

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Barn**

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

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

MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Staff would put the last 10 cages of last year's 3-4 inch Major's Cove oysters in Sengekontacket and Caleb's Ponds.
- Scallops bags on the line were growing out and would be released shortly, after one more possible spawning.
- The Quahog Relay was a huge success, with big crowds at Katama Boat Ramp but activity was now winding down. Families had a tendency to stay very close to the buoys, so staff moved the buoys along the relay area.
- The quahogs that survived the dinoflagellates looked good and would be released next month.

• Chappaquiddick Nursery Update

- Staff was still working on oysters for Edgartown Great Pond.
- The hoses would be replaced in the course of the fall (see 7/21/15 Minutes p. 2 and below: Actions).
- The last of the second set of scallops (which were tiny) would go into Cape Pogue.

OLD BUSINESS

• Vibrio Update

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) confirmed two more cases (making a total of 8) —so the extended closure turned out to be for the best (see 9/1/15 Minutes). Mud and water samples were taken as well as oysters in an attempt to set some regulatory protocols for vibrio animal and water levels as well as water temperature triggers. Shellfish Warden and Biologist Paul Bagnall suggested possible preventive measures for next season such as pro-active closures and air-drying restrictions. The Committee expressed appreciation for the excellent press coverage and thanked the staff for their patience and extra work.

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NEW BUSINESS

• Schifter / Leland

After two years of advocacy, Paul Bagnall expressed his resignation at the continued lack of useful testing or intention for same (see below: Actions).

PUBLIC HEARING 2015-2016 BAY SCALLOP & OYSTER SEASONS

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE OYSTER PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

In order to continue the nitrogen filtering benefit, the oysters should be cleared/harvested from Sengekontacket and the Committee discussed:

- size (about 50% were fryers),
- numbers - enough to support a two week season, and
- pricing.

• The Public Hearing on the 2015-16 Bay Scallop season was called to order at 4:48PM.

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED THAT:**

- **THE FAMILY SCALLOP SEASON OPEN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015 WITH A WEEKLY LIMIT OF ONE (1) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKET INCLUDING SHELLS AND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO SELL A FAMILY MESS (HARVEST);**
  - **NO DRAGGING WAS ALLOWED UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015;**
  - **THE COMMERCIAL SCALLOP SEASON OPEN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014 FIVE DAYS A WEEK, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY WITH A DAILY LIMIT OF THREE (3) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKETS INCLUDING SHELLS;**
  - **DRAGGING IS FORBIDDEN IN POUCHA AND SENGEKONTACKET PONDS; SENGEKONTACKET POND IS DIPPING ONLY;**
  - **ALL SHELLFISH REGULATIONS APPLY;**
- DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Edgartown Great Pond salinity was about 22ppt. so the cut would be opened before the end of September.

Meetings/Events

• Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 6, & 20, 2015 at [Town Hall](#)

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ADJOURNMENT

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:57PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul/Staff - contact Jay Manning re: Chappy Nursery pipelines.
- Paul - post continuation of Oyster Public Hearing.
- Marni - research Schifter/Leland contact timeline.

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 9/15/15