

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes, Ryan Smith,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Les Baynes David Berube, Gary Look,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM.

MINUTES

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 18, 2012 AND JANUARY 15, 2013 MINUTES: COOP GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS** as absent.

• Mr. Les Baynes held a commercial license but felt he was in tune with family license holders and was happy to represent them on the Committee.

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO RECOMMEND LES BAYNES AS THE FAMILY LICENSE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE MEMBER: COOP GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS** (see below: Actions).

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLES' REPORT

• About 20 fishermen were still going out, with 2/3 of them getting the increased limit. Bay scallop prices had risen from \$10 to \$11.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on Limit Increase (See documents on file and 2/5/13 Notes p. 1.)

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO CONFIRM THE INCREASE IN THE BAY SCALLOP LIMIT TO FIVE (5) LEVEL WASHBASKETS: COOP GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

OLD BUSINESS

Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) Business Plan

Scott Lindell and Ryan Consultants were hired to draft the Plan (see documents on file).

Shellfish Biologist Paul Bagnall reported that the MVSG discussed:

- Edgartown paying a double cost share for seed and consultants as the largest user on the Island;  
and

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- closing the Vineyard Haven Hatchery and concentrating on the State Lobster Hatchery. The Committee discussed having the State as a landlord, renovation of the remainder of the building and the need for a 10 year commitment from the State.

Waiting List for Katama Aquaculture Plots

The regulations would go into effect ten days after the two week official press advertisement (see below: Actions).

Aquaculture Regulations Update

There was no word from the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) on scheduling a public hearing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Leland Property DRI Conditions – New Ones (See 12/18/12 Minutes p. 2.)

- The Marine Advisory and Shellfish Committees and Board of Health should meet in a timely fashion to propose testing schedules and equipment needs in keeping with the recent dredging impact (see below: Actions).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dave Berube and the Committee discussed extending the scallop season:
  - It was taking fishermen about an hour and a half longer to get the increased limit.
  - Various harvest sites were noted,
  - DMF timelines would require any initial request for season extension to be submitted the first week of March.
  - Fishermen were divided on the issue.
  - Other factors (eel grass regeneration, marine wildlife, etc.) influenced the April 1<sup>st</sup> cut off.
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE TO TABLE THE REQUEST TO EXTEND THE SEASON TO THE MARCH 5, 2013 MEETING.**
- There was a discussion on dredging the delta that formed behind the cut at the Edgartown Great Pond;
  - the need to greatly reduce the delta rather than digging a channel through it,
  - advantages of using the large dredge which might be available,
  - short and long term effects of moving the cut,
  - implications of rising sea level.

**Meetings**

- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, March 5 & 19, at Town Hall

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**• COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:57PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul – draft letter to Selectmen re: appointment of Les Baynes
- Paul – advertise start of Aquaculture Lease Wait List.
- Marni – send Wait List form to Paul for Town.
- Jack/Paul/Gary Look/Sheri Caseau – plan joint meeting re: Leland Testing
- Marine Advisory Meetings – 3:00PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at Town Hall.
- Paul/Gary – ask Town re: escrow/billing procedure on Leland DRI

**March 5, 2013 Agenda**

- 2/5/13 Notes, 2/19/13 Minutes
- Extension of Bay Scallop Season
- ?Schedule Leland testing joint workshop with Marine Advisory, MVC, & BOH

**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 2/19/13
- Lindell/Ryan memo re: Agenda for MVSG Meeting 13 Feb. 2013
- Blake email to Rick Karney re: Chappy Nursery/Hatcher
- Bagnall memo re: Bay Scallop Limit Increase 2/11/13
- Baynes letter re: Shellfish Committee Membership 2/4/13
- Palmera letter re: Shellfish Committee Membership 2.1.13