

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

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

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

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

None.

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Warren reported that scallop season is still going well, despite heavy winds. There were about 30 limits brought in yesterday. There should be another month to go and the fishermen are happy. Scallops are still available in Sengekontacket if you have a boat. They are currently selling at \$24-\$26/pound.

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Rob informed the Committee that the scallop and oyster farms in Senge have been put to bed for the winter and the equipment has been removed from the pond so ice will not be an issue. He has recovered scallop seed which he is able to identify based on markings.

GREAT POND DREDGING

Rob stated that the Great Pond was cut on Monday and closed on Friday. He was hoping for a longer opening but there was decent flushing and a bump in salinity. He said that dredging will help to prolong the opening. The Committee discussed the suggestion of an annual article to launch and haul the dredge into the Great Pond. Although the \$30k article was not submitted for ATM 2023, it is a good thing to keep in mind for the future. The Committee discussed how to use the dredged material for nourishment and the options for where it could go (public and private). The Committee agreed that regular dredging in the Great Pond is beneficial as is the option to use the dredged material.

Motion placed on the floor by Christian to align with the Dredge Committee to submit an article for \$30k, annually, as needed, to launch and haul the dredge into the Great Pond. David seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 5-0.

SEASONAL AQUACULTURE AREA – INNER HARBOR

Rob and Warren met with DMF (Division of Marine Fisheries) regarding the town regulation that allows aqua culturists to move their equipment into the inner harbor during the winter months. DMF suggested getting the inner harbor approved for shell-fishing during the off-season, which would allow the fishermen to generate product during that time. Rob said they would need to determine the area for approval and go through the permitting process with DMF but he thinks this would be advantageous. The Committee discussed the different potential areas, specifically from the Yacht Club to the Reading Room, where folks leave their floats anyways. There was some debate amongst the Committee about the best location so Rob said he would put together some areas he has in mind and bring them to the next meeting.

DEPT. BUDGET & ATM WARRANT ARTICLES

Rob told the Committee that he went to the Capital Programs Committee last week to defend the Department's request for \$60k for a new truck. He has also submitted a warrant article for Herring Creek in the amount of \$15k. Rob also explained that, for many years, the Department has had two articles regularly on the warrant: \$39k for membership to the Shellfish Group and \$44k for various Shellfish Committee Programs. The Capital Programs Committee requested that these two articles be incorporated

into the operating budget, so that change was made. The Committee discussed whether to increase the budget for FY24; Rob said he thinks he can make it work with level-funding.

MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the 11/15/22 and 11/29/22 meetings.

Motion placed on the floor by Ryan to approve the 11/15 and 11/29 draft minutes. Madeline seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0; Nic abstains.

HARBOR PLAN UPDATE

The Committee discussed the Shellfish appointment to the Harbor Plan Committee. David agreed to share the role with Madeline.

At 5:05pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 5-0

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.