

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Barn**

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Christian Thornton,  
Cooper Gilkes,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Pete Jackson, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Stephen Reini  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:38PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE, CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATION FOR STEPHEN REINI.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The final 30 cages left from last year Major's Cove Oyster Project were being dumped in Eel pond near the boat ramp for recreational shellfishers. Staff was thinning out the upweller and each year's crop was better than the last.
- Scallop strings were also growing well.
- However, dinoflagellates in the Lagoon had caused about 85% quahog mortality across the Island, although now, the remaining 15% survivors were starting to thrive.
- Steamers were growing reasonably well and staff was considering netting a 10 ft. wide 200 yard long wild set on the Norton Point side of Katama, to ward off fishermen and predators. If the set spread and/or returned it could be a function of flushing from the Norton Point breach.
- Staff found the Zodiac (from the Harbormaster barn with a new Shellfish Dept. motor) very useful for summer enforcement duties.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tackle Shops to Sell Weekly Licenses

Edgartown Recreational Shellfishing Permits were likely to top 1,000 this year.

- In order to allow weekend purchases, avoid downtown traffic/parking difficulties and for summer visitor convenience:

**LES BAYNES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE BAIT AND TACKLE SHOPS TO SELL EDGARTOWN RECREATIONAL SHELLFISHING LICENSES; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

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OLD BUSINESS

• Chappaquiddick Nursery Update

Staff achieved three successful spawns and two strike-outs, releasing 30 million scallop spawn into Down Harbor and 50 million into Katama. The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) also released overflow spawn at Crab Creek and the Katama Boat Ramp.

• Vibrio Update

- The State was experiencing a slow summer in regards to vibrio. One Edgartown restaurant case was reported but the oysters were mixed from Menemsha, Katama and Duxbury. Otherwise regional reports showed two or three from the Cape, one from Edgartown, Dennis and Duxbury.
- The Department continued to send samples to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The DMF was coming this Thursday, August 20th to test air-dried/re-submerged oysters from five or six farmers.
- Roy and Noah Scheffer were cited July 7th for not icing or moving animals to shade. A Public Hearing in Boston July 20th suspended his license until September 7, 2015.
- The Department was working to educate recreational shellfishers on oyster/vibrio protocol before opening the season on September 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

• 2015-16 Bay Scallop Season

- The Committee agreed to set a September 15, 2015 Public Hearing on:
  - the 2015-2016 Bay Scallop Season,
  - a Major's Cove commercial oyster season,
  - a rake-only oyster season in Edgartown Great Pond.
- The Department was planning to cut Edgartown Great Pond sometime in the next two weeks.
- Ray Gailey removed some/most of his equipment from the Narrows (see 7/21/15 Minutes p. 2), but continued his usual methods.

MINUTES

- **COOPER GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2015, MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—LES BAYNES** due to absence.

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Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, September 1, 2015 [at the Town Barn](#),  
(Public Hearing) September 15, 2015 [at Town Hall](#)

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:01PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul - advertise Public Hearing for: scallop season, Major's Cove commercial oyster season, rake-only Edg. Great Pond oyster season.
- Staff - net steamers?

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 8/18/15