

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Barn

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison, Peter Jackson
Others: Leeanna Fisher
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:34PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• PENDING NOTARIZATION AND WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATION FOR DANIEL CODY MORAGA.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The quahog rafts were all empty and stored in the barn. Staff broadcast the few hundred thousand seed in Sengekontacket and Katama, and formed two more family gravel spots in Katama. Quahogs from the Hatchery were put in Sengekontacket.
- The oyster upweller had been hauled up and stored and the oysters were in pretty good shape to winter over. Staff was aiming at redistributing the 1.5 in. seed from 60-70 to about 100 cages.
- 261 bushels were placed along Beach Road for the Quahog Relay.

NEW BUSINESS

• Commercial Bay Scallop Update

The season was diminishing fairly quickly the starting fleet of 20 boats was only 12 yesterday and seven today. Staff expected to close the Gut in the next week or so due to large (and large amounts of) seed that required close monitoring. One or two boats were likely to hold on, towing outside and getting some limits—the wholesale price was \$22/lb.

OLD BUSINESS

• Continuation of Oyster Season Public Hearing from September 16, 2016

To soften the above blow of a bad scallop season, staff recommended opening a commercial oyster season in Sengekontacket. Unlike scalloping, the goal was to take all oysters out of the Pond to promote nitrogen reduction at 0.5 grams/oyster (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 3), and to make room for next year's crop. The Committee discussed:

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- optimum oyster pricing in the spring;
- ease of harvesting, single "wild" oysters and larger "cutters" by the Rod and Gun Club;
- the possibility that fishermen might gather both a scallop and an oyster limits in one day;
- number of animals in a washbasket;
- whether to open Edgartown Great Pond and restrict it to raking only,
- preference to start with Major's Cove.

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO OPEN COMMERCIAL OYSTERING IN MAJORS COVE IN SENGEKONTACKET POND STARTING DECEMBER 1, 2015, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT A TWO LEVEL WASHBASKET LIMIT; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO KEEP EDGARTOWN GREAT POND CLOSED AND REVISIT THE ISSUE AFTER THE WINTER HOLIDAYS.**

• Vibrio Update

- As previously noted the first Commonwealth case of recreationally harvested vibrio was recorded on September 18th (from north of the Landing oysters transported to Connecticut). Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall recommended retarding the family oyster season opening to October 1st for cooler water temperature, noting the difficulty of educating a thousand family license holders about icing oysters (which were materially different from harvesting quahogs);
- The State toyed with the idea of requiring oyster farmers to relay their cages to Eel Pond for 14 days before harvesting, but abandoned the idea considering the difficult logistics of moving equipment and animals as well as the unknown vibrio count in Eel Pond. The Committee discussed:
 - the need to better regulate distributors and restaurants,
 - the unknown vibrio life span and the possibility of holding chilled animals to reduce virulence;
 - fast paced spread of industry news in the small town environment;
 - reported cases as a marker of a greater number of unreported cases;
 - the need for Katama growers to be set their own protocol (see below: Actions).
- Paul Bagnall would attend a November 17-18th Conference on Detecting Vibrio in the Environment to see if cues for pro-active closures could be established. Vibrio was also on the agenda of the Shellfish Advisory Panel November 19th.

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- Schifter / Leland Update (See 9/15/15 Minutes p. 2.)

Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Water Resource Planner Sheri Caseau would bring the matter before the new Director. Recorder Marni Lipke had mentioned it to the Edgartown Marine Advisory Board.

- The Edgartown Great Pond cut was still open after 10 days although it was beginning to hook and would likely last about two weeks. The Committee liked the article in the Vineyard Gazette.

NEW BUSINESS

- Paul Bagnall had an altercation with kite boarders who were asking recreational shellfishers to leave Sengekontacket during their timing trials, and had probably removed the markers and buoys delineating the family area. The boarders should get a permit from Dukes County, which managed the Beach access as well as Marine Access permission from Edgartown.

MINUTES

- **COOPER GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 20, 2015 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 1 AYE, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—DONALD BENEFIT, COOP GILKES due to absence.**

Meetings/Events

Chair Ryan Smith canvased the members on the convenience of the 4:30 meeting time.

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, November 17, & December 1, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 5:24PM.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul/Ryan - call aquaculture meeting in January/February re: proactive vibrio protocol.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/3/15