

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 4:30pm
At the Edgartown Library

Present: Nic Turner, Madeline Fisher, David Faber
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison
Others: Eugene Bergeron, Ashley Tilton, Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:30pm. Nic will serve as Acting Chair.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

Rob presented two commercial shellfishing applications for approval: Bergeron and Tilton. Both applications are complete and both applicants were present.

Motion placed on the floor by David to approve the commercial shellfishing applications for Bergeron and Tilton. Madeline seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and approved unanimously, 3-0.

MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the 2/7/23 draft minutes.

Motion placed on the floor by Nic to approve the 2/7/23 draft minutes, seconded by David. No further discussion, vote taken and approved unanimously, 3-0.

DEPUTY/CONSTABLE REPORT & SCALLOP SEASON UPDATE

Rob reported that people are still bringing in early limits but the market remains a limiting factor. There are also a few people oystering. The Committee discussed extending the scallop season a month to May 1st; Rob has spoken with a DMF Area Biologist, who would need to come and do a survey before the Committee can make this recommendation to the Selectboard. Rob commented that if the scallops are there, they should allow the fishermen to take advantage, but the extended season should be for Cape Pogue only. The Committee agreed; Rob will speak further with DMF and give an update at the next meeting.

The Committee also discussed Vibrio season, which starts May 15th. Vibrio is a bacteria that affects oysters, so when it is present in the water, there are certain protocols for selling oysters that must be followed. The Department has a Vibrio handling checklist that can be referenced. The Committee discussed whether to open the Great Pond for oysters; Rob said they opened it last year but no one went. He said, if someone requests it, it can be opened, but otherwise it's not needed.

SEASONAL AQUACULTURE AREA – REVISED CHARTS

Rob circulated revised maps to the Committee, outlining the proposed areas for seasonal aquaculture. He said that DMF will have to come to conduct a survey for these seasonal aquaculture areas. Rob stated that establishing these areas in the inner harbor will be good for fishermen and overall safety of both people and equipment. The Committee decided to wait until everyone was present to discuss further.

SHELLFISH REGULATIONS REVIEW

Rob stated that he has one identified regulation to update, which is the regulation that if you hold a commercial shellfishing license in another town, you are not eligible to purchase a recreational license in Edgartown. He continued that the Department's extensive propagation effort is funded by the tax payers and should be primarily for residents of Edgartown. He would like to submit this update to the Selectboard for review/approval before the season resets on April 1. Rob will draft language for this change and bring to the next meeting. The Committee then discussed other areas of the regulations that

could use some tightening up. Rob will check which regulations are from the State, as those cannot be altered.

The Committee also discussed how to protect the town from having to pay to dispose of damaged or abandoned aquaculture equipment.

At 5:20pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 3-0.

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.