

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory, Rob Morrison,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order. (*Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR NATE COSTA.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Representative Chris Scallachi reported there might be a fifth case of vibrio from Katama Bay within 30 days, which if confirmed would trigger a 2-week closure, possibly starting Monday, October 7th. Ryan Smith and Nick Turner reported no notification of the 4th case and requested information and/or documentation. Mr. Scallachi was advocating against the closure, and it was noted the case was purchased on Island but transported home privately—a problem that happened annually about this time of year.
- Staff informed the Committee of an incident report on Sandy Fisher's oyster handling (see documents on file). After an anonymous tip, staff found 15 bags of dead and rotting oysters next to the Reading Room wall with tags naming harvest area V20/Blue Ribbon. Mr. Fisher arrived on the scene while the Deputies were collecting the bags and agreed that the oysters were his. Staff explained a number of State and local violations were involved that endangered public health and the livelihood of other aquaculturists:
 - shellfish storage in the Harbor closed to shellfishing;
 - returning shellfish to the water.

In response to a question on the anonymous tip, staff explained the bags were highly visible and putrid, so they were surprised there weren't more reports. Constable Paul Bagnall advised the Committee to take no action at this point pending State response. In addition it was agreed Sandy Fisher be notified of any pending meeting discussing such local action.

- The Selectmen approved the Committee scallop season recommendation (see 9/17/19 Minutes p. 1-2) but the family season had a poor start with few or no full washbaskets. As agreed at the September 17th meeting the recommendations would be re-examined at the November 5th meeting, when more information was available from the full family season and two days of the commercial season. Staff observed that signs also signaled a poor 2020/21 season.

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- On the other hand quahogs were abundant and staff distributed this year's crop in Cape Pogue and Sengekontacket.
- The Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (MSI) meeting went fairly well.
- The Shellfish Committee and Department were well represented at the Conservation Commission (ConCom) meeting and the Katama Boat Ramp was approved (see 9/17/19 Minutes p.2).

MINUTES

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 MINUTES: MADELINE FISHER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Marni Lipke apologized for being late.**

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 15 & November 5, 2019 at the Library
- MV Oyster Fest - May 8 & 9, 2020 at the MV Museum

ADJOURNMENT

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:09PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - post November 5th public hearing ??
- Paul - check with Selectmen re:
 - Scheffer transfer,
 - regulation updates (commercial license/family taking).
- Staff - inform Sandy Fisher if/when local action is considered.
- October/November Agendas
 - Kite-boarding regulations update
 - 11/5/19 Scallop Season recommendations

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/1/19
- Francis Fisher Jr. Incident Report September 25, 2019