

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, June 7th, 2022, 4:30pm
Via Zoom

Present: Christian Thornton, Ryan Smith, David Faber, Madeline Fisher
Absent: Nic Turner
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison
Others: Abigail Rosen, Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:31pm.

MINUTES

David moved to approve the May 17, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ryan. No further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0.

The Committee discussed the notion of meeting in person. Rob said it will be allowed again in mid July but the Governor may extend the allowance for zoom meetings. Committee members agreed that zoom was more convenient and meetings should continue on zoom, if allowable.

SHELLFISH PERMITS

Rob informed the Committee that a gentleman named Nathan Costa, who was previously approved for his commercial license in 2019 and 2020, has submitted his paperwork again and will be granted his permit upon payment of the fee. Christian stated he had no objection as long as Mr. Costa was a town resident. Rob confirmed that he would have to be to have been previously approved. Christian made a motion to approve the 2022 application, Madeline seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0.

DEPUTY REPORT

No Deputy present.

CONSTABLE REPORT

▪ NEW DEPUTY HIRE

Rob informed the Committee that two applications have been submitted so far, applications will continue to be accepted until June 28. If needed, the deadline can be extended.

▪ EDGARTOWN GREAT POND HYDRAULIC CLAM HARVEST

The season started yesterday; there were two fishermen out but both had some technical difficulties. One of them went out again today and got the limit.

The Great Pond was cut to the ocean last week, it was a deep cut with good flow at the start. Rob checked again today and the flow has slowed; he anticipates that it will close shortly with the weather this week.

▪ DREDGE PERMITS

The Committee, by request of the Dredge Committee, discussed the dredging locations currently included on the Comprehensive Dredge Permit. Juliet explained that the Comprehensive Permit will need to be renewed in 2023 and the permitting agencies are requiring new fieldwork to be performed for each dredging site. The cost of this work is approximately \$40k per site so the Dredge Committee has been considering removing some of the dredging sites in order to reduce the cost of the renewal process. The

Dredge Committee is looking for input from the Shellfish Committee on the three dredging locations in Cape Pogue. The Committee was generally of the opinion that all three sites in Cape Pogue should remain viable dredging sites. They will discuss further at subsequent meetings and Juliet stated that a decision does not need to be made immediately.

- FRIENDS OF SENGECONTACTET INTERNS

Rob informed the Committee that the Friends of Sengecontactet have provided the Department with two qualified interns for the summer. The interns started on Monday and have hit the ground running; they are knowledgeable, both have science back grounds and both have displayed a very good work ethic thus far. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Friends for instituting the intern program and providing support to the Shellfish Department. The interns divide their time evenly between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs and develop skills in aquaculture and propagation through the program.

- CHAPPY NURSERIES

Rob stated that the salt and fresh water has been turned on and quahogs will be going in by the end of the week.

- PROPAGATION

Rob stated that both upwellers are in the water (one in the Narrows, one in Sengecontactet) and they are currently getting scallops. Oysters will start next week, The Shellfish group has provided quahogs and is working to expand the propagation effort. Rob said that the good weather has been very helpful in getting things going.

At 4:50pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No discussion, unanimously approved, 4-0.

The next meeting will be held on June 21st, 2022.

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.