

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair - Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: John Conlon, Arno Ewing,
Emily Reddington - Edgartown Great Pond Foundation
Press: Landry Harlan, Mark Lovewell—Vineyard Gazette
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 6, 2018 MINUTES: MADELINE FISHER AND NICK TURNER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—LES BAYNES due to absence.**

CONSTABLE'S/DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Scalping limits and interest had dropped off sharply. Although 20 boats went out yesterday, there were only 12 today. Attention was now turning to wild oyster harvesting.
- Edgartown Great Pond was very high—the sluice boards were well below water, and the first opening was targeted for the first week of March, weather and tides permitting.
- It usually took a week for oysters to absorb the increased salinity for marketable taste, so the Committee would consider at its March meeting when to open the oyster season (usually April 1st) - rake & pole only, no drags allowed (see below: Actions). There was general consensus among staff and fishermen that oysters were now plentiful in the Pond, including seed under the harvestable layer.

NEW BUSINESS (See documents on file.)

Emily Reddington of the Edgartown Great Pond Foundation made a brief presentation on 15 years of successful Pond management resulting in better water quality, water clarity, higher dissolved oxygen, the return of marine wildlife, flounders, oysters, striped bass, etc., and the expansion of eelgrass—the Foundation was continuing to look at tunicates, leaf pipe and other eelgrass diseases. Algae blooms had shrunk and started at 3 meters.

- Edgartown School and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School students were developing a robot sensor as a permanent installation to monitor the Pond water quality and the Foundation was starting drone flights for broader oversight. Dermo resistant oyster re-population continued to be a nitrogen remediation measure.
- In a side note the first osprey of the year had returned and a young male bald eagle was spotted.
- The Committee thanked her for her presentation and the good news.

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- There was a discussion about publishing “landing” (or harvest) statistics to reinforce what was happening with the fishing industry.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, March 6 & 20, 2018 2017 at the Library
- Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 10, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

**• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:58PM;
MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - Agenda Items:
 - Dredge Committee Representation
 - Oyster Season Limits and Extension
- Staff - get fishermen's input on oyster season dates/limits
- Staff - survey Edg. Great Pond oysters.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 2/20/18
- Data Tells Encouraging Story for Edgartown Great Pond (8 p.) February 2018