

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Donald Benefit, Ralph Case, Cooper Gilkes,  
Ryan Smith  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Michael Briggs, Ron Chambers, Ray Gailey, Tom Phaneuf,  
Albert Robinson, Jr.,  
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order. (*The discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

**DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT**

The Committee debated whether the draft letter to the Selectmen on dredging should take a stronger stance but let it stand as written (see documents on file).

**COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

- Three fishermen were asked to return at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - Ron Chambers with completed paperwork;
  - Albert Robinson with signature notarization;
  - Michael Briggs with completed application.
- **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK BLAKE SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TOM PHANEUF.**
- Cape Pogue was now open, although no dragging was allowed before October 20th.

• **MINUTES**

• **COOP GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE:**

- **THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 MINUTES AS WRITTEN AND**

- **THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 MINUTES AS AMENDED:**

**DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Estuaries Program**

The Joint Committee on Sengekontacket would present recommendations on the Mass. Estuaries Project (MEP) to the Board of Selectmen on October 22<sup>nd</sup> all were urged to attend in support (see below: Actions). Oak Bluffs was taking strong action to remediate Nitrogen loading including a ban on fertilizers and some sewer construction (see also below p. 3).

Edgartown Shellfish Committee  
October 2, 2012

2

Chappaquiddick Nursery Update – Nothing new to report.

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT

- Family season opened yesterday but an early tide limited fishing in Sengekontacket. The weekend was expected to be busier.
- The Deputies thinned out seed on the rafts and moved 20 totes of oysters and some steamers to the family areas in Sengekontacket, Down Harbor and Eel Pond.
- Dudley Levitt reported a burgeoning population of blue claw crabs in Edgartown Great Pond and they were also predated shellfish in Sengekontacket.
- **IT WAS THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT 10 BUSHELS OF SCALLOPS BE MOVED TO THE SENGEKONTACKET FAMILY AREA SHALLOWS FOR EASIER ACCESS FOR SENIORS** (see below: Actions).
- A fisherman was spotted dragging on the Edgartown side near Felix Neck (see below: Actions).

NEW BUSINESS

Aquaculture Regulations

Plots in Katama had been tightened up and leaseholders were mostly in compliance. In some cases it was difficult to fit all equipment designed for a larger area within bounds. The Committee stressed the importance of observing the regulations.

- **RALPH CASE MOVED TO AMEND THE AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS AS FOLLOWS:**

**- ALL FARMS IN KATAMA BAY SHALL BE THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET BY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) FEET; DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS OF FARMS IN OTHER EDGARTOWN WATERS SHALL BE WITH THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE;**

**- ALL CAGES, EQUIPMENT OR BAGS SHALL BE LOCATED WITHIN THE MARKED FARM BOUNDARIES OR ON THE RAFT(S); WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UPWELLERS WHICH WILL BE LOCATED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE HARBORMASTER AND/OR SELECTMEN;**

**JACK BLAKE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Leaseholder Ray Gailey had moved to the Narrows from his plot in Shear Pen Pond when a rusty tide of algae started to kill his oysters (see 9/4/12 Minutes p. 1 & 9/18/12 Minutes p. 3) to see if they would survive better there. The Committee explained a number of issues.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee  
October 2, 2012

3

- The rusty tide seemed to be in the entire water column.
- Ray Gailey was required to move all equipment and cages back to his plot in Shear Pen. Aquaculture regulations did not allow constant shifts in plots without proper procedure.
- The next step was to survey the bottom for wild shellfish and possibly to take a water sample (see below: Actions).
- Any new plot had to be surveyed by the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) before becoming eligible for aquaculture.
  
- In view of the MEP recommendations for Sengekontacket Jack Blake presented a proposal based on nitrogen removal through shellfish cultivation (see documents on file).
- Two side-by-side 430 ft. by 100 ft. aquaculture plots straddling the Edgartown - Oak Bluffs Town line could cultivate 500,000 seed in 130 cages and 1600 bags each side.
- An upweller with navigational lights might be placed opposite the Big Bridge.
- The oysters only needed to be grown to 2 in. seed and then sold back to the Towns for release into the Pond. In this way the Pond would swiftly develop a paving of oysters.
- This was an easy stage of aquaculture; made simpler by not having to worry about shape and other market factors. The seed could winter over in the cages with minimal air-drying and a temporary raft from June through October.
- Grant funding might be available for the initial equipment investment of about \$43,000.
- The project could be put out to bid for an enterprising fisherman.
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE JACK BLAKE TO PLACE AN EXPERIMENTAL CAGE IN SENGEKONTACKET POND AT THE PROPOSED SITE AND RETAIN AN IDENTICAL CAGE IN KATAMA AS A CONTROL TO GAGE POSSIBLE OYSTER GROWTH/CULTIVATION (see below: Actions).**

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, October 16 & November 6, 2012 at Town Hall
- Edg. Board of Selectmen - 4:00PM Monday, October 22, 2012 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RALPH CASE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:45PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**October 2, 2012**

4

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul – check other town temperature cut-offs.
- Jack/Donald/Paul – attend Joint Committee presentation to Selectmen: 4PM 10/22/12.
- Paul – enforce aquaculture plot lines and good buoy anchors.
- Warren/Rob – move 10 bushels of scallops from John Olivers/Cape Pogue to Sengekontacket Family Area shallows; - Coop offered boat support.
- Paul/Warren/Rob – keep an eye out for someone dragging in Sengekontacket.
- Paul/Warren/Rob –enforce Ray Gailey removal to Shear Pen.
- Paul – submit amendments to Aquaculture Regulations & dredge letter to Selectmen.
- Doug Benefit/Skip – survey Narrows by Dike Bridge for shellfish.
- Jack – talk to Paul & David Grunden re: Sengekontacket nitrogen/aquaculture project.

**October Agendas**

- Minutes: 10/2/12
- Shellfish Licenses – Briggs, Chambers, Robinson,
- FY14 Budget
- Chappaquiddick Nursery Scallop Spawning Program Estimate
- Aquaculture
- Survey of Narrows by Dike Bridge
- Sengekontacket Aquaculture Bioremediation Proposal

**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 10/2/12
- Sign In Sheet 10/2/12
- Draft letter to Selectmen re: Dredging Season
- Google Earth Sengekontacket
- Supplies Needed to Grow 500,000 Two Inch Oyster Seed
- Shellfish as a Means to Reduce Nitrogen Impacts on Coastal Water (5 p.) 12/22/09