

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Barn

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baines Christian Thornton,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Chris Chambers, Ronald Chambers, Mike Smith,
Recorder - Marni Lipke

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

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE, CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR CHRIS CHAMBERS AND MICHAEL SMITH.
- Shellfish Warden Paul Bagnall reviewed this year's scallop season, dates and dragging restrictions (see 9/15/15 Minutes p. 2).

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• Chappaquiddick Nursery Update -

All animals were now out of the Nursery, which would be winterized and closed.

- Staff had shoveled quahogs into the Katama gravel spots and had seeded Sengekontacket Pond and Katama Bay.
- All of Major's Cove oysters had been planted and staff was filling the empty cages with this year's crop.
- The Scallop Season had started. There was some seed with adults sprinkled in Sengekontacket, Cape Pogue and the Gut. Some snorkelers got their family limit. Seed was enough to be a good sign for next year but this year was expected to be a minor harvest. Some Oak Bluffs fisherman were working the Town line but not over it.
- The Department purchased the flatbed (see 6/16/15 Minutes p. 2) and were building a rail box for quahog transport. The target was to purchase 400 bushels but would settle for 250, however none of the three State certified quahog suppliers were responding to calls. Scarcity was producing a size creep so that many were now big quahogs only good for chowder and stuffing—Vineyard favorites.

OLD BUSINESS

• Vibrio Update

- The season ended with eight confirmed Katama cases plus a September case of someone who took a load home to Connecticut and got sick—the first illness from a recreational harvest.

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- Duxbury had a cluster of three different households in one day and was closed for three weeks. The total count so far was about 30 cases Statewide (see below: Actions). This left Katama with 10% of the harvest and 40% of the cases. The incidents seemed to cluster around July 4th and August, (guessing due to consumption or temperature spikes) but six of the nine cases were confirmed in September.

- The inspector informed the Department there were no server problems from the Oak Bluffs restaurant/Katama case but also closed the restaurant's raw bar pending serving fixes.
- Another set of samples was sent yesterday. The vibrio counts from samples seemed to be low and not virulent. The Committee speculated on mutations during transport or in the digestive track.
- Paul Bagnall planned to attend a University of Connecticut Conference on environmental Vibrio cues.
- The solution might be to reduce Katama summer harvests maybe by harvesting 15 days and then taking 7 off. Stamped expiration dates were also proposed.

PUBLIC HEARING 2015-2016 OYSTER SEASON

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE OYSTER PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.
- Staff checked 10 people today regarding family messes from Sengekontacket—which was closed due to rainfall (see below: Actions).
- The Committee would see how the scallop harvest went, then consider opening Major's Cove for oystering and then maybe all of Sengekontacket. Edgartown Great Pond would be a final choice.

NEW BUSINESS

- Schifter/Leland

There was still no response (see below: Actions). The Committee noted the continued erosion from the re-opened Norton Point breach.

- County Manager Martina Thornton requested a dashboard sticker be added to shellfishing licenses in order to regulate parking on the Pondsides of Sengekontacket. However Paul Bagnall considered this a bad idea, the stickers being easily duplicated and too much trouble to distribute with 1,000 licenses; besides enforcers could easily tell if someone was there to shellfish or not.
- He also protested the Sarsons Island bird sanctuary.

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MINUTES

- **LES BAINES MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 20, & November 3, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:19PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul - research Vibrio cases statewide—broken down by harvest area.
- Paul/Staff - order new pennants for Sengekontacket closings—quahog with a red slash.
- Paul/Bruce McIntosh/Sheri Caseau - contact MVC re: Leland Schifter.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/6/15