**New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council**

**Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

**December 3, 2024**

Members: Dick Herb, Pat Donnelly, Joe Rizzo, Walt Johnson

Staff: Jeff Brust, Heather Corbett

The Executive Committee met by webinar on December 3, 2024 to review committee advisor applications, finalize the Special Fillet Permit survey, and discuss the recommendation to rotate committee chairmanship every two years.

The Executive Committee reviewed advisor applications alongside current committee membership to evaluate representation by sector, geographic region, and other criteria. The committee approved five applications on three committees but deferred adding new members to the Recreational Summer Flounder Committee due to current size of the committee. It was noted that several current members of that committee are due to expire in 2025, and the existing applications can be reviewed along with any renewal applications. The committee requested that staff provide any information on advisor attendance at recent meetings to assist in the review.



\*Final decisions between applicants were based on factors such as committee size, affiliated organizations, counties, and sectors in order to evenly distribute representation.Get advisor info from Heather

Staff presented a summary of comments on the draft fillet permit survey. The main question was the intended recipients of the survey. In particular, should the survey be distributed to the entire NJ for-hire registry, or only to vessels that carry fewer than 15 passengers which currently are excluded from the program? The committee discussed some pros and cons of surveying vessels that are currently eligible to participate and expressed concern that participation by smaller vessels might be limited if there isn’t much interest from that sector to expand the program. It was decided that the survey should be distributed to the entire for-hire registry, and the results can be subset various ways based on demographic information collected through the survey. Staff indicated that they would incorporate the edits and develop the survey into the SurveyMonkey platform for email distribution early in 2025. The committee requested that the email include an option to receive a paper copy by calling the Marine Fisheries office.

The Committee then discussed the recommendation to rotate committee chairmanship every two years, as proposed at the September 2024 MFC meeting. The discussion focused on the preference to have chairs that are knowledgeable of the subject matter rather than rotating the position frequently. One drawback to rotating membership is that the new members would still be learning the material when their term is up and it’s time to rotate out. It was noted that some committees have several members who are knowledgeable in the subject matter, so there would be an opportunity to rotate chairs. Staff noted that committee membership is reviewed every few years (such as fall 2024) and Council members are asked to indicate whether they would be willing to serve as chair for any of their selections. It was proposed that this review process was sufficient, and a decision to switch the chairman could be made during this process by the Council chair who has final say on committee membership.

The Committee recommends approval of advisors to the respective committees, as shown in the summary table.