine.

Members were asked to send any updates of their contact information to Mark Murry.

IV. Discussion of Contents of Annual Report to Commissioner, due October 1, 2021.

A. In order to determine what the Annual Report would contain for initiatives we reviewed the list of DMR licensees provided by Mark Murry and various graphs of casualty data compiled by Ann from the USCG Division I casualty database. The following topics were discussed

- Re deaths and medevacs: It would be important to see what fisheries are involved; there will be a lot happening that is not in the USCG database; this may be an opportunity to provide training for those who need to arrange for an ambulance to meet the vessel or the USCG.
- Terminations: These are preventable; Kris mentioned that this is a frustrating situation because terminations are preventable and asked how we could stop them. He mentioned that vessels enrolled in the Observer Program have to have dockside exams- how can we get more dockside exams to happen? Others pointed out that even with the “carrot” of no boarding by USCG if a non-expired decal is present, the USCG still boards vessels with decals.

Mark Murry reviewed some of the criteria for safety equipment including length of vessel and whether fishing inside or outside the Boundary Line. Fire suppression equipment is required on vessels over 50 ft in length.

Janine asked if we could break down the data by length of vessel. Other ways to break-down the termination data could be federally documented vs state registered and number of crew on board. Mark commented that we don't have adequate data re the number of crew on board for this variable to be useful.

- Close-calls and near-misses: These data are not captured, but could be valuable.
- Injury Databases: CFID, Marine Index Bureau (Ann can you get access?). Given that the fisheries are excluded from the Workers' Compensation database through the Jones Act, there is no injury and illness data from this database.
- Sinking: Are you focusing on what caused boats to sink? Do we have the bandwidth to discover the root cause of these casualties? What about a questionnaire? Could we design tools to capture Maine fisheries data that would be helpful? Janine suggested doing some information gathering this year and use the results to identify some issue to address.
- Strategy: Increase the databases we have access to (Jennifer Lincoln, Samantha Case NIOSH). Review the data. Survey people who have been involved.

B. Meredith - Deputy Commissioner

- There is interest in off-shore wind – specifically there will be a 12 turbine research array. Safety concerns include how to appropriate site the turbine, and how search and rescue will take place.
- There is an offshore wind roadmap. (Terry Alexander, a dragger was mentioned.)
- Final Rule re Whale Take Reduction has been published.

C. Action Plan

- Kris will develop a list of questions and Curtis will review and add questions.
- Jeff mentioned that the DMR website could be a vehicle for dissemination of a survey and that we could put the survey out on social media. He later reminded the members that we could use social media to get names for a diver and a harvester.
- Curtis will ask Melissa for names of groups she is in, in order to increase the list of recipients of the survey.

V. Finalization of Outline for Report to the Commissioner

A. Writing: Janine will write up the Annual Report; Ann will edit and send to council members for comments.

B. Compilation: Ann

C. Delivery: Mark

VI. Next Meetings: October 21, 7 pm; Nov 19, 7 pm; Dec 16 3:00-5:00 pm- the December meeting is a required quarterly meeting.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm