

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes,  
Christian Thornton,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Jason Bennett, Scott Castro, Dan Donnelly, Sandy Fisher Sr.,  
Jeremy Scheffer, Nick Turner,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:32PM.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Bay Scallop Season Update
- The scallop season was winding down to about 3 limits a day.
- On the other hand fishermen were getting 8 oyster limits a day from Sengekontacket/Anthiers Pond (see 11/3/15 Minutes p. 2) and were getting about 30¢ per oyster after jingle shells cleaning.
- The quahog gravel beds were doing well, ranging from little necks to 10 mm seed, and there was a natural set in Katama with some scallops.
- Steamers were surviving into their second year and were dug down about 3-4 in., although the density was being thinned a little by bird predation.
- Staff were water sampling/testing with the State.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing on the 6 remaining Middle Flats lots and the Conservation Commission reported a negative finding. Once the applications were signed (see below) Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) would perform one more survey and the Selectmen would hold a specific application hearing before finalizing the leases/licenses.

- The DMF asked if the Katama farmers wanted an area just outside Eel Pond surveyed as a common/collective 14 day oyster quarantine area (see 11/3/15 Minutes p. 2).

- Nick Turner Application for Middle Flats
- **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE, CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE MIDDLE FLATS AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR NICK TURNER AND DAN DONNELLY.**

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NEW BUSINESS

• Aquaculture Regulations – Harbor Area During Wintertime

In view of hazardous work conditions caused by icing and winter weather Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall consulted Harbormaster Charlie Blair and proposed license holders could work at their upwellers or at designated stakes in Caleb's on a 5c Float Permit. The Committee considered a number of issues (see below: Actions):

- various requested locations, finger piers, North side of Caleb's Pond, etc.,
- stockpiling of a few cages off lots, in town during severe ice conditions,
- keeping cages off the bottom.

• The Dredge Committee requested a letter of support to the State on the move to revisit the dredge season restrictions (see below: Actions).

• Donald Benefit proposed the Committee support the Cape Pogue Boat Ramp/Channel and Cape Pogue Gut as dredge priorities for this season (see below: Actions).

- This sparked a discussion on the temporary boat ramp put in after Hurricane Bob (1991) and now in disrepair. State Funding was available if properly and persistently requested.

• Town Meeting Articles

Later in the meeting Paul Bagnall reported that all articles were on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for April (see below: Meetings/Events).

• Peter Jackson proposed an Edgartown Great Pond commercial oyster season (rakes and poles/no dragging and excluding the Sanctuary) in March/April to clear some of the larger adults (see below: Actions).

• Warren Gaines reminded everyone to approach the Selectmen regarding authorization to sell non-resident family shellfish permits at bait and tackle shops (see 8/18/15 Minutes p. 1).

MINUTES

• **COOPER GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 15, 2015 AND JANUARY 5, 2016 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The aquaculture fishermen were interested in meeting to come to consensus on anti-Vibrio measures to reduce incidents and set policy forestalling State and/or Federal closures (see below: Meetings/Events).

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Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, February 16 & March 1, & 15, 2016 at Town Hall
- Edg. Aquaculture on Vibrio - 4:00PM Sunday, March 13, 2016 at Atria
- Annual Town Meeting - 7:00PM, Tuesday, April x, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

**• COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:18PM; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul - give aquaculture applications to Kristy for Selectmen hearing.
- Paul - research DMF & MSOA re: winter location measures for aquaculture.
- Paul/Marni - send letters to Dredge Committee re: priorities, & DMF re: dredge season.
- Donald/Coop - talk to Ed Handy & Jack Shepard re: State money for Boat Ramp.
- Paul - contact BOS re: selling non-resident family permits at bait and tackle shops.

**• February 16th, Agenda**

- 2/2/16 Minutes
- Aquaculture Regulations - Winter Weather Amendment
- Family Shellfish Regulations - Availability to Purchase at Designated Bait & Tackle Shops
- Edgartown Great Pond Commercial Oyster Season

**• March 15th Agenda**

- Edgartown Aquaculture Vibrio Measures

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 2/2/16