

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Cooper Gilkes, Ryan Smith,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Ray Auger, Edward Herman, Albert Robinson, Ralph Turet,  
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order.

**COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR EDWARD HERMAN.
- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ALBERT ROBINSON.
- Ray Auger, a recent Edgartown resident, was interested in an aquaculture license and as all the Katama plots were taken, raised the issue of new plots possibly in Pocha Pond (see below: Actions). The Committee discussed a number of issues:
  - neighbor protests on fishing boats might foreshadow opposition to aquaculture plots;
  - the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) lengthy permitting process for new locations;
  - pilot cultivation with bottom cages which were more sheltered.
- As this was the third request for additional plots the Committee and Department agreed to start a waitlist and survey Edgartown waters for possible new locations (see below: Actions).

**DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT**

- About 35 fishermen a day were all doing well, sometimes bringing in scallop limits within two hours. It was estimated that this activity level should hold for two or three more weeks. There would be no fishing on Thanksgiving Day.
- The Deputies salvaged some washups after the recent nor'easter.
- Coop Gilkes, Ryan Smith, John and Bridget Colon had contributed to about 110 half pound scallop servings to be distributed to seniors at Christmas. Donald Benefit had them frozen in saltwater for good preservation.

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- **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE TRAVEL AND TUITION FOR ROB MORRISON TO ATTEND SHELLFISH CONSTABLE CLASSES AT THE MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- Two cuts in Edgartown Great Pond failed, one due to the Hurricane Sandy surge and the two day nor'easter that rearranged sand bars and deltas; the other due to full moon tides. The Department would try again in mid-December at the quarter moon tides. Norton Point and Oyster Pond were similarly affected. On the other hand, the surge into the Pond raised the salinity to 15 ppt,
- At the end of the meeting, in consideration of the good catches and plentiful season; **COOPER GILKES MOVED TO RESET THE SCALLOP SEASON LIMIT TO THREE (3) ROUNDED TEN-GALLON WASHBASKETS PER DAY; JACK BLAKE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

OLD BUSINESS

Estuaries Program

- The Shellfish Department was just finishing Oyster Pond testing.
- The Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) would present Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen in Sengekontacket Pond (see below: Meetings).

Chappaquiddick Nursery

Boo Bassett was building stairs. The roof and electricity held in the storms however a lot of seaweed was pushed under the decks.

Sengekontacket Closure Update - Sengekontacket was now entirely open.

Financial Update

As of November 16, 2012 there was \$37,279 left in the Shellfish Committee Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Meeting Articles

Sengekontacket Oyster Program

Shellfish Biologist and Warden Paul Bagnall proposed the the FY14 Budget in four components/warrant articles.

- The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) Board voted to raise dues from \$33,000 to \$35,000.

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- The Shellfish Committee Programs were discussed and it was agreed they would stay the same as last year (see documents on file) including the quahog relay. To keep pace with rising costs the request would increase 2.5%.
- The Sengekontacket Oyster Propagation Program (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 3) could be reduced by about \$6,000 in labor costs and possibly \$4,300 from the SeaMac grant application to build the tide driven upweller. Other possible funding or gap sources were noted. After some discussion the Committee agreed that it should be a separate article and not be added into the Shellfish Programs article. The Selectmen could join the articles if they saw fit.
- An Article was needed to authorize the Shellfish Dept. to accept donations and grants.
  - The Committee FY12 Program was completely expended, although less was spent on disease testing and more on moving scallop seed.
  - The Articles and the Department FY14 Budget were due on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. The Annual Report was due January 7, 2013 (see below: Actions).
  - Shellfish Deputy Rob Morrison was already working three 8-hour days and one 6-hour day, partially due to the sharp restrictions on seasonal hiring (which reduced staff during the family season when the Department needed it most).
  - **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO INCREASE THE SECOND SHELLFISH DEPUTY POSITION FROM 30 HOURS PER WEEK TO 32 HOURS PER WEEK; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Aquaculture Regulations

- The Committee reviewed, amended and clarified the order and consistency of the new regulations (see documents on file and below: Actions).
- It would be up to the DMF whether a public hearing was required.
- There was a brief discussion on why licenses were not transferable and the recent seeming exception of the Fisher license (see 9/4/12 Minutes p. 2).

Katama Dredge Borrow Area

The Dredge Committee asked to use a 10 acre rectangle a quarter of the way across Katama Bay as a borrow area for sand and to use the Katama Boat Ramp Parking Lot for dewatering the stockpile. The Committee was not enthusiastic about the designated site and instead proposed re-dredging the channel to and off of Katama Point as the borrow area. They did not have authority over the Parking Lot but had no objections to its use for dewatering. There was a discussion on:

- "mining" sand,

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- the growing flats towards Chappaquiddick, and
- the recent spoils from dredging the Little Bridge Channel that went to repair some of the damage done to State Beach by the two storms.

Meetings

- Mass. DEP/MEP – 4:00PM, Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at OB Library
- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, December 4 & 18, 2012 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:29PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Marni – send Paul edited Aquaculture Regulations.
- Remove all references to “floating’ and “bottom’ licenses.
- amend annual fee to ‘per acre’.
- correct typos.
- All – survey Edgartown waters for possible aquaculture areas.
- Ray Auger – submit written proposed plot bounds and wildlife survey.
- Paul – back out labor costs and SeaMac grant from Senge Oyster Program article.
- Paul – send selectmen GPS coordinates and revised aquaculture regulations.
- Paul/Jack – create a waitlist for Aquaculture plots
- Jack/All – draft 2012 Annual Report deadline 1/7/13

**December 4, 2012 Agenda**

- 10/30/12 & 11/20/12 Minutes
- Ralph Case acknowledgement
- Formal vote on amended Aquaculture Regulations

**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 11/20/12
- Sign In/Notes 11/20/12
- 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article 11/28/11
- Section 10 Policy and Regulation for Edgartown Floating and Bottom Aquaculture Licenses (3 p.)
- Section 10 Policy and Regulation for Edgartown Floating and Bottom Aquaculture Licenses (3 p.) *edited/revised.*