

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Public Library**

Present: Chair - Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,  
Nic Turner,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Jason Benefit, Thomas Dowd, Maximillian Gibbs, Zack Klumel,  
Corrigan Mello, Kevin Peters, Noah Scheffer, Roy Scheffer,  
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:

- THOMAS DOWD,
- DANA GAINES,
- MAXIMILLIAN GIBBS, AND
- ZACK KLUMEL,
- CORRIGAN MELLO.

• Kevin Peters brought proof of residence but not his application for signature (see 9/19/17 Minutes p.1).

MINUTES

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AND SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Staff was wrapping propagation for the season. 600,000 oysters with very low mortality were pulled from the Major's Cove upweller (which was pulled from the water), and from bags, and placed in about 85 cages. Scallops did well too and had all been planted. Today staff completed 6 of 28 Quahog rafts, planting the animals on gravel in Katama. The Department found a different quahog relay vendor using 2 boats from Fall River and placed 300 bushels of a good mix with cherry stones, into Sengekontacket Pond.

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### • Bay Scallop Update

Family fishing was going well in Cape Pogue and in Sengekontacket around Felix Neck. There would be more scallop sampling, but the drags were still very weedy. Staff was concerned about the load of small scallops so close to Simon Beach they could easily be blown ashore by a storm.

- Two early September cases of Vibrio were directly attributed to Katama and one more was not yet determined, so Katama aquaculture was closed for two weeks starting September 28, 2017. A recall was avoided.
- The new Commercial Shellfish Application forms were in use and the new Rules and Regulations were sent of to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the State Office of Law Enforcement.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### • Aquaculture Wait List Issues (See documents on file & below: Actions.)

The Wait List was reviewed.

- Noah Scheffer submitted his application at the August 15, 2017 meeting, which unfortunately lacked a quorum (see 8/15/17 Notes).
- Clinton Fisher and Evan Donnelly submitted their applications at the same September 19, 2017 meeting so a lottery was required.

### OLD BUSINESS (See below: Actions.)

Roy and Noah Scheffer proposed aquaculture lots in Southern Cape Pogue, which had not had productive scalloping for many years. The Committee acknowledged the controversial nature of the location because the wild fishing fleet considered Cape Pogue to be prime scalloping territory, especially after 2 years of good harvests.

- The Wait List was currently designed for Katama lots only, so the Committee would have to review wait list policy.
- The lot approval process took anywhere from 1 to 4 years involving surveys by the DMF and Army Corps of Engineers and approval from the Conservation Commission, Shellfish Committee and Board of Selectmen. The DMF/Army Corps preferred to survey a group of lots requested by the Town rather than a series of applications for single lots.
- Locations had to have less than 20 wild animals per sq. ft. Conching was allowed around aquaculture farms which were required to move to facilitate conch harvest.
- Town regulations allowed 1% of a Pond's surface area to be used for aquaculture or 8.8 one acre lots for the 880 acre Cape Pogue, which could be accommodated in two rows of four.
- Massachusetts General Law allowed anyone to apply for a lot anywhere in the Commonwealth.
- The aquaculture industry was a viable alternative for young Islanders, currently employing about 30 workers, including lease holders.

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- The Committee asked about conditions and salinity.
- The Committee also wanted very much to hear comments from the “wild” fishing fleet about 57-58 boats fielding 35-45 fishermen on the average day, and determined to hold a separate or joint public hearing with the Board of Selectmen.
  - With the understanding that this vote was simply to allow the process to move forward and did not constitute any official blessing:
  - **LES BAYNES MOVED THAT THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT NOAH SCHEFFER APPLICATION FOR A NEW LOT IN SOUTHERN CAPE POGUE PROCEED TO A PUBLIC HEARING; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 17, & November 7 & 21, 2017 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:34PM; NIC TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul - invite Evan Donnelly & Clinton Fisher to 10/17 meeting for Wait List standing lottery.
- Paul/Christian - agenda item to review Wait List policy re: non-Katama lots.
- Paul - contact Thomas Rogers re: loss of Katama lot lease due to lack of use.
- Paul - contact Pam re: joint or separate public hearings on Cape Pogue aquaculture lots.

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 10/3/17
- Sign In Sheet 10/3/17
- Aquaculture Wait List