

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, December 13, 2023

6 pm-8 pm

Held virtually.

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

Absent: John Drouin, Zac Gower (both excused absences)

Public: Michael Ames, Brian Smith (USCG)

I. Welcome –Janine Drouin, Chair

Janine welcomed the CFSC members and the new members Rob Odlin and Zac Gower.

II. Presentation of Minutes of September 13, 2023.

The minutes for the September quarterly meeting were approved pending moving John Drouin from present to absent.

III. Follow-up on the Annual Report to Commissioner Keliher

Mark reported that the Commissioner was impressed with the Annual Report and pleased that the Council was getting back on track. Mark mentioned that we could make/draft more specific proposals regarding the recommendations we made in the Annual Report if we wanted the Commissioner to take action on the recommendations.

IV. Update on Wind Energy-Recent BOEM meeting – Ann Backus

Ann provided an update on the recent BOEM meetings citing the positions and questions raised by various constituents at those meetings. (See attached)

The CFSC discussion included comments that wind farms are having trouble attracting (investor) money, and there are a lot of problems with wind. A suggestion was made to see if Steve Drew who started the observer program and is now with Sea Risk Solutions would speak to the Council. We will follow-up on this idea. Another suggestion for a Council meeting guest was Celine Cunningham of the GEO (Governor's Energy Office).

The question was posed, what if major investors pull out of the Gulf of Maine windfarm energy project. Answers included: the companies are responsible for disassembling the structures and

lease holders are responsible for cleaning-up their material and gear; there are escrow accounts for decommissioning.

One member asked if there would be wind energy seminars at the Fishermen's Forum. Rob said that there would be presentations by BOEM at the Fishermen's Forum and that NEFSA (New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association) is advocating for the fishermen - they are not in favor. The wind energy project is being fast-tracked. We - the Council- fishermen - should contribute to the conversation. A guest commented that Celine Cunningham is excellent at roadmap work, and it is good that we are paying attention to the safety issues.

V. Update on Fishermen's Forum

a. Booth – Ann Backus will donate her Harvard Booth to the Council again this year. We will have safety-related articles at the booth to discuss with fishermen. Items include: PFDs, first aid kits, emergency flares, knives, reboarding ladder, MOB retrieval sling, compass, whistle, and a PLB. We were cautioned not to endorse any brand or company and to keep the discourse strictly educational. On member mention that we need to stress the importance of having a plan to get back on the boat.

b. Damage Control Kit Workshop: 2:30pm-4:30pm. We are trying to get the workshop scheduled in the main building rather than in the Golf Club to help ensure good attendance. John McMillian, Pat Shepard and Tom Duym are in charge of the workshop. Two Damage Control Kits will be raffled-off at the Forum.

c. Quarterly Meeting at the Forum: March 1, from 1:00 pm-2:30 pm ET at the Golf Club.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion of CO2 emissions from Tier 3 engines – Brian Smith of USCG recommends having a CO sensor on board, especially if you are sleeping on board. These engines run "hot." One member mentioned a case of heat escaping because the exhaust was breached.

Further discussion: Both CO and CO2 are produced by diesel engines. The exhaust should be on the side not on the stern. If on the stern you will likely get roll back of the exhaust into the boat.

b. Review article on Tier 4 diesel engines from Commercial Fisheries News Article – Vessels over 803 hp will need to transition to Tier 4 engines. However, Tier 4 engines require an entirely different engine room set-up; they run very hot and require Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) which is flammable. The EPA emissions rulings are not finalized yet so action on this is on hold.

VII. Other Business

- a. Sea Squirts in lobster traps – Sheila Dassert had told a Council member that sea squirts could be a safety issue when hauling lobster gear. Parker Poole commented that there are many fewer sea squirts around this year.

VIII. Next meetings

- a. Working Group Meetings: **Thursday** January 18, 2024 7:00 pm -8:00 pm virtual and Wednesday February 14th (was subsequently d to Thursday February 15th) 7:00-8:00 pm ET
- b. Quarterly Meeting at the Fishermen’s Forum, preferably March 1, 2024. This will be an in-person meeting as required by the DMR. Suggested time 12:00-2:00.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Backus, Secretary
February 22, 2024