

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, March 1, 2025

In-person Meeting: Maine Marine Patrol Office Conference Room

Field Office: Rockland Ferry Terminal,

517A Maine Street, Rockland, ME 207-596-2267

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

Absent: Curtis Haycock

Excused: Zac Gower, John McMillan

Public: Elizabeth Michaud (aunt of Tyler Michaud), founder of Green and White Hope

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Janine welcomed the CFSC members and guests were introduced. Elizabeth Michaud was asked to introduce herself and Green and White Hope, the organization she founded to honor the memory of her nephew Tyler Michaud, a young fisherman who died lobstering.

II. Presentation of Minutes of December 11, 2024

The minutes for the December quarterly meeting were approved.

III. Update from the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

Mark Murry commented that Carl Wilson, incoming Commissioner, will have updates after March 14, 2025, the date Commissioner Patrick Keliher steps down. Discussion included inviting Commissioner Wilson to attend the June meeting and to include in the letter that we are mandated by the Maine legislature to engage in activities and to advise the Commissioner about commercial fishing safety issues and would like to hear of Commissioner Wilson's priorities and whether or not we should continue to include the wind energy issue as a standing agenda item. The letter would also ask that we be briefed on any new regulations on whale take reductions when they [new regulations] are permitted in January 2029.

The Commissioner's office will support educational and information efforts to encourage fishermen to monitor Channel 16 per FCC requirement.

IV. Nominating Committee.

Kris Boehmer, Parker Poole and Ann Backus agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. While some members advocated for a quick renewal of current officers, Ann encouraged that we go through the traditional process of talking with members to see who might be interested in serving as an officer (chair, vice chair, or secretary) of the Council. The Committee will present their slate at the June quarterly meeting.

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

We reviewed the status of the website for safety videos and resources. The content will live within the Marine Patrol Section of the DMR website. Materials will be vetted by Marine Patrol Colonel Matthew Talbot prior to being posted to the website. The CFSC will be acknowledged on the Marine Patrol site.

Liz Michaud provided a detailed explanation of the safety materials that she has found through her work under her 501 c 3 organization, Green and White Hope, and that would be appropriate for the CFSC safety website. She cited organizations and industries that would be suitable collaborators for the site, including Lockheed Martin.

The following points were made by Council members and Liz during this discussion:

- Focus on health and safety so that each fishermen comes home after each fishing trip;
- Focus on technology, preventing mortality and education;
- Develop protocols that reduce time to recovery; [Mark: Tiffany Strout may propose an emergency bill to make rescue and recovery faster. This bill has the potential to increase the resources for rescue and recovery.]
 - Janine: Is there a way to include volunteer marine divers?
 - Per OSHA, any rescue and recovery teams diving deeper than 100 feet must have access to a hyperbaric chamber.]
- Amplify and aggregate training opportunities such as from Fishing Partnerships, REDDE Marine Safety, and John McMillan;
- As a non-profit organization, Green and White Hope can raise funds;
- Develop a harbormaster training-create a checklist;
- We can engage volunteers in various aspects of the development of safety culture, but cannot use volunteers as divers;
- Kris: one of the easiest safety actions is to wear a PFD. What about a regulation?
- Mark: We can work with the younger generation of fishermen; and
- Parker offered to help "outside" the Council

- Jeff and council members wholly supported Liz Michaud's efforts and approach; the materials she provides will be vetted by Colonel Talbot (MMP) prior to being posted on the DMR website.

Janine thanked Liz for bringing up the issue of safety resources on the web and researching what is available and appropriate.

V. Update on the Fishermen Forum Booth and Workshop

The Monitoring Channel 16 Workshop at the Forum on Saturday morning was ok and the information provided, ok. Council members suggested talking with Fishing Partnership for collaborating on a seminar for FF 2026. The topic could be fishing alone.

The MLA is considering having a sternman training [for FF 2026].

"Crossing the Bar" on You Tube Channel was suggested as a good resource.

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

Because of time, this item was remanded to the workshop meeting on April 16, 2025.

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

No update at this time

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)

This item was tabled.

X. New Business

A. Maine Emergency Management Agency: What can fishermen do to ensure the safety of vessels [in preparation for and during storms].

B. Agribility would like to meet with us – possibly June meeting.

XI. Next Meetings

The next workshop meetings will be April 16, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm and, if needed, May 14, 2025, 7:00-8:00 pm, both via TEAMS.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus,

Secretary, CFSC

June 10, 2025