

New Hampshire Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office
Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801

9:00 to 11:00am
March 2, 2020

In attendance: Brian Gennoco (Virgin Oyster Company), Alix Laferrier (The Nature Conservancy), Jenn Dijkstra (UNH School of Marine Science & Ocean Engineering) Cherie Patterson (NH Fish & Game), David, Renny Cushing (NH State Rep., Rockingham County), Jason Janvrin (NH State Rep., Rockingham County), Melissa Paly (Conservation Law Foundation), Erik Chapman, Chair (NH Sea Grant), Steve Couture, Secretary (NH Coastal Program)

Agenda:

1. Approve notes from last meeting – Alix – motion, Cherie, 2nd. Notes approved
2. Review draft NH CoMNaRE 2019 Report (Marine Debris)
 - a. Cheri Patterson – will rewrite and add lobster clean up description to the report
 - b. Steve Couture – will add a paragraph to the report that Commission discussion resulted in legislation. Sen. Watters stated that the bill was introduced by COMNARE.
 - c. Jenn Dijkstra – will add general introduction to microplastics that leads into NH response. These paragraphs will also include recommendations.
 - d. Steve Couture & Jenn Dijkstra – will collaborate on paragraph regarding Department of Fish & Game and microplastics.
 - e. Steve Couture – suggested that we should add what we do know regarding microplastics – not much in NH. Alix Leferrier offered to write specifics of what we do not have.
 - f. Steve Couture – SB728 Establishment of Coastal Program – offered to define duties and responsibilities
 - g. Renny Cushing and Cherie Patterson stated that DHS has the authority to pick up gear. F&G-organizes staff and local cleanup as a response to town request.
 - h. Erik Chapman, Melissa Paly, and Jenn Dijkstra will edit the Microplastics document that includes information from NOAA, Blue Ocean Society, Gabby Bradt (NH Sea Grant) and PFAS information from the Harvard Group.
 - i. To include the following recommendations:
 - Add source for statements, “drive up cost” and “massive source”
 - Producer v. user – should be extended to the user, not just producer
 - Add another recommendation regarding user – Single-use/non-recyclables – Choose a reusable option.
 - NH should define policy and statues for plastic disposal and promote recycling as recommended in HB617 (2019), solid waste study.
 - Include hyperlinks and footnotes to the report

- “Penalty v. Fine” rework to include intentional abandonment of gear. Currently “littering.” Aim to “prevent derelict gear”
3. Discuss CoMNaRE Commission direction/next steps. How can we make the commission’s work more impactful/meaningful?
 4. Plan next meeting (March 23 or April 27th)
 - a. Offshore Wind?
 - b. Warming effects?
 5. Announcements
 6. Public comment

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