

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair – Ryan Smith, Les Baines Christian Thornton,
Coop Gilkes
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Pete Jackson, Rob Morrison,
Others: John Conlon Angie Fischer, Clint Fisher, Sandy Fisher II,
Sandy Fisher III, Sheri Fisher, Cera Garvin, Wes Gilpin, Gus Leaf,
Albert Robinson, Penelope & Ryan Thornton, David Viera, Nick Viera,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

A couple of fishermen were getting oyster limits in Sengekontacket in decent time frame, although the family area was mostly untouched.

• Bay Scallop Season Update

About 10 limits a day were coming in and some fishermen were asking when the season would close. The season was being driven by good weather and high prices but it was also important to protect next years seed crop—Oak Bluffs canceled its season to protect the seed.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE:

- THE SCALLOP SEASON, AND

- AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO CLOSE AREAS AT THEIR DISCRETION;

ALL CONTINUATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH CONSECUTIVE MEETING.

• Family scalloping might close earlier as the public in general could not differentiate large seed from adults.

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO OPEN ALL OF EDGARTOWN SIDE OF SENGEKONTACKET POND EXCEPT THE FAMILY AREAS, TO COMMERCIAL OYSTERING DECEMBER 21, 2015 AT TWO LEVEL WASHBASKETS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

OLD BUSINESS

• Vibrio Update (See 12/1/15 Minutes p. 1-2.)

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was interested in relaying all farmed Katama Bay oysters to the Harbor outside Eel Pond for 14 days before harvest and requiring

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icing within one hour of harvest. The Committee discussed the logistics and public image (i.e. fresh means not frozen) of 48 hour iced delay as a vibrio reduction or elimination technique.

- General Committee recommendation to aquaculturists was to ice within one hour and self-impose a 48 hour icing period—including getting the word out to dealers.
- Roy and Jeremy Scheffer Outer Harbor plots were approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and they could start farming this season. Ryan and Joe Smith approvals were next in line.

- Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Budget

The Budget was submitted. The Town Annual Report essay was due (see below: Actions).

MINUTES

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2015 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Meetings/Events

- Holiday Dinner: 6:30PM Thursday, December 17, 2015 at Atria
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, January 5 & 19, 2016 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

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

Actions To Be Done :

- Ryan/Christian/Paul - submit Committee Annual Town Report by Wed. 1/6/16.
- Aquaculture - ice within 1 hr. and self impose 48 hr. icing (contact distributors).

Documents on File: none