

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 4:30pm
At the Edgartown Library

Present: Christian Thornton, Ryan Smith, Madeline Fisher
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines
Others: Juliet Mulinare, Peter Vincent, Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Mike Shalett, Timmy Thomas

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:30pm.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

Rob presented one commercial shell fishing application for approval: E. Bergeron. The application is complete.

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

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Warren reported that 1600 bushels have been brought in so far this year and the scallop season is still going well in both ponds; it's taking fishermen around 2-3 hours to get their limits. Rob said the Department received Senge scallop seed in cages from the Shellfish Group.

DREDGE DEPARTMENT

The Committee welcomed the members of the Dredge Committee who were present to discuss long-term planning for the dredging of the Great Pond. The Dredge Committee would like to formalize the frequency with which the town dredge goes into the Great Pond. The Committees discussed the parameters and costs of dredging the Great Pond. The Great Pond requires an additional mobilization/demobilization by crane, which costs around \$26,000, so planning ahead is crucial to make sure there is enough money in the budget to absorb the additional cost. The Committees discussed submitting a joint warrant article on an annual, as-needed basis, for the additional funds. After some discussion about the merits of dredging the Great Pond regularly, Mr. Shalett stated that, after 10 years of dredging, the pond is no longer considered "impaired" by the State, which, empirically, demonstrates the benefit of dredging. Mr. Levick disagreed and said that dredging increases the length of the openings which depletes the fresh water budget and reduces the number of openings per year. Rob responded that there are many factors that contribute to the length of the openings and that he appreciates the input being offered. The Committees discussed the need for nourishment material at locations near the Great Pond.

INCIDENT REPORT

Mr. Thomas, whose commercial shell fishing license was suspended for five days due to inappropriate conduct, was present to air his grievances regarding the Committee's decision to suspend his license. He requested 15 days where he is allowed to bring in a bushel a day to compensate for the lost revenue. After allowing Mr. Thomas to express his frustration for an extended period of time, the Committee denied his request for 15 additional scalloping days saying that the five-day suspension was actually quite lenient, given the events that transpired.

At 5:25pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 3-0

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.