

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, December 11, 2024

Via Teams 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

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

Absent: Curtis Haycock?, Zac Gower

Public: Brian Smith (USCG NNE)

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Janine welcomed the CFSC members and guests were introduced

II. Presentation of Minutes of September 18, 2024

The minutes for the September quarterly meeting were approved with the change of the spelling of Deputy Mendelson's name throughout the minutes.

III. Update from the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

Neither Commissioner Keliher nor Deputy Commissioner Mendelson was on hand. [Their attendance is optional.] There

has been no comment on the annual report submitted to the Commissioner. Jeff Nichols reported that he was following-up with Commissioner Keliher on our request for a website presence for the Council and our request that additional educational information about the requirement to monitor Channel 16 be provided to the Advisory and Zone Councils.

IV. Planning and completion of Safety Video and Resources for potential website.

We discussed that the CFSC will provide Jeff with a list of potential web links to commercial fishing safety content, and Jeff will work with Marine Patrol Colonel Matthew Talbot to approve the content before links are posted to DMR's website. The content will live within the Marine Patrol Section of the DMR website. There will be an acknowledgement that the links and content were provided by the CFSC.

John McMillan suggested that we look at material from the Marine Accident and Investigation Branch; another suggestion was material from the National Commercial Fishing Safety Council i.e., the "best practices guide" known as the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels Best Safety Practice Guide, April 2024 (draft Version 1.1),

Rob Odlin mentioned that we should not “clog-up” the website meaning we need to keep it straightforward and practical. Jeff offered to provide a draft of webpages for our January workshop meeting. The discussion continued with suggestions that once the CFSC webpages are up, we can use the .gov delivery system to draw people to the web pages. Rob suggested that we make use of the analytics such as number of hits.

V. Update on the Fishermen Forum Booth and Workshop

Ann provided an update saying that application had been made to the Forum Planning Committee 1) for a workshop on Safety at Sea that would include panelists and the topic of monitoring Channel 16 among other topics, and 2) to hold the CFSC in-person quarterly meeting during the Forum. We discussed possible raffle prizes such as PLB, damage Control Kit, etc. Perhaps approach Hamilton Marine, Plante Buoysticks, and the DMR for prizes. Ann will send around a table of roles and responsibilities for the Forum workshop and will ask members to seek donations for raffle prizes.

VI. Plans for Reaching out to Small Harbors to suggest they include safety education in their 2025 summer festivals.

Janine lead a discussion on the possibility of encouraging festival planners to include safety education in their summer coastal festivals. Stonington family fun day, lobster races in various locations are candidate locations. We could come up with a list of safety-related activities to suggest. Could we reach out to harbormasters for suggestions about viable activities?

VII. Update on Wind Energy – recent BOEM meeting (standing agenda item)

Rob Odlin supportive the idea that we need to keep up on what is happening in this space. John McMillan said Kristan Porter, President of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association keep close track of the situation and the impact on lobstermen. Another source of information is the New England Fishing Stewardship Association (NEFSA).

VIII. Draft of Best practices guide FYI: [Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Best Practice Guide.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/Commercial%20Fishing%20Industry%20Vessel%20Best%20Practice%20Guide.pdf)

Ann will have a summary of this document for January.

IX. Follow-up on electric boat infrastructure discussion of Sept 18, 2024.

There was no need for a follow-up discussion at this time.

X. New Business

There was no new business brought up.

XI. Next Meetings

- A. Working group, Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm (virtual via Teams; Wednesday, February 19, 2025 only if needed).
- B. Quarterly meeting, pending Saturday, March 1, 2025 in person at Fishermen's Forum.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus,

Secretary, CFSC

February 19, 2025