

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 17, 2013 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Cooper Gilkes, Ryan Smith,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison, Emma Green-Beach,
Others: Jason Bennet, Joe Smith, Jerry Scheffer, Roy Scheffer, Nic Turner,
Sara Brown – Vineyard Gazette
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM.

MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 MINUTES AS AMENDED: JACK BLAKE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Roy Scheffer was applying for an aquaculture plot outside the Katama Bay. The Committee asked him to note proposed plot coordinates for Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) testing, before resubmitting his application for consideration at the next meeting.

• The Committee discussed Katama water temperature in relation to bacterial contamination. At this afternoon's meeting on the Katama Bay Aquaculture closure (see below p.2), the DMF representative suggested that the DMF temperature threshold might be lowered.

- Any active shellfish area was tested a minimum of five times annually, and Sengekontacket had been tested every two weeks during the closure period.

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Majors' Cove Oyster Project

• The Deputies spent most of their time splitting the oyster crop into the cages in 9 ft. of water, where growth was beginning to slow. The equipment was in good shape although a strong southwest wind made the work difficult. The cages were now closer to Felix Neck with a line down the center for boat traffic. As was common with new locations there was little or no die off.

• The Taylor seafood scallops (see 9/3/13 Minutes p. 2) were purple and orange presenting a prime target for such predators as blue claws and green crabs, so the Deputies were looking to hide them among the 60 bags from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) around the family area in Sengekontacket Pond.

• The Relay Area test samples will be dug next Tuesday September 24th. High count testing samples in Edgartown Great Pond: Slough Cove, Turkey Land and Meshaket forced a shellfish closure (clamming and oysters). It was noted that testing was no longer coordinated with the Pond cuts – which were July 13th and August 7th this year.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
September 17, 2013

2

OLD BUSINESS

Chappaquiddick Nursery/Hatchery

The Nursery was put to bed for the winter, cleaned, water turned off, etc. A proposal to repair and all the rubber flooring for \$10,000 (actual value \$25,000) was considered. In general the plywood and underflooring were felt to be in good shape. However the rubber should go up the walls at least 4 in. to protect the it from splashes and damp from the troughs—which should be replaced and recessed further away from the wall (see below: Actions).

Leland Schifter Agreement

Mr. Bagnall apologized for losing his temper at the last meeting. The Committee was still awaiting a response to their letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Katama Bay Closure

The meeting (see above p. 1) was well attended by representatives from: the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, DMF, State Representative Tim Madden, State Senator Dan Wolfe, the Island health agents, Shellfish constables and growers. The bulk of the meeting was about how to go forward from the closing. Three criteria were required to open the Katama farms:

- reduced water temperature (now dropping—although July/August were a continuing concern),
- no further reports of human illness (last illness was a month and a half ago), and
- three clean weeks of testing (12 animals each per week at the three identified sites) with Parker River oysters as the control.

- Recalled oysters were returned to the aquaculture lots September 9th-11th but segregated from other oysters—Jack Blake reported recalling 836 oysters.
- There were rumors of a September 23rd meeting on reopening—the vibrio season was considered over by October 20th.
- Growers discussed icing procedures from boat to truck to market.
- There was also considerable interest in forming a growers association to be proactive on issues and share testing costs.
- In relation to this, Shellfish Biologist Constable Paul Bagnall suggested the Department join the East Coast Shellfish Association which advocated in Washington on relevant issues.
- Emma Green-Beach offered to organize a seminar on Vibrio by Robert (Skid) Rheault for Island fishermen and growers.

- The Board of Selectmen approved the new Aquaculture regulations and would consider the scallop season at their next session (see below: Meetings).

- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT THERE WOULD BE DIP NETTING ONLY IN CAPE POGUE UNTIL THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE FAMILY SEASON AND DRAGGING WAS ONLY ALLOWED STARTING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2013.**

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
September 17, 2013

3

Meetings

- Edg. Bd. of Selectmen on scallop season – 4:15PM Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, October 1 & 15, 2013 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:59PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul/Warren/Rob – replace Chappaquiddick troughs (ripped dredge pipe?)
- move troughs away from wall
- Ocober Agenda:
 - Money for Chappaquiddick floor?
 - East Coast Shellfish Association
 - Island aquaculture growers association,
 - Roy Scheffer lease/license

Ongoing Actions

- Paul/Warren/Rob – plant next Katama relay area closer to the boat ramp.
- Paul– attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.
- Public hearing on oyster minimum / maximum size when /if there is an oyster season.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 9/17/13
- Sign In Sheet 9/17/13
- Gazette article: State Closes Katama Bay Oyster Farms (2 p.) 7/13/13
- MV Times article: Bacterium Close 12 Katama Oyster Farms (2 p.) 7/12/13