

CT Seafood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2017, 2:30 p.m.
Bureau of Aquaculture, Milford

Present: David Carey, Barbara Gordon, Nancy Balcom, Mark Alexander, Lawrence Williams, Bill Clayton, D.J. King.

Absent: Tessa Getchis, Donald Bell, Mike Theiler, Paul Formica, Michael Fraenza, Chad Simoneaux

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. by Co-chair, Lawrence Williams.

Introduction of Mark Alexander, newly named Assistant Director of Marine Fisheries at DEEP. Mr. Alexander replaces David Simpson who served at that office for a number of years following the service of Eric Smith. Mr. Alexander stated that David Simpson would probably remain at DEEP Fisheries during transition.

Members welcome Mark Alexander to the Council.

D. J. King discussed seaweed growth. Currently he is battling a red weed – very prevalent and highly annoying because of the difficulty removing it. It is new to the area.

Co-Chair's Report - Larry Williams:

Despite having divested much of his business - and most of his beds - Mr. Williams remains very interested in the shellfish industry. He is especially interested in the subject of invasive species affecting fishing gear.

Bureau Director's Report - David Carey:

No bills being proposed to the state legislature at this time. There are several vacant positions at the Bureau as a result of both the FDA hiring one employee and the Department of Public Health which hired two employees. Three vacancies need to be filled at present. The initial vacant position is now unfunded. In addition, 2 more staff members may be retiring in 2017.

Mark Alexander - DEEP Fisheries

Mr. Alexander reported that Inland and Marine Fisheries have been combined. Mark is Assistant Director in charge of Marine Fisheries. Pete Aarrestad is the Director. Longtime Fisheries person at DEEP will also be retiring soon, as will Mark Johnson.

Larry Williams commented that the industry will be losing a great wealth of institutional knowledge – a consequence of budget restraints.

Executive Director – Barbara Gordon

Expressed determination to rejuvenate Council. Have more events such as hosting a reception for Legislators as has been done in the past.

Provided rough draft of newsletter to David Carey.

David Carey – Bureau Director:

Spoke of situation of Housatonic River. Was not dredged last November, but will be dredged in November of 2017. Shell and oysters must be removed. 30,000 bushels were already taken last spring, another 30,000 need to be removed.

Preserving working waterfront is crucial. Bridgeport will now have accessibility with construction of a public and commercial landing dock and commercial ramp on city land adjacent to the Steele Pointe development funded primarily by the lead tenant Bass Pro Shops.

A meeting will be taking place in New Haven regarding the widening of the New Haven Channel. Bureau will provide information on shellfish beds in the area.

Mr. Carey has ideas for the development of natural oyster public shellfish beds in the area.

Barbara Gordon – Executive Director:

- Get date for reception at Capitol
- Speak to Sen. Paul Formica re: his availability for future meetings
- Will look into additional members for Council
- Noted that Council will once again participate in Ag Day at the Capitol in March.

No further business. The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gordon
Executive Director