

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes, Ryan Smith,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison
Others: Marni Lipke – Recorder

The meeting was called to order about 7:05PM.

• MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 2, 2013 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – COOP GILKES** due to absence.

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• The Deputies passed around oysters from the Sengekontacket upweller, which was bubbling vigorously, particularly at moon tides. The upweller might be moved about 600 ft. closer to the Big Bridge.

- Tomorrow, August 7th the crew would meet with Jack Blake and start shifting them into 3/8" mesh bags, about 700=800 each. Dick Diamond had delivered 64 cages and would make another run soon. All bags and cages would be placed in Major's Cove (see below: Actions).

- Next year the number of seed might be reduced to 300,000 for optimum handling.

- There was a discussion on moving some of the crop to Katama after a year and/or the eventual possibility of a Sengekontacket oyster season.

• The staff had shifted:

- 1.9 million quahogs on 24 rafts with a truck load of gravel in Katama , as well as

- 100,000 steamers onto 2 more rafts.

The harvest would be thinned and scattered over a larger area for seeding. There was fertile ground between the docks . So far they were doing well with less lady crabs depredation than previously.

• The Katama Relay area was popular, with most people coming at the area from the boat ramp (see below: Actions). The Sengekontacket Relay area was also doing well and oysters might be planted to the left.

• Next year's scallop harvest continued to look thin without much seed anywhere, or only small, unpredictable sets.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
August 6, 2013

2

- The remote set of oysters went off without a hitch and the crew put out 14 yds. of shell stock.

OLD BUSINESS

Chappaquiddick Nursery (Deputies'/Constable's Report.)

- Shellfish Biologist Paul Bagnall and summer intern Abigail Larsen were spawning 25 million quahogs per day, two to three days a week.

NEW BUSINESS

Dredging of Edgartown Great Pond

- The Pond was opened July 13th-19th with some wash-over, raising the salinity to 16ppt. and the Pond to 3.5 ft. above sea level. The delta and the Katama breach quickened the littoral drift and bar action. The opening had been pushed up to compensate for the high June rainfall.
- There was a long discussion on the politics and dynamics of the new Dredge Committee and the timing of the openings. The openings and dredging should improve recreational swimming, boating, etc. as well as shellfishing.
- The Shellfish Committee/Department determined dredge and opening parameters for the Pond and the Dredge Committee responsibility was to implement the projects including permits, equipment, logistics, etc.
- Les Baynes as the Shellfish representative to the Dredge Committee strongly recommended that Paul Bagnall attend as many Dredge meetings as possible as the most informed and knowledgeable voice.

OLD BUSINESS

Aquaculture Regulations/Fines

- At the beginning of the meeting there was a brief review of the revised aquaculture penalty policy (see below: Actions). It was again noted that as a major commercial business, stiff regulation and penalty was necessary and expedient.
- After a brief tour, Mr. Tommy Shields from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was happy with the current state of Edgartown aquaculture. The new buoys and clear demarcations encouraged boat traffic, resulting in some wake problems for farmers.
- Both temperature monitors were gone (see below: Actions) although DMF would accept Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) readings.
- Ray Gaily and Sandy Fisher continued to be monitored.

Majors Cove Oyster Project (See above Deputies'/Constable's Report.)

- There was no response yet from Mr. Leland (see 7/2/13 Minutes p. 3).
- Staff would ask DMF about opening the Sengekontacket closed quahog area in September (see below: Actions).

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
August 6, 2013

3

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, September 3 & 17, 2013 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:15PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul/Warren/Rob - contact Dick Diamond re: cages from Ketchum parking lot.
- Jack - install the davit in Carolina skiff for Major's Cove project.
- Paul/Warren/Rob - plant next relay area closer to the boat ramp.
- Jack/Paul/Marni - clean Aquaculture enforcement amendment for Selectmen's meeting.
- Paul - attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.
- Paul - ask DMF Greg Sawyer re:
 - opening Sengekontacket quahog area.
 - purchase/replace temperature monitors including heavy duty cable.

Ongoing Actions

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

Documents on file:

- Agenda 8/6/13