

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:41PM.

MINUTES

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 3, 2015 MINUTES: COOPER GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS as absent.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Committee talked briefly about winter-kill from iced in ponds; water levels were kept high to prevent freezing to the bottom.

• Bay Scallop Update

- About ten boats went out today, three outside and six or seven in Cape Pogue. Scallops were scattered all around the Windmill, although there was still some freezing South of John Oliver's. Fishermen were getting limits in 4-5 hours and selling at \$20 per pound. The Outside scallops were particularly nice.
- Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall believed that Department spawning was making a marginal difference in good years, and in bad years allowing the Pond to bounce back more readily. However results would be hard to track accurately because:
 - scallops were naturally genetically diverse, making identification technically difficult;
 - tracing would be prohibitively labor intensive: after RNA ID testing they would have to be marked, located and counted.
- Other options were explored.
 - Scallops could be grown out to seed in algae tanks, but would then have to adapt to the wild environment.
 - With the right help spawning and propagation could be increased, but High School student interns were not always helpful, learning more than contributing.
 - A trailer or building could be put at the Dyke bridge and spawn released straight into the inlet to multiply the harvest. Aside from cost and neighborhood impact the Department emphasized the limited scope of the Pond, remembering three or four years ago when the wild set exceeded Pond capacity and triggered a huge die off.

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- The two year span and hard life of the scallop differentiated the crop and husbanding techniques from propagation of the hardier species such as quahogs and oysters.
- On the other hand steamers were very delicate and might have to be supported to within 4 months of harvest. Four boxes were placed in four different places to attempt second year of grow out and to see if mortality was from predation or other causes.
 - Paul Bagnall would start the spawning process earlier this year.
- Next season's seed growth would become evident in May.
 - The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the Shellfish Committee recommendation and extend the season through Friday, April 17th. Licenses would also be extended to coincide with the closing date. The Committee and Department would monitor fishing and shellfish status closely and close the season on or before the date as was appropriate—today's water temperature was 34-36° F.

OLD BUSINESS

- Chappaquiddick Nursery
- The Conservation Commission (ConCom) hearing on the water pipe replacement was tomorrow (see below: Meetings).
- Preparations for spring work included: Tilt for the side that was fixed last year facing Cape Pogue, a couple coats of grey stain, shoring up the porch on the road side of property, and, when weather permitted, turning on the fresh water.
- Thanks to Katama's depth, the oyster farms survived the winter ice with minimal dragging, although some cages had to be rescued from the mud, or from up on the Flats.
- There was a brief discussion on possible parking changes at Collins Beach but any modifications were intended to accommodate marine industry vehicles including fishermen.
 - Budget - Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Town Management Plan (See documents on file.)
- The Committee reviewed the draft for edits and comments. It would be finalized for Department records and filings.

Meetings/Events

- ConCom Hearing/Chappaquiddick Nursery - 5:15PM, Wednesday, March 18, 2015
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, April 7, & 21, 2015 at Town Hall
- Annual Town Meeting - 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Whaling Church

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ADJOURNMENT

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:42PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Marni - finalize Shellfish Management Plan and email to Paul.

January 20, Agenda

- 3/17/15 Minutes

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/17/15
- Town of Edgartown Shellfish Management Plan 2015 Draft (14 p.) March 2015