

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 7:00PM
Edgartown Shellfish Department Office Town Barn

Present: Acting Chairs - Donald Benefit, Ryan Smith,
Ralph Case,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Doug Benefit, Francis (Sandy) Fisher II,
Angie Fisher, John Pachico,
Marni Lipke – Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:29PM when a quorum was finally present.

• MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2012 MINUTES: RALPH CASE SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Election of Chairman

DONALD BENEFIT NOMINATED JACK BLAKE FOR CHAIRMAN AND RYAN SMITH FOR VICE CHAIRMAN; RALPH CASE SECONDED; NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; NOMINATIONS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR LEEANNA MARIE FISHER, AND JOHN PACHICO.**

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT

- 1.9 million quahogs from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) hatchery were placed in rafts in Sengekontacket Pond to be spread in September. 100,000 steamers from Salem State Hatchery were also on rafts in Sengekontacket.
- All the shell (about 32 yards of it) was recycled into Edgartown Great Pond.
- Scallops were at the MVSG Hatchery now so the Chappaquiddick Nursery was being cleaned out to be ready for them.

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- Later in the meeting Paul Bagnall reported the Department was in good shape for July 4th and expected to be very busy with enforcement for a couple days. Ralph Case had heard good reports on deputies checking all licenses.
- The Department would welcome about 50 yards of clean shell to recycle from a possible Sea clamshell business on the Island.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sengekontacket Closure Update

- The Department had installed the flagpole for Sengekontacket rain closings (see 6/5/12 Minutes p. 5). Staff and fisherman should take note that it had to be up by 7:00AM, and the initial trials would take some policing. Shellfish Biologist Paul Bagnall was hoping to raise the cut-off above the current 0.2 inches.

- Edgartown Great Pond

- Clamming, Opening

- After discussions and promises regarding Edgartown Great Pond clamming some of the fishermen went straight into those areas set aside for seed growth.
- Salinity was 10 ppt. but the Pond was low and would probably not be cut before August 15th. If there was not enough rain under these conditions, the algae and water temperature would create a shellfish die-off, therefore:
- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO OPEN ALL OF EDGARTOWN GREAT POND TO STEAMER CLAMMING EXCEPT THE SANCTUARIES, FROM THE JULY 15, 2012 UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2012; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- The new Dredge Committee met and discussed timing and logistics of dredging the Pond.

NEW BUSINESS

- Aquaculture Regulations (See below: Actions.)

The Selectmen passed the new Aquaculture Regulations (placing them in Paragraph 5 and eliminating Paragraph 6). The Committee discussed two possible amendments to be considered for the September meetings.

- Fishermen should be allowed to place upwellers in the Katama Narrows for the summer months, constituting an exception to all equipment having to be within plot boundaries. The Committee discussed Narrows space available and allowing only one one Narrow upweller per plot (i.e. 12 upwellers). Leaseholders may have other upwellers within their plot boundaries.
- For safety sake, the Committee and staff reconsidered allowing winter culling (but no storage) offsite for example on the shore or in the parking lot.
- Not all plots were marked yet but the site looked much better.

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- There was a brief discussion on whether Cape Pogue was shoaling up and what was stunting the scallops.

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, August 7, 2012 at Town Barn
- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, September 4 & 8, 2012 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:14PM, DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- All – whoever is not at the next meeting will be Chair
- Paul/Jack – strongly urge all aquaculture leaseholder to September meeting.

7/3/12 Agenda

- Minutes: 5/15/12, 7/3/12
- Estuaries Program Update
- Financial Update
- New Aquaculture Regulations Review

Unfinished Projects / Ongoing Actions

- Gate/fencing of Fishermen's Depot
- Photographs for Shellfish Dept. Office
- Paul – make available written deputy reports/hours on a bi-weekly basis.
- Warren/Rob – Report log at each Committee Meeting
- Public Hearing when /if there is an Edg. Great Pond oyster season.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 7/3/12
- Edgartown Application for a Commercial Shellfish Permit John Pachico (9 p.) 7/3/12
- Edgartown Application for a Commercial Shellfish Permit Leeanna Marie Fisher (3 p.)
7/3/12