

THE WATCH (from page 3)

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

On the topic of Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) development, I am the representative on the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB).

The FAB has been working very hard to review all plans for OWE. As I write this column we are actively engaged with OWE developer Orsted to reduce impacts of the South Fork Wind Farm (SFWF) on all fishing interests and to agree on a fair Mitigation package for any impacts that can not be eliminated.

This effort actually allows us to work with commercial fishermen on the same side of an issue even though there are other issues where we do not agree.

In addition to monitoring the OWE development process this may be one step toward solving some of our differences with commercial fishermen.

MUCH GOING ON

You are likely getting the idea by now that there is much to "Watch" during the winter months, but the above are only a small sampling of things that are happening.

Dave Monti has an article in this month's RISAA Newsletter about the Electronic Reporting grant that RISAA is part of for the 2021 fishing season and there are many other topics that we will cover during our quarterly Legislative Committee meeting on January 21 at 6:30. If you are interested in joining our Legislative Committee please send an email to me at hittinger@risaa.org and we will get a link to the January 21 meeting to you via email.

JOIN RISAA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

All RISAA members are welcome to join the RISAA Legislative Committee. If you are interested send an email to me at hittinger@risaa.org and we will send you the link (via email) to the January 21 Legislative meeting.

PAVING THE WAY (from page 19)

A panel of eight to ten will be sought who would meet electronically (and in person when allowed) as needed to provide input, assess work product and to help recruit and implement angler participation in the program.

Presently six members have volunteered, including **Henry Cugno, Fred DeFinis, Rich Hittinger, Steve Medeiros, Dave Monti and Richard Reich.**

Four more volunteers are needed and should be representative of shore, boat and the spear fishing recreational community.

- **Ideation/focus group input.** RISAA will be recruiting two groups of eight to ten to participate in focus groups to identify the types of features the software should have to entice anglers to use it.

The focus groups will also garner input on how anglers feel about software features being used in other applications, and most important brainstorm new ideas/features for consideration.

- **Angler survey.** Once angler input is obtained from focus groups, the project team will try to build a consensus on top desired software features by surveying members and affiliates to identify the most desirable software features.

- **Communications campaign.** RISAA will take a leadership role to help develop and implement a marketing communications plan that aims to create awareness and ongoing interest in the program to recruit and maintain pilot participants.

The plan will likely utilize a number of communication strategies and tactics including email marketing, fishing show participation, bait & tackle shop point of purchase information, social media and an ongoing advertising and public relations feature story effort in fishing and consumer publications read by the fishing community.

How can YOU engage in the project?

If you are interested in participating in the project please fill out the project participation form that will soon appear on the RISAA website. But in the meantime if you have any questions about the pilot project contact Dave Monti, RISAA Electronic Recording Project Coordinator, at dmonitfish@verizon.net or 401-480-3444.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Articles and submissions for the RISAA newsletter must be received by the 15th for the next month's publication.

Items received after this date will be held until the following month.



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