

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Ron Chambers Sr., Ron Chambers III, Dan Donnelly, Clinton Fisher,
Maureen Gazaille, Nils ‘Gus’ Leaf, Kevin Peters, Jack Russo,
Noah Scheffer, Roy Scheffer,
Emily Reddington – Great Pond Foundation,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH TO SIGN COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR:

- RON CHAMBERS III (PENDING NOTARIZATION);
- MAUREEN GAZAILLE (SENIOR LICENSE); AND
- JACK RUSSO.

- Kevin Peters was asked to bring proof of residence.
- The new application form and updated Regulations were still not posted on the website despite several requests.
- Later in the meeting there was a discussion on whether the wait list had an age limitation when Dan Donnelly asked to place his young son into the queue. It was agreed that the best procedure was to enter his wife, who could then cede her place to her son.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH TO SIGN THE AQUACULTURE LICENSE WAIT LIST APPLICATIONS FOR CLINTON FISHER AND ANDREA DONNELLY.

- The Committee again noted the growing, labor intensive aquaculture industry.

NEW BUSINESS

- Public Hearing on 2017-18 Bay Scallop Update

The Hearing opened at 4:45PM. Staff agreed that the season could start on Monday, October 30th with a three 10-gallon washbaskets per day limit and no dragging in Cape Pogue till the last weekend in October. Fishermen suggested it would be better to get a jump on the Nantucket and Cape Cod markets by opening a week earlier, (and it would also clean out predators a little

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sooner). Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall and Deputy Warren Gaines had no objections as it simply shifted the season forward a week. The harvest was expected to be adequate but not plentiful.

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO:**

- **OPEN THE RECREATION/FAMILY BAY SCALLOP SEASON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017 AS USUAL AT ONE (1) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKETS INCLUDING SHELLS PER WEEK; AND**

- **OPEN ALL AREAS TO THE COMMERCIAL SCALLOP SEASON MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2017;**

= **WITH A COMMERCIAL LIMIT AT THREE (3) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKETS INCLUDING SHELLS PER DAY, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY; AND**

- **NO DRAGGING IN CAPE POGUE BEFORE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017;**

- **AND ALL OTHER RULES AND REGULATION APPLY;**

RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• The Committee cautioned all license holders to obey the rules and regulations to maximize safety, profits and efficiency.

OLD BUSINESS

• Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Wrap Up/FY18 Update

The Committee turned back about \$3,500 of the \$44,000 propagation allocation—mostly from not having to move bay scallops after storms. A fair amount was spent on water testing, including a \$2,500 Pond's Committee grant to purchase a new multi-meter.

- About \$4,000 would be spent on the FY18 quahog relay with a new supplier, hopefully for a smooth delivery of about 100 bags per day. There was a brief discussion on wild sets and relay quahogs in Sengekontacket.

- The Committee would be considering the FY19 budget in October and November.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• Paul Bagnall attended the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) which was following a court case that could place shellfish dragging under Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations prohibiting altering wetland bottoms.

• Staff had just finished moving all the 2017 Major's Cove oysters to cages and bags for the season. The 2016 oysters were distributed to the recreation/family areas and two commercial areas in Sengekontacket.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Noah Scheffer proposed a new aquaculture plot in the southern end of Cape Pogue which had good muddy bottom, some eelgrass but a 40 year history of no or minimal scallops. The Selectmen were encouraging the growth of the aquaculture industry but the site was likely to cause significant controversy with the wild shell-fishermen. After some discussion the Committee felt that it was more effective to request 4-6 lot authorization from the Selectmen and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and asked Mr. Scheffer for exact coordinates, an application and a business plan for his proposed lot.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 3 & 17, 2017 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:14PM; LES BAYNES, AND MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Marni - contact IT re: posting new license application & regulations on Town Website.
- Paul/Marni - contact Kristy Rose re: Aquaculture Wait List & use of new application form.
- Paul/Noah Sch. - submit coordinates and application and business plan for Cape Pogue lots.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 9/19/17
- Sign In Sheet 9/19/17
- Shellfish Department FY17 Expenditures 9/19/17