

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Barn

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith Les Baynes, Coop Gilkes,
Christian Thornton,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.

MINUTES

- RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 5, 2014 MINUTES; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- RYAN SMITH MOVED TO CONFIRM AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR DAVID CHIPPERFIELD AND DONALD THOMAS; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

The licenses were signed during the busy summer season.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Major's Cove Oyster Project

The Committee admired the 2014 oyster seed, which were showing about a 99% survival rate. Deputy Constables Warren Gaines and Rob Morrison reported the Project was very time consuming as staff were constantly thinning seed into more bags, and now spreading oysters (probably in two or three stages) by the Big Bridge Family Area for harvest. They noted the difference between seeds from the upweller and the bags.

- Shellfish Biologist/Constable Paul Bagnall reported that no one was buying quahogs and the price was only 10-15¢ a piece or about \$8 / bushel. Quahogs were being thinned from the 22 rafts of seeds into the gravel area in Katama. Those in the gravel (a deterrent for Lady Crabs) grew slower but had tougher shells.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Shifter Agreement

The Leland/Shifter party was willing to negotiate but it was unclear when testing would start. The Woods Hole Group estimate was for \$30,000; the Leland/Shifter party suggesting one year and the Town of Edgartown requesting three years.

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Middle Flats Aquaculture Area

The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) surveyed Jeremy and Roy Scheffer's plots and the Conservation Commission granted a negative finding. The survey didn't find much, except some small scallops in the shallower areas. DMF would return shortly to survey the next two (or more) plots.

Vibrio Update

The fourth case of Vibrio from oysters harvested in Katama was confirmed 15 minutes ago. Paul Bagnall chose the option to close all Katama farms within 24 hours to re-open with no retesting and no recall in seven days. The other option was to see if any other cases came through within the 30 day period at which point the farms would be closed for 14 days with retesting and recall. A number of factors and issues were noted.

- Notification timing was slightly better than previously (see 8/5/14 Minutes p. 2), however the Shellfish Department and the farmers would prefer to know in real time whenever Katama was even implicated.
- Incidents in other regions were noted.
- The oysters were harvested in Katama, shipped to Wareham, and returned to the Island, and so were at least eight days old when served in Menemsha. Therefore the distributor and/or restaurateur should take some responsibility, as any oyster that old should either be cooked or refused.
- It was hoped there would be another meeting with DMF and the Dept. of Public Health (DPH) (see 1/7/14 Minutes p. 2) to address this and other issues in the continuing to fine-tune vibrio regulation.

NEW BUSINESS

Edgartown Great Pond was just barely high enough to warrant an opening, scheduled for the coming weekend (September 6th-7th)—the August opening having been delayed by low rainfall.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish Public Hearing - 4:30 PM, Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at Town Barn
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30 PM, Tuesday, October 7, 2014 TBD

ADJOURNMENT

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

continued

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Actions To Be Done:

- Warren/Rob - bring seeds from upweller to 9/16 meeting.
- Paul - post 2014=15 Bay Scallop Season Public Hearing.

September Agenda

- Minutes: 9/2/14
- October - budget/salary discussion on the Major's Cove Oyster Project position

Ongoing Actions

- Ryan/Paul - ask Selectmen and Ed Handy to ask State (Jack Shephard) re: rebuilding Katama public access ramp, and moving 2 big rock obstacles.
- Paul- attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 9/2/14