



Marine Resources Advisory Council

March 6, 2018

Sean Barrett

After welcoming everyone, the Councilors present introduced themselves along with James Gilmore, Director of the Marine Bureau of the NYSDEC. Chairman Frisk then went over the day's agenda.

Robert Danielson

John Davi, Jr.

***Public Comment non agenda items***

Melissa Dearborn

Mr. Richard LaRocca, a senior commercial fisher from Shinnecock, NY began by congratulating Jim Gilmore for being newly elected for a 2-year term as Chairman of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. His reason for being at today's meeting is to once again ask for an early opening with regard to the commercial striped bass fishery. When he initially requested this several meetings ago, he was told there would need to be a study to determine the PCB levels in the water (this was the reason for the initial closure) and he wanted to know where things stood in moving this forward because he doesn't believe contamination to be the case any longer thereby eliminating the reason for the closure. He said the Hudson River is cleaner than ever before. Mr. Gilmore said the Department of Health is working on a health study, but unfortunately it will take 2 years to complete. The DEC is doing the sampling and working on the analysis but until it is completed, the decision cannot be reversed.

Vincent Finalborgo

Thomas Jordan

Hank Lackner

Joseph Paradiso

Christopher Squeri

Charles Witek

Mr. LaRocca then presented the Chairman and Mr. Gilmore with a petition signed by 14 commercial fishers; Mr. Edward Warner, Jr. then read the petition – it's language read as follows: "We are asking the council to consider changing the current regulations on striped bass daily trip limits for the otter trawl fishery. In the Port of Shinnecock, there are a number of gill net fisherman and through the years we have watched them be able to fill multiple sets of tags in a single trip while we are limited to just 21 fish per trip. We are not looking to take anything away from anyone, in this business we all understand that we have to make money when we can but what we are asking is that you consider allowing otter trawl fisherman to retain, if caught, more than the current 21 fish per trip. This is not a targeted species for us but on many occasions there have been times when well over the 21 fish have been caught and then must be thrown back, which seems wasteful, and then is just a repeat of this process daily, where if we were allowed to retain more than the 21 fish per day there would be less fish being thrown back overboard dead or almost dead. By allowing otter trawl fisherman to retain more than the current 21 fish per day would be better for the conservation of the species overall. We are just asking that you take this request under consideration. Thank you for your time." (referenced attachment included)

Steve Witthuhn

Dean Yaxa

Michael Frisk  
Chairman

Kim Knoll  
Staff Assistant

John German, a commercial fisher would like to see the commercial striped bass season open the same as the recreational season. The recreational fishery numbers far exceed those of

the commercial industry; their discard numbers are higher than the number of fish actually caught commercially. He also believes the observer program is ineffective and something that should be discontinued.

John Mihale thinks the commercial striped bass season should be open from April 15<sup>th</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - have the maximum time to fill the tags. He would also like to see more tags given out in order to fully satisfy the quota. Mr. Mihale would also like to see Artificial Reefs placed on an agenda in the near future. This was a topic that was discussed previously but has somehow fallen off the radar. Mr. Frisk said it would be. His third discussion point was regarding the 40,000 lb overage for the commercial fluke quota that would need to be paid back. The 40,000 lb overage occurred because of overharvesting during the December period but he doesn't think it should be taken back from just one period. He would like to see the 40,000 lbs taken off the top and then allocate by the percentages agreed on.

Mr. James Schneider said that in 31 years of fishing, he has had 37 surveys taken aboard his vessels for Blackfish. The last survey was 5 ½ years ago and he doesn't think quota numbers should be based on data taken that long ago. His numbers from this year show that in 27 days they carried 1,000 people. Why? Because there were fish to be caught. They caught 18,000 shorts and roughly 1,800 fish were kept. They retained 1.8 fish per person meaning they are retaining 10% of what is being caught. We are now going from 4 fish to 3 fish – and he doesn't understand why. He personally has invested \$33,000 in license fees and by dropping from 4 fish to 3 fish, the value of his license is being reduced – why should his license be worth the same as someone on the south shore?

Councilor Witthuhn said that approximately 3 years ago, the Striped Bass which usually opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>, opened earlier – in June, and wondered what specifically had been done in order for that to happen. Councilor Jordan said it was Steve Heins going head to head with the Health Department. Mr. Gilmore said they are currently working with the Health Department but what they need now is to replicate the study.

#### ***Minutes from January 23, 2018 meeting***

The Minutes were approved as written.

#### ***Rule making update - Jonah crab, Lobster, Shark, Cod, Squid***

Kim McKown gave the following presentation (kim.mckown@dec.ny.gov)

2

## **Jonah Crab – Additional Amendment**

- Revise escape panel size for crab pots
  - Current panel size is 6 ½" x 5"
  - Contacted by fishermen - they are voluntarily using escape vents on crab pots which are 6" x 4"
    - Attach with biodegradable fastening and use as escape panel
    - have requested department to revise escape panel size consistent with available escape vent size
  - Use of escape vent more precautionary than current regulations
  - Lobster escape vent size 5 ¾" x 2" and escape panel is 3 ¾" x 3 ¾"





## LCMA 4 state/federal inconsistencies

- Currently NY LCMA 4 & 6 permit holders in NY can't fish in either area during either of the closed seasons.
- ASMFC Board changed interpretation of most restrictive rule for areas fished during the closed seasons.
  - Dual LCMA 4/6 permit holders can fish in LCMA 4 during LCMA 6 closed season and in LCMA 6 during LCMA 4 closed season.
- DEC proposes to implement this change through emergency rule to be effective 4/30/2018 – start of LCMA 4 closed season.



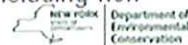
## Shark/Cod/Squid Proposed Rules

- Purpose of the rulemaking is to ensure consistency between federal and state fishery management plans for:
  - Coastal Sharks
  - Atlantic Cod
  - Longfin and *Illex* squid



## Shark/Cod/Squid Proposed Rules

- Six marine issues proposed in this rule making
  1. 3 proposed rules are similar – allow department to make trip limit adjustments for federally non-prohibited sharks, Atlantic cod, and squid
    - a) Prohibit food fish permit holders from harvesting or possessing non-prohibited shark in excess of current federal daily harvest limits
    - b) Set the commercial possession limit for Atlantic cod for state only permit holders at 25 lbs/day, Federal permit holder must follow federal rules
    - c) The department requests regulatory authority to set commercial trip and/or possession limits for longfin & *Illex* squid – including non possession (fishery closure)



## Shark/Cod/Squid Proposed Rules

2. Decrease the commercial size limit for Atlantic cod from 22 to 19 inches.
3. Prohibit the commercial and recreational possession of blacknose sharks
4. Allow for consistency between state and federal rules for size limits of non-prohibited sharks species, and specify that minimum length for recreational shark fishing is measured in fork length



1. Currently New York does not have the mechanism to adjust trip limits in a timely manner and stay consistent with the ASMFC and federal rules. This creates a loophole in the federal rules, where permit holders can harvest more than the federal trip and/or possession limit and land it in New York. Due to differences in federal permitting and quota management, the rules will be implemented differently for each species group. Implementing these rules will prevent state and/or federal permit holders from overharvesting these important resources, by eliminating ports where this illegal harvest can be landed.

2. Makes the size limit for cod in New York consistent with neighboring states and federal waters. State fishers have a higher by-catch (they must throwback fish between 19 and 22 inches) and increased fishing effort (time and effort needed to sort out fish smaller than 22 inches). State fishers who target cod are at a fishing disadvantage when compared to fishers from neighboring states.

3. The ASMFC fisheries management plan for coastal sharks states that a person operating a vessel north of 34°00' N. latitude may not possess, land or sell any Blacknose sharks. The current New York regulation contradicts this rule and specifies no possession limit for Blacknose sharks.

4.A – HMS emergency rule increased the size limit shortfin mako from 54 to 83 inches for recreational fishery. Would like to revise regulatory language to follow NMFS min size limits for non-prohibited shark species.

4.B – ASMFC coastal shark FMP specifies that recreational minimum size limits are measured in fork length. New York's current shark minimum size does not specify the type of length measurement. The proposed amendment will clarify that the minimum size limit is measured as fork length. The current rules include a definition of fork length.

### Discussion

Mr. Davi wanted to know why they want to make the shark fishery more restrictive to which Ms. McKown replied, "Because the fishery is not in good shape." He countered that the fishery is already being watched and protected.

Mr. Mihale thought it might be wise to use the wording for commercial cod "consistent with federal regulations which are currently 19." If it is written in that manner, it will alleviate the constant changes. That was thought to be a good idea.

Since there was so much information to take in, Mr. Davi asked if this could be brought up again at the May meeting, giving people more time to digest the information provided. Mr. Frisk said it would.

## Fisheries Regulatory Update

- Tautog (Recreational and Commercial)
- Scup (Recreational only)
- Black Sea Bass (Recreational only)
- Summer Flounder (Recreational only)



## Tautog

- Rulemaking package in Albany for legal review
- LIS Region
  - Recreational: 16" min. size, April 1-30 2 fish, Oct 11-Dec 9 3 fish
  - Commercial: 15" min. size, 25 fish (10 w/ >6 lobsters), May 7-Nov 23 with an August closure
- NY Bight Region
  - Recreational: 16" min. size, April 1-30 2 fish, Oct 15-Dec 22 4 fish
  - Commercial: 15" min. size, 25 fish (10 w/ >6 lobsters), April 16-Jan 25



## Tautog continued

- LIS Commercial Tautog fishermen continue to be unhappy with the proposed season (May 7-Nov 23 with an August closure).
  - East End w/ the loss of days in Nov and Dec
  - West End pot fishermen with the 1 month closure
    - Need to maintain/tend gear
    - Enforcement issues?
    - Price of fish
- Consider revisiting this season prior to the 2019 fishing year.





## Scup and Black Sea Bass

- ASMFC approved 9" minimum size for scup in MA-NY
  - NY expects to move forward with proposing 9" for all marine recreational anglers
- ASMFC approved Addendum XXX for black sea bass in February
  - Vote didn't go in favor of MA-NY
  - Current allocation requires an 11.7% reduction in MA-NY
  - TC and Board are scheduled to approve methodologies and proposals by March 20
    - Public meeting to follow



## Fluke

- Up to a 17% liberalization

OPTION	SIZE	BAG	TOTAL DAYS	SEASON	CHANGE
STATUS QUO	19"	3	128	5/17-9/21	0.0%
1	19"	3	153	5/1-9/30	13.3%
2	19"	4	148	5/1-9/25	17.0%
3	19"	4	150	5/4-9/30	16.5%
4	18.5"	3	106	5/25-9/7	17.0%

- NY still has to reach an agreement w/ CT



## Fluke continued

View Poll Results: 2018 NY Fluke Season Options				Edit Poll
This poll will close on 03-05-2018 at 10:31 PM				
Status Quo: 3 @ 19", May 17 - Sept 21, 128 day season		0	0%	
New Option 1: 3 @ 19", May 1 - Sept 30, 153 day season		3	11.54%	
New Option 2: 4 @ 19", May 1 - Sept 25, 148 day season		10	38.46%	
New Option 3: 4 @ 19", May 4 - Sept 30, 150 day season		11	42.31%	
New Option 4: 3 @ 18.5", May 25 - Sept 7, 106 day season		2	7.69%	



## Fluke continued

4 @ 19", 5/4 - 9/30, 150 days

██████████ 111 votes

3 @ 19", 5/1 - 9/30, 153 days

██████████ 57 votes

4 @ 19", 5/1 - 9/25, 148 days

██████████ 24 votes

3 @ 18.5", 5/25 - 9/7, 106 days

4 votes



Mr. Maniscalco explained that the poll results were gathered from information received via, snap chats, and other social media outlets.

**Councilor Paradiso made a motion to adopt Option 3 for the 2018 fluke season (19", 4 fish bag limit, May 4 – September 30); this was seconded by Councilor Dearborn.**

Discussion - Mr. Danielson would support the motion, however, he has trepidations knowing the stock assessment is coming out in 2019 and would be hesitant to go to 4 fish; he would really like to see 3 fish. He believes we will see reductions.

Mr. Gilmore asked if he wanted to amend the motion but Mr. Danielson said he didn't.

Mr. Witthun feels we should go with 4 fish. We need to be conservative but not ultra conservative.

Mr. Witek wanted to know if people believe that effort was off last year and wonders whether it will be off this year. His perception was that effort was off last year, he believes the numbers to be fairly accurate. He further wonders if we have a very good summer this year, will we see more effort again or bounce back closer to normal numbers and then go over. Mr. Squeri said we had a very good summer last year and he is so frustrated with MRIP numbers – their numbers are complete hogwash.

Mr. Schneider is for option 3 whatever opening we go for, he believes Connecticut will follow suite.

*Vote: All in favor – 10, opposed -0, abstentions -1 . Motion passes*

Ms. Dearborn added that while Option 3 was chosen, she would like Mr. Maniscalco to make the point that Option 4 or status quo shouldn't be considered at all.

Mr. Neil Delanoy asked where we stood as far as Black Sea Bass. Mr. Maniscalco replied that the Technical Committee and The Board have to approve state proposals and methodologies by March 20<sup>th</sup>. He will know what he's dealing with then at which point there will be public hearing to go over the various options being offered. We are in the Northern region with Massachusetts, however, we won't have the same regulations as everyone because the commission decided to allow limited conservation equivalency; we will all be within one inch of each other and within a 3-fish bag limit. We removed the days restriction so Massachusetts can have a shorter season. Because he doesn't have the specifics he did not include it in the slide presentation.

## Attendees by Gear Type

GEAR	11/28	12/19
HOOK AND LINE	12	13
TRAWL	13	23
POT/TRAP	9	3
GILLNET	2	1



## DEC Marine Resources requesting MRAC Feedback on Fluke and Black Sea Bass

- Scup and Bluefish – relatively non-controversial
- Gear Type
- Geography
- Vessel size
- State vs. Federal Permits
- Full vs. Part-time fishery participation



## Black Sea Bass (15% Reduction in 2018)

Period 2 opening day in 2017 was May 15.

- Interest in earlier opening dates: May 1 or May 7.
- Earlier opening will result in earlier closure





## Black Sea Bass (15% Reduction in 2018)

Combine periods 2 and 3 (5/15-8/31) or keep separate:  
Period 2 (5/15-6/30) and Period 3 (7/1 – 8/3)

- Combining likely to result in early summer closure
- Keeping separate likely to result in closure in June, a reopening July 1 and another closure in August lasting until September 1
- Combining periods may favor some gear types over others.



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: This slide should read: (7/1 – 8/31)**

Mr. Jordan wanted to keep the 2 historic periods as it has been and Mr. Sean Barrett had previously submitted a letter and expressed the same.

Mr. Maniscalco asked if there was any interest in combining the periods; the Council and audience remained silent.

## Summer Flounder( ~14% Increase in 2018)

42,924 lb. overage can be paid back in 2018 but must be paid back by 2019.

- Take it from "winter fisheries" where the overage occurred (Dec. and Jan.-April)
- Spread it out across 2018, in response to past winter lost overages in other periods.
- Mixed Model: Spread payback out amongst all periods with overages by pound.
- 2018 landings for period 1 are 60,845 as of March 6, 2018.



## 2017 Quota Overage Summary

Fluke	Quota	Landings	% of quota	Balance
Period 1 January - March	108,191	98,153	91%	10,000
Period 2 April	43,276	17,507	40%	25,769
Period 3 May	60,586	85,315	141%	(24,729)
Period 4 June - July	116,848	127,706	109%	(10,858)
Period 5 August - September	60,587	62,975	104%	(2,388)
Period 6 October	21,638	24,243	112%	(2,605)
Period 7 December	21,638	59,806	276%	(38,618)
Quota	452,764	475,705	109.9%	(42,941)



Mr. Danielson asked if the 40,000 lbs. will be taken off the quota and then split among the individual seasons? Mr. Maniscalco replied that would be his preference.

Mr. Jordan said that unfortunately winter 1 season gets penalized for many of the crimes that happen in the summer months not only in the fluke industry but many others as well. He feels instead of making them pay it back directly, it should be put back in the pool and spread out.

Mr. Mihale thinks it should come directly off the top and let things play out the way they are supposed to and if there is an underage, it should go to December (then make very sure not to go over). Mr. Maniscalco said they could try that. In recent years the underages that occur in periods 1 & 2 get eaten up by the summer. In 2017, December never saw the overages that were due because of October (1:27), he would prefer to try and make it up now.

## November Opening?

November closed by design in 2017 due to small quota.

- Interest in opening in early November, one week at 50 lbs.
- Would require 10,000 lbs. set aside. Rollover would be added to December.
- Fluke already has a 42,941 overage.



Mr. Maniscalco said there have been requests for an early opening in November. Since there is already an overage to contend with, this is not something that can be considered for this year but perhaps in the future.

Mr. Davi would prefer more time in October (rather than November) because the price is better.

Dan Warner from Shinnecock doesn't feel it's fair to penalize the people who fish in the winter months. It's hard work and he would like to see the people who like to fish in the summer months to try fishing during the colder months. Why should they be forced to pay the price?

Mr. Jordan thinks it's better to forecast than react. There is much more control this way.

Mr. Maniscalco said in moving forward they are going to use 60% as the trigger. Mr. Jordan said this reinforces his point but you don't necessarily have to wait to get to the trigger to know that your average landings will be x, y and z. The weather doesn't vary *that* much, the conditions do not vary *that* much. Waiting for the trigger is the problem, you can see the trend before it even happens. We need to be more proactive by following a prior track record – much simpler.

Mr. Maniscalco said they will not move forward in having a November opening. He added that he would be very interested in email notification rather than sending out post cards. The information could be received instantaneously, and it wouldn't cost anything. Communication needs to be updated.

9

## Weekly summer trip limits only for trawlers participating in the winter weekly program

- Limited number of fishers: large vessels, federally permitted.
- Multi-day trips only (72 hours +), do not land 50 lbs. daily in NY.
- Suggestion was 150 lbs., once per week.



This did not receive positive feedback from the audience or Councilors although Mr. Mihale did express interest.

10

## Weekend Closure?

- Trial suggested for 2018 Period 5, (August – September, 14% of Quota) to extend the time the period remains open.
- Used in Rhode Island.
- Likely to impact part-time, commercial fishers with weekday jobs and those that rely upon weekend help.
- May see more loss of fishing days due to weather.





Mr. Jordan along with many others think this is a bad idea. This had been brought up at the last council meeting and Mr. Jordan has heard from people in the industry who all concur – this would be very bad for the packing industry and very bad for the small boat fishers. There are numerous fishers who simply cannot afford to lose two days in any given week for fishing. Mr. Jordan also thinks that a decision cannot be made until a report is received from the outside consultant who will be compiling information with regard to the way we will be moving forward with licenses and how we want our fisheries to be in the future. This is just another way to push out the small fisher who fishes everyday for fluke. Mr. Mihale thinks this attacks the hook and line fishery and he concurs it's a bad idea.

Mr. Davi did think it was a good idea and there were several others that agreed with him. He feels that if you are a true commercial fisher, fish during the week, he is talking about a *true commercial fisher*, someone who does not collect a pension from a previous job. This could also possibly extend the season.

Nancy Solomon is against this. She worries that this rule might force you to fish when the weather is terrible simply because you are losing 2 days during the week to make money; it could very well endanger the captain and crew. She also brought up mechanical issues – what if a boat is being repaired due to a mechanical failure and it's out of commission for several days during the week – that captain must then also lose the weekend?

Mr. Squeri thinks it might be a good thing, why not do a trial for the month of August.

Motion: Mr. Squeri motioned to close the commercial fluke fishery for weekends only during the month of August 2018. Seconded by Mr. Davi.

Discussion:

Mr. Jordan was very upset by this. He said that you get the best weather and best fishing in the month of August. In Mr. Jordan's area it is a complete mix of fishing gear but those folks go out and fish *every single day of the week* - how you are going to tell fishermen that they are going to lose between 8-10 days (depending on how the weekends fall) which amounts to 20% of their income during a month when he makes the **majority** of his income – this is completely insane. This is the big industrial operations going after the traditional fisheries. Let the State look at our historical fisheries and the participants, then make the decision as to whether or not it should continue or not. If you want to make this an industrial fishery, no one who is even thinking about coming in to small boat fisheries will want to get involved. This is all about the guys who have overcapitalized their businesses that need to put tons of fish over the dock in order to pay their fuel bill versus the guys who traditionally fish with hook and rod and purposely kept their expenses to a minimum who support the local accessory businesses (the delis, marinas, tackle shops, etc.), not the boats that ship out of state and are gone half the time. They even do their boat repairs and fueling out of state. The people who Mr. Jordan represents have the right to continue on as they have for the past 30, 40 and even 50 years. This is a resource grab by the big industry. They don't need to fish 7 days a week, but the small boats do and they have a right to fish every single day of the week if they can. They don't have pensions and they don't have other jobs.

Motion: Mr. Squeri made a motion to withdraw his previous motion. Seconded by Bob Danielson. All in favor – 10, opposed -0, abstentions – 1 . Motion passes.

### Commercial Quota Distribution

Taking into account today's discussion, the following was put together.

Black Sea Bass

1. Period 2 will open on May 15
2. Periods 2 and 3 will remain as separate periods

Fluke

1. Payback 42,941 overage spread out amongst periods
2. Fluke periods will remain status quo, there will be no November period
3. No weekly summer multi-day trip limits for trawlers
4. No weekend closure trial program in period 5

Motion: Mr. Davi made a motion to move forward. Seconded by Mr. Squeri. All in favor – 10, Opposed -0, abstentions – 1 . Motion passes

#### *For hire compliance*

Councilor Danielson thought a discussion about the ways in which boat captains deal with non-compliance issues could prove valuable to many. Someone he was speaking with gave Mr. Danielson a suggestion that could be useful. He was told that in the South, when someone brings a cooler on board a party and charter boat, it gets tagged with information obtained from their fishing license. Should the boat be boarded by Enforcement, they can put the own-ness on the owner of the cooler and not on the captain of the boat. This has been a problem lately here in New York and wondered if the charter boat captains would be amenable to something like this.

Mr. Schneider said you need to be very careful how you handle certain situations. His crew has already been threatened when they asked to see what was in someone's cooler. His crew (and he includes every other boat crew) do not have the training to deal with people who are breaking the law, that's the DEC's Enforcement issue. They should not be responsible for enforcing the laws, it's much too dangerous.

Jamie Qua agrees with Jimmy, the captains and crews should not be responsible for policing but does think a tagging system could be useful. It is simply not possible to count every fish that comes on board the crew has other responsibilities.

Neal Delanoy thinks enforcement officers should go undercover on a boat to observe what really goes on. If they suspect there is cheating going on in a particular area, the officer should follow them once the person is in their car and investigate in an area where they are more secluded so you aren't facing all 125 fishers at once (just an estimate for how many people can be on a boat at one time). You can maintain more control that way.

Mr. Danielson understands it would be hard to encounter all 125 fishers at once, however, if the cooler is tagged, they know whose cooler it is. We need to bring compliance back and the laws must be enforced. Even though only 2 cases from last season received attention, he knows this goes on all over. He believes the best way to handle it is to put the own-ness on the fishers, make it their responsibility – not the boat captain. We need to find a way to fix this.

Mr. Delanoy said they don't have coolers on his boat – they have buckets. Would every bucket need to be tagged to which Mr. Danielson replied, "yes." Mr. Delanoy thinks it would be a huge inconvenience and is against doing something. In 40 years of business, he has never received a ticket or summons and that is with having been boarded by enforcement at least 20 times a year, they have been checked at the dock at least that many times in addition to taking members of MRFFS on the vessel.

Mr. Squeri said no matter what the vehicle is for holding the fish caught –it should have a tag. If this is made into a law, it takes the enforcement burden off the captain. As a law it is something that must be abided by. He thinks it would be best for the charter boat captains to come together and think of a solution otherwise the matter might be taken from their hands and they might not like what others may come up with.



Mr. Witek said he has done a fair amount of fishing in areas outside of New York. The first step is identifying the fish, second step is there is to be no fileting at sea – it must all take place on land. There is rack retention; the skin is left on one filet so the type of fish is obvious. The fish are actually tagged on the boat. Every fish is isolated with an identification number. This will work with a small bag limit, not on a species such as porgies when you can catch 45 fish.

Officer Riley of the DEC Law Enforcement stated that unclaimed coolers are a large part of the problem. Once Enforcement agents are spotted, coolers are abandoned. They can contain as many as 130 fish. Another large problem is that the vessel trip report doesn't always match up to the number of fish caught.

It was decided that because whatever needs to be done must go through proper legislation, a work group will be put together that will map out how best to create legislation that will take all the various details into effect. The work group will include: Councilors Barrett, Danielson, Paradiso, Squeri, Witek and Witthuhn. The group will also include a member of Law Enforcement who can offer ideas as to what is and isn't feasible. This will be for the 2019 season so the group should have their thoughts together by November. A meeting following the April Council meeting was thought to be a good time for the first meeting. The Councilors will also contact several others that might want to also be involved.

#### **Staff Announcements for the DEC**

Ms. Rachel Sysak has been promoted to the head of the Finfish Unit (filling in John Maniscalco's prior role), Ms. Gina Finelli has been promoted to the Quota Management Section (filling in Karen Growlic's prior role), and Ms. Maureen Davidson is filling the role left by Steve Heins handling Interstate and Federal Fisheries Management.

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#### 2018 Meeting Schedule

April 17<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 p.m. DEC Offices (Legislative Review)

May 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Endeavour Hall, School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University

July 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. (possibly Stony Brook)

September 11<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m. DEC Offices

November 13<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 p.m. DEC Offices

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For further information about the Marine Resources Advisory Council, past and present bulletins, as well as any pertinent graphs, charts or data, please check the Council's web page: <http://you.stonybrook.edu/mrac/meetings/>

Should you wish to suggest an agenda topic, contact the Chairman, Michael Frisk, ([Michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Michael.frisk@stonybrook.edu)); phone 631/632-8656; Staff Assistant, Kim Knoll, ([kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu](mailto:kim.knoll@stonybrook.edu))