

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, June 19, 2024

Via Teams 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Present: Ann Backus, Kris Boehmer, Janine Drouin, John Drouin, Curtis Haycock, and DMR staff: Sgt. Mark Murry, Jeff Nichols

Absent: Zac Gower, Rob Odlin (both unexcused), John McMillan, Parker Poole (excused)

Public: Michael Ames,

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Janine welcomed the CFSC members.

II. Presentation of Minutes of March 1, 2024

The minutes for the quarterly meeting on March 1, 2024 at the Fishermen’s Forum were approved.

III. Discussion of Potential Projects for 2024

A. List of Instruction Safety Videos and Links to third party websites.

Potential topics include suicide, mental health, fatigue and sleep deprivation, CO/CO2, near-miss education, high water alarms, bilge alarms, towing high. Potential organizations with appropriate material include Maine Coast Fishermens Association (Monique Coombs), Northeast Center, Agribility, USCG, OSHA/NIOSH, National Safety Committee, Fishing Partnership.

The possibility of making our own video about the use of Channel 16 was discussed.

B: Prepare a formal request for a CFSC website presence within the DMR website.

We discussed that a formal request to the Commissioner for a website presence should be made and 1) should request that the website presence be on or associated with the DMR website, 2) should give examples of the type of content that will be covered, and 3) should offer suggestions as to how the content will be updated and who will be assigned to work with Jeff Nichols on updates.

C. Proactive education around importance of Channel 16.

1. Commercial Fisheries News/September issue: Ann Backus will write an article under her byline FISH SAFE.

2) Request that the commissioner send a Memorandum to DMR Advisory and Zone Councils about the importance of fishermen monitoring Channel 16. This request will be included in the CFSC's Annual Report to the Commissioner.

3) Other: It was suggested that we could create a video highlighting the importance of fishermen monitoring Channel 16.

#### IV. Update on Wind Energy - recent BOEM meeting (standing agenda item)

Ann Backus reported that BOEM committee members met on April 8, 9, 2024 with the Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). The YouTube video of the meeting can be viewed at

[https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/42420\\_04-2024\\_standing-committee-on-offshore-wind-energy-and-fisheries-spring-meeting-2024](https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/42420_04-2024_standing-committee-on-offshore-wind-energy-and-fisheries-spring-meeting-2024).

We mentioned that the corridors within the wind farm matrix will run NW-SE and E-W.

#### V. National Fishing Safety Advisory Council Meeting Report – Kriss Boehmer

Kriss reported that the National Advisory Council met in April but did not make any notable decisions or official acts.

#### VI. New Business – none was brought up

VII. Next meetings: It was decided that the next working meeting would be August 14, 7-8 pm via Teams. The quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Sept 18, 2024 (virtual via Teams from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm.) Ann Backus will get in touch with Noah Oppenheim to see if he would like some time at the September meeting to discuss electric boats and shoreside infrastructure for electric boats.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

#### IV. Awarding of a Damage Control Kit to a Near- Miss Survey participant – Janine.

As stipulated in the Near-Miss Survey, participants were invited to include their email addresses if they want to be included in a raffle for a Damage Control Kit. The survey closed in 2022, but we had not awarded the Damage Control Kit. The winner who was chosen from a collection of email addresses compiled from the survey, was J Huebener of Cape Elizabeth, ME.

[He has since received his DCK, courtesy of Parker Poole. The kit was donated by Kris Boehmer of Brown and Brown Marine Insurance and created by REDDE Marine Safety, LLC – Pat Sheppard and Tom Duym.]

V. Reminder of Damage Control Workshop at the Fishermen’s Forum (2:45-4:15 Camden Room).

A. Damage Control Kit Raffle - Two damage control kits were provided for the workshop raffle by the DMR. One raffle winner was Janine and John Drouin’s son, the other was a fisherman from Stonington, CT

B. It was brought up at this time by John McMillan that fishermen are not paying attention to the Channel 16 and are not aware of when fellow fishermen are in trouble.

Kris Boehmer suggested we use the information from the Near-Miss study to help bring attention to the need to pay attention to Channel 16. Parker Poole agreed. It was suggested that captains include an orientation to Channel 16 during new crew member orientation. Kris mentioned that the importance of Channel 16 could be mentioned on a future CFSC website.

Other comments include

- Ports and waterways study mentioned issues of cruise ship traffic vis a vis the wind farm arrays.
- Communication around safety is critical; consider recommending to the Commissioner that fishermen must monitor Channel 16.
- FPSS and MacMillan Offshore and other trainers should stress the value and importance of Channel 16 during safety trainings.

VI. Update on Wind Energy – recent BOEM meeting (standing agenda item) – Ann Backus

- A. Ann Backus summarized the report on the most recent BOEM public meeting.
- B. The USCG will continue to be active cooperating partners with BOEM.
- C. Meredith Mendelson, DMR Deputy Commissioner and head of the DMR Bureau of Policy and Management, will continue to represent DMR.
- D. Searsport was announced as the navigation hub for the Gulf of Maine wind farm.
- E. The windfarm research array is an opportunity: The array brings up environmental, fishing resource issues, safety issues and others. Communication about these issues is important; we need to stay on top of the issues.

VII. Discussion of Potential Projects for 2024 – Janine Drouin

- A. Communication is a major issue: Parker suggested a you tube video on the importance of communication and Channel 16 citing that New Zealand made videos of the crossing of a bar to educate their fishermen. Can we get photos and communication examples? Janine suggested we

make a recommendation that DMR add this content to their website. Jeff Nichols suggested using social media; Kris suggested we get the “wind people” as sponsors of a website.

- B. Re a Council Website: Jeff suggested we recommend that the Council have a website presence, stating that we need to have our work “out there.” He recommended taking small steps and making a well-defined, highly specific request, possibly engage a third party. Kris added that the National Fishing Vessel Safety Council is also looking into ways to reach fishermen. The DMR website has been in existence for many years and still is underutilized according to Jeff. DMR also uses Facebook, Instagram, X and .gov delivery to reach fishermen.
- C. List of Instructional Videos: We could develop a list of instructional videos and prepare a handout with QR codes for each video. Dan Orchard offered that The Fishing Partnership Support Services (FPSS) has a suicide prevention handout. Janine mentioned the work of Monique Coombs on substance use disorders. Other ideas for instruction include fatigue, sleep deprivation (like driving drunk), CO/CO2 and wet exhaust placement, more education on near-miss, high water alarms, bilge alarms, towing high.
- D. Apprenticeship program vs lottery for the scallop industry: Janine suggested that an apprenticeship program would benefit scallopers because it would require pre-licensure education for scallopers re towing high and other hazards. The scallop council has apparently discussed and not endorsed an apprenticeship program.
- E. Current recommendations for the Commissioner include unmarked aquaculture pens, communication/Channel 16, and website.

#### VIII. Other business

We held working group meetings on April 17, and May 15, 2024 from 7:00- 8:00 pm.

#### IX. New Business

Kris Boehmer announced that the next National Fishing Safety Advisory Council meeting will be held in Jacksonville, April 8-12. Kris can report on this meeting in future CFSC meetings.

#### X. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded that we adjourn. 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus, Secretary  
June 12, 2024