

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

## Commercial Fishing Safety Council

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, September 17, 2025

Teams meeting

Present: Ann Backus, Janine Drouin, John Drouin, Zac Gower,  
and DMR staff: Sgt. Mark Murry, Jeff Nichols

Marine Resources: Lt Troy Dow, head, Division II MMP.

Public: Liz Michaud (aunt of Tyler Michaud), founder of Green  
and White Hope; Brian Smith, USCG; Spencer Stone.

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Ann Backus served as chair for this meeting because Janine  
had just had eye surgery.

II. Presentation of Minutes June 18, 2025

There was not a quorum at this meeting. The minutes will be  
brought forward at the December quarterly meeting.

III. Update from the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner

It was announced that the Scallop Advisory Council will hold a  
meeting on October 1 @ 4 pm to which we are invited. They  
will discuss the issue of eligibility for a scallop license – an issue

which the Council has discussed in earlier meetings and brought to the attention of  
Commissioner Wilson.

IV. Update on scallop/urchin harvester vacancy on the Council.

The SAC was unable to take votes at their last meeting re the appointment of a SAC member to  
the CFSC. A vote will be taken at their October 1 meeting.

V. Discussion of Forum Plans for 2026

A. Ann reported that a letter was written to Commissioner Wilson requesting financial  
support for the CFSC vendor table and the Fishermen’s Forum 2026.

B. Ann reported that she has been in touch with 1) John McMillan of McMillan Offshore who  
has been in touch with John Leavitt for a raffle donation and possible presenter/panelist and

2) Pat Shepard and Josh Duym of REDDE Marine Safety for demo and/or to serve as a presenter/panelist

3) Liz Michaud reported that she has talked with many people about making safety a key topic for 2026. She has planned a 90-minute workshop around the Community Guide for Orchestrating Community Preparedness which has been developed through collaboration with Northeast Center, Fishing Partnership Support Services, USCG, Marine Patrol and others.

The Council Members agreed that we should be listed as a cosponsor of her Forum workshop.

Other information from Liz: Safety training schedules from the Green and White Hope website, <https://www.greenwhitehope.org/> have been added to the DMR website. There is a bill in the legislature to set aside July 21 as a Remembrance and Safety Day.

#### VI. AgrAbility and FishAbility Presentation

Antonia Small and Bella Russo provided a thoughtful and useful presentation on the organization, AgrAbility and on FishAbility, a component program. AgrAbility is a direct service organization. The goals of Fishability are education; networking, i.e., presence at fishing safety related events; direct assistance for individual fishermen at their location/boat; and marketing. They are familiar with assistive technologies and methodologies. They can provide consultation and mobility training and can respond to current situations related to mobility and ergonomics. They host and attend outreach events and try to market their services widely in Maine. Bella can be reached at [Isabella.russol@maine.edu](mailto:Isabella.russol@maine.edu) or by phone (207) 944-1533.

Jeff Nichols offered to work with Bella Russo to help increase their marketing efforts by providing notices from DMR.gov to license holders.

#### VII. Discussion of the draft of the annual report to Commissioner Wilson.

Ann provided a brief overview of the draft of the Annual Report; she planned to send around the draft for comment before sending it on to the Commissioner.

#### VIII. New Business

A. Jeff announced that tomorrow (Sept 19) is the last day to submit comments to NEFMC regarding opening certain areas to ropeless fishing.

B. Discussion included: Ropeless fishing may have been a President Biden initiative. John Drouin offered that ZONE 8 does not want ropeless fishing. There is a Canadian You Tube Video showing that Canadian lobstermen are using the technique. The suggestion was made

that we have someone come talk to the Council about ropeless options. Jeff said we could have someone from the Gear Team come talk so CFSC can engage with that person around safety issues: (Note: We did have a presentation by Kevin Staples (DMR- alternative gear research) at the CFSC workshop meeting on October 15, 2025.

IX. Next Meetings

A. Working Group, Wednesday, October 15, 7:00-8:00 pm (virtual via Teams); no meeting for November

B. Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 5:00-7:00 pm

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at shortly after 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Backus, MS

Secretary, CFSC