

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: David Berube, Lisa Gaudette, Roy Scheffer, Harold Smith,
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR LISA GAUDETTE AND HAROLD SMITH II.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Bay Scallop Season Update

15 to 20 boats were bringing in about 35 limits a day mostly within the first few hours. Roy Scheffer suggested raising the cut-off temperature to at least 32°F (see below: Actions) to protect next year's seed which were visible on the eelgrass and cages—possibly a good set attributable to the summer spawning (see 8/5/14 Minutes p. 2). The harvest could drop off around Christmas, or if scallops were still abundant the limit could be raised. Strong westerly winds might result in some wash-up otherwise things were going well and the Committee again commended Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall and staff for their foresight in starting the season early.

- The Scallops for Seniors was also successful. Warren Doty added to the stash so that there might be enough leftovers for Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Shifter Water Sampling Agreement - Nothing to report.

Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Budget (See documents on file.)

- The Board of Selectmen seemed to have interpreted the Major's Cove Oyster Farm as a two-year program as opposed to a two-year start=up, and consequently were still unwilling to shift the contract labor into a permanent third deputy. The position could continue to be funded by the hour with an increase of \$13,000 to the Shellfish Programs warrant article; however this could be complicated by "prevailing wage" regulations. The Committee again emphasized that in addition to the harvest for the 1,000 Edgartown family license holders, nitrogen remediation (part of the Massachusetts Estuary Program (MEP)) was an important project bi-product (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 3).

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- The Committee reviewed the FY16 Shellfish Programs Article and Department Budget noting the steady growth and the need to keep moving forward.
 - Edgartown profited significantly from its Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) membership dues (\$37,000) with:
 - slightly less scallop seed than FY15 but valued at about \$42,400;
 - \$8,000 for the Chappaquiddick Nursery maintenance; and
 - \$30,000 for oyster propagation in Edgartown Great Pond.
 - Paul Bagnall met with Oak Bluffs Shellfish Constable Dave Grunden who was working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Friends of Sengekontacket (FOS) on a project to protect the salt marsh around Felix Neck.
 - **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE ALL WARRANT ARTICLES AS LAID OUT:**
 - **SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT AT \$42,468;**
 - **SHELLFISH COMMITTEE PROGRAMS AT \$76,500;**
 - **MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHELLFISH GROUP AT \$37,000; AND**
 - **SENGEKONTACKET SALT MARSH REMEDIATION AT \$9,697.19;**
- COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

MINUTES

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MINUTES; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**

OLD BUSINESS

Vibrio Update

The last sampling came out clean but further analysis was being pursued on the bottom mud from the cages.

- All shellfish growers, committee members and constables were urged to attend the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Department of Public Health (DPH) Vibrio Safety Protocol meeting (see below: Meetings and Actions).

Meetings

- Vibrio Safety - 1:15 PM, Monday, November 24, 2014 - Katherine Cornell Theatre
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, December 2 & 16, 2014 at Town Hall

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ADJOURNMENT

- **COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:12PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul - contact the MVC re; another Leland/Shifter letter.

December Agenda

- Minutes
- Scallop Season Temperature Vote

Ongoing Actions

- Paul - submit written deputy reports and hours folder at each meeting.
- Public hearing on oyster minimum / maximum size when /if there is an oyster season.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 11/18/14
- 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article (4 p.)