

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 4:30pm
Via Zoom

Present: David Faber, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Chuck Fisher (joined late)
Others: Grace Kenney, Matteus Scheffer, Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:32pm. Ryan will serve as acting Chair.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

Rob presented two commercial shell fishing applications for approval: Kenney and Scheffer. Both applications are complete and both applicants were present.

Motion placed on the floor by Ryan to approve both commercial shell fishing applications. David seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and approved unanimously, 3-0.

MINUTES

Approval of the 9/6/22 minutes was postponed.

CONSTABLE'S AND DEPUTIES' REPORT

Rob reported that they have been busy getting gear out of the water. There are quahogs in Sengecontacket and Katama Bay. This season a second upweller, in addition to the one in Sengekontacket, has been added in Katama Bay. The Katama upweller has been used for quahog and scallop seed. The use of the upwellers is going well in all locations. There are 80 cages of oyster seed and 30 cages of scallop seed in Sengecontacket – all good size seed. Rob stated the Department is winding down from a busy summer and preparing for scallop season to begin in a couple weeks.

SCALLOP SEASON DATES

Rob reported that the Selectboard approved the recommended scallop season dates with no changes.

Chuck Fisher joined the meeting.

TTOR STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP – BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rob stated that he had previously informed the Committee that TTOR was working on a new Beach Management Plan, this time with more input from the community. TTOR asked for an Edgartown Shellfish Department appointee so Rob appointed Ralph Peckham, a longtime seasonal deputy for the Department and knowledgeable fisherman. Rob said he will also attend the meetings with TTOR.

NEW DEPUTY HIRE

Rob introduced newly hired Deputy Chuck Fisher to the Committee and said he started last Friday. Chuck was previously the Shellfish Constable in Oak Bluffs.

The Committee discussed whether to return to in-person meetings but decided to continue on zoom for the time being for the sake of convenience.

The next meeting will be held on October 4, 2022.
Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.