

Commercial Fishing Safety Council

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting, December 16, 2021 (draft)

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

Absent: John McMillan, Marc McCole

I. Welcome – Janine Drouin, chairperson

II. Minutes of September 16, 2021 accepted

III. Council Membership

John Drouin has offered to be the member from the LAC and will request to have the topic of his being the LAC representative on the CFSC placed on the agenda of next LAC meeting. The harvester and diver positions on the CFSC are still open.

Curtis volunteered to ask Melissa for names of potential members from the groups she is in.

IV. Update on response from the Commissioner to the Strategic Plan for 2022 – The Commissioner accepted the Strategic Plan that we submitted as required by law, in October, but has not commented on it.

V. Initiatives

A. Survey: Curtis and Kris will work on the safety/near miss questions for the survey to licensees; council members were invited to add questions. Ann to send the survey as we have it presently to Curtis and Kris.

During the discussion of how to disseminate the SURVEY, Jeff Nichols volunteered to ask if the CFSC can use DMR's Government Delivery System for dissemination. Jeff Nichols offered to format the survey using Microsoft forms once the questions have been finalized. The survey will go to captains, and we discussed if there were a way to reach the sternmen as well. There was no resolution of that topic as sternmen are not generally license holders and therefore not in the DMR database.

NOTE: DMR ok'd the use of The Government Delivery System on December 20, 2021.

B. Could the Council host/organize something in lieu of Fishermen's Forum - our own webinars?

There was discussion of what we could organize as a Council to take the place of the Fishermen's Forum which was cancelled for 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Suggestions were made that we could have virtual meetings by fishery, or by geography.

There was mention of connecting with the folks in Machias who are working on research (i.e., Tara Johnson). Perhaps they would have some results or a presentation that could be included.

In terms of topics, we discussed asking for emerging issues within the fisheries.

C. Digging deeper into the casualty database.

Members expressed an interest in finding out more about the medico and medevac casualties in Maine, especially with respect to deaths. They also mentioned exploring sinkings in terms of when (month) cause, persons overboard, and deaths. Ann offered to be in touch with the NIOSH staff who offered to extract this information for Maine from their large incident database.

VI. Next meetings: Jan 13, Feb 17, Quarterly meeting March 17, 2022

We did hold short working group meetings in January and February. These meetings were largely to go over the list of licensees to whom the survey would be sent. We decided to include those with fishery licenses but not fish processors. We also finalized the Safety Survey and sent it to Jeff Nichols for formatting.

VII. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00 pm.