

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference Due to the Covid-19 Crisis

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke,

The meeting was called to order. (Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

NEW BUSINESS (See Minutes: 2/18/20 p.2 & 5/19/20 p.1.)

Dudley Levick requested the Shellfish Committee attend the next Dredge Committee meeting (see below: Meetings/Events) to discuss the recommendation to dredge Edgartown Great Pond. The recent opening lasted 5 days leaving a low water level but also low salinity (~ 15 ppt. rather than ~20-25 ppt.) unless the Pond was flushed by a longer opening the salinity would continue to be problematic. The Committee discussed protocol in terms of:

- double agenda postings; and
- Selectmen/Shellfish/Dredge jurisdiction.

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT IT SENT A REPRESENTATIVE AND AN ADVISOR TO THE DREDGE COMMITTEE AND THAT IF THE DREDGE COMMITTEE HAD ANY QUESTIONS THEY WERE INVITED TO ATTEND A SHELLFISH COMMITTEE MEETING OTHERWISE THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE STOOD BY THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Despite Covid-19/Corona related staffing shortages and protocol restrictions the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) produced a good harvest of over 1,000,000 quahog seed for stocking the ponds.
- There was some commercial quahogging in Cape Pogue, Katama, and Sengekontacket Pond and one or two were working on a harvest of steamers.
- Jeff Kennedy took over from Mike Hickey at Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF).
- There was an evolving issue from the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) International Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) to ban and/or buffer shellfish harvesting or aquaculture in mooring areas and marinas. The move would seriously impact the Edgartown Shellfish industry. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall noted the high water quality in both Katama and the Harbor and was working with DMF to monitor the situation.

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NEW BUSINESS (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Although this would not be a banner year, scalloping was expected to be better than last year. Paul Bagnall proposed a Recreational Public Hearing in September. Staff would then be able to judge commercial opening public hearing for further September or October meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Vibrio (Vp) Update

The first Katama vibrio case was reported on July 10th so with luck the three week reset had now passed—although there was always a reporting delay and it was a hot summer.

- There was a slight pickup in aquaculture sales after the initial Covid/Corona drop.

MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 21, 2020 MINUTES: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYE, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION** due to absence: **NICK TURNER—ABSTAIN, LES BAYNES—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE.**

Meetings/Events

- Dredge - 4:00PM, Thursday, August 27, 2020 by Zoom
- Public Hearing Family Scalloping - September 1, 2020 by Zoom.
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, September 1 & 15, 2020 by Zoom
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, October 6 & 20, 2020 by Zoom
- MV Oyster Fest - at the MV Museum - Postponed TBD

ADJOURNMENT

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:57PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: LES BAYNES—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Ryan - attend Dredge Committee (see above) 8/27/20
- Paul - Post Family Scalloping Public Hearing

Documents on File:

- Agenda 8/18/20

continued

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Aquaculture Lot Wait List as of 2/28/20

1. Micah Agnoli	6/21/17	5. Adam Thibodeau	11/7/17
2. Adam Castro	9/5/17	6. Lila Fischer	1/16/18
3. Evan & Andrea Donnelly	9/19/17	7. David "Tubby" Medeiros	2/19/19
4. Clinton Fisher	9/19/17	8. Liam Cosgrove	9/17/19