

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 4:30pm**  
**Via Zoom**

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Nic Turner, Ryan Smith, David Faber  
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines  
Others: Recorder – Juliet Mulinare

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:32pm. The first order of business was the hiring of a new Recorder as Ms. Lipke is retiring. Ms. Mulinare was suggested by Ms. Lipke and was present to answer any questions from the Committee. There being no questions, a motion to hire Ms. Mulinare as the Committee's recorder was made by Ryan, and seconded by Nic. No further discussion and the motion was passed 4-0.

SHELLFISH PERMITS

None.

MINUTES

Ryan moved to approve the April 5 2022 minutes, seconded by Nic. No further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0.

DEPUTY REPORT

Floats were set up on the oyster/scallop farm and good percentage of scallops were planted. Some cages were held back to be used as spawning sanctuaries. This is the earliest spawn that has been attempted so it will be interesting to see how big the scallops get.

David asked if this approach has been successful elsewhere. Warren responded that over-wintering is hard to do but they've had a good survival rate and things look promising. Rob added that some of the cages had significant mortality but the results overall are encouraging.

Nic asked how many scallops were set early. Rob said 30 bundles.

SCALLOP & OYSTER SEASON REVIEW

It wasn't a great winter for scallopers but having various locations open, including outside the Harbor, as well as the extended season in Sengecontacket (1 extra month), was beneficial to and appreciated by the fishermen. Great Pond was quiet, but it was open.

SEA GRANT OYSTER BUYBACK PROGRAM

Rob informed the Committee that the Sea Grant Oyster Buyback Program is wrapping up and records need to be submitted. This was a first-come, first served covid-related program that awarded the Town \$5k to reimburse anyone who was not able to sell their oysters. There is still some money available and Rob suggested that the Committee to let the oyster fishermen know. The oysters that are bought will be re-planted in Caleb's Pond for public access.

NEW DEPUTY HIRE

Rob said he spoke with Town Administrator Hagerty regarding the hiring of a new Deputy. Mr. Hagerty advised him to speak with HR Director, Ms. Lucas, who returns from vacation on Monday. Rob said it is a challenging in environment to hire someone but it's a great opportunity to work for the Town. He will advertise the position and asked the Committee to encourage people to apply; he would also like the Committee to be involved in the hiring process.

Rob said the Department is in good shape for the summer staffing, previous seasonal hires are returning.

Madeline Fisher joins the meeting.

### HERRING CREEK CLEANOUT

Rob told the Committee he is looking into the clearing out of Herring Creek/Mattakesett. Funding in the amount of \$22,000 was appropriated at Town Meeting this year, which will be added to the \$23,000 already appropriated. The money will be used to clear out the invasive aquatic vegetation. There is a company out of Orleans that specializes in this type of work so Rob will reach out to them and see if they can remove the phragmites. He said he doesn't think the available funding will be enough to cover the entire scope of work, so he wants to get a better idea of scope vs. cost.

### CAPE POGUE DCPC

Rob reported that the Marine Advisory Committee and the Harbormaster have both made the same recommendations as last year on restricting the anchoring in Cape Pogue. The Shellfish Department wants to protect the Eel Grass as much as possible and will work with the Harbormaster, if needed, to provide enforcement of the restrictions. Mr. Ewing has agreed to donate some moorings, as well as his time, and Rob has offered to assist him.

The Committee discussed options for expressing their gratitude to departing Committee member Les Baynes, recently retired Constable Paul Bagnall, and former recorder Marni Lipke.

At 5:00pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Nic and seconded by Ryan. No discussion, unanimously approved, 5-0.

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.