

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Public Library**

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,  
Nick Turner  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, 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.*)

CONSTABLES & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- The Committee revisited the issue of Cape Pogue boat anchorage and Gut protection on a number of points (see 11/5/19 Minutes p.2).
- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall brought the matter before the Marine Advisory Committee. Harbormaster Charlie Blair expressed concern over two of the State's best resources, Cape Pogue and the Gut eelgrass/scallop beds—which were already fragile. He advocated banning all anchoring before allowing limited access as well as enforcing headway speed only.
- Ryan Smith objected to a new house purchaser/summer resident protesting a long time tradition. However, Paul Bagnall noted that the overcrowding had been growing exponentially since about 2010 (another consequence of 105,000 summer visitors) so the abutter complaint only highlighted the problem.
- The abutter also protested kite-boarders jumping his dock and teaching in the fog but that was not Shellfish purview.
- Precedent included forbidding anchorage near the Katama oyster farms in the 1990's.
- The subject was on the Marine Advisory Committee's next agenda (see below: Meetings/Events).
- Bad weather, deer hunting season and continued scalloping resulted in no takers for the start of the Sengekontaktet oyster season.
- Staff was working on winter chores such as boat maintenance.
- The State Legislature was fairly quiet: Bill 746 was tabled until 2020, and the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative was moving forward at a glacial pace.

MINUTES

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MINUTES: MADELINE FISHER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—LES BAYNES, NICK TURNER** due to absence.

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OLD BUSINESS

Scallop Update Continuation of Public Hearing (See documents on file.)

Scalloping peaked last week at about 19 fishermen, most getting about two washbaskets and very few limits. Scallops were selling at \$27/lb.

• **THE SCALLOP SEASON PUBLIC HEARING WAS CONTINUED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**

Town Meeting Articles, Town Report

(See below: Meetings/Events & 11/19/19 Minutes p.2.)

Later in the meeting Paul Bagnall reported he turned in the Shellfish Department Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget on time, and submitted six articles:

- \$44,000 - Shellfish Committee - propagation,
- \$39,000 - staff pickup truck,
- \$38,000 - Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues,
- \$20,000 - Herring Creek clean-out,
- \$7,900 - ice machine,
- acceptance of gifts/grants.

NEW BUSINESS

• Oysters were selling for 25¢ each and the season (at ten 100 count bags, five days a week) was likely to last about a month.

- The Committee raised the issue of Sengekontacket oysters (which were excellent quality) being sold as wild catch, when they were actually farmed. Staff placed them where they would not be sanded over or wash up on a beach.

- Despite \$30,000 in MVSG propagation spending, Edgartown Great Pond showed 80-90% adult mortality, probably due to Dermo. There would be no oyster season this year in the hopes it would recover and spawn more Dermo-resistant seed.

• Jason Bennett abandoned his raft on its mooring and the raft and cages were starting to present hazards. Staff suggested the raft be hauled while it was still floating and before it rammed into a dock, or broke up—Nick Turner had collected Styrofoam jetsam from the beach.

• **LES BAYNES, MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REMOVE AND ASSESS JASON BENNETT'S RAFT(S); NICK TURNER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• **LES BAYNES, MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REMOVE AND ASSESS JASON BENNETT'S CAGES; RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee  
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Meetings/Events

- Edg. Marine Advisory - 4:00PM, Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at Town Hall
- Board of Selectmen/Blake Transfer - 4:00PM, Monday, December 9, 2019 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, December 17, 2019, January 7, 2020 at the Library
- Annual Town Report deadline - Tuesday, December 31, 2019
- MV Oyster Fest - May 8 & 9, 2020 at the MV Museum

ADJOURNMENT

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:12PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- December Agendas
- Minutes: 12/3/19

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 12/3/19
- Bagnall Shellfish Update to Selectmen 11/23/19

**WAIT LIST AS OF 10/1/19**

<del>1. Daniel Gilkes</del>	<del>10/4/16</del>	5. Evan & Andrea Donnelly	9/19/17
2. Micah Agnoli	6/21/17	6. Clinton Fisher	9/19/17
3. Adam Castro	9/5/17	7. Lila Fischer	1/16/18
<del>4. Noah Scheffer</del>	<del>9/5/17</del>	8. Liam Cosgrove	9/17/19