

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

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

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:31pm. David will serve as Acting Chair.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

None. The new season for licenses will begin on April 1.

MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the 3/7/23 draft minutes.

Motion placed on the floor by Nic to approve the 3/7/23 draft minutes, seconded by Ryan. No further discussion, vote taken and approved (4-0).

DEPUTY/CONSTABLE REPORT & SCALLOP SEASON UPDATE

Warren reported that there are still around 7-10 scallopers out and about five people collecting oysters in Sengekontacket. He said March will likely show a decrease for oysters, but they are still there for the taking. The Committee discussed the quality of the wild oysters in Sengekontacket, which are almost as good as the farmed oysters, and are worth more than the price they're currently getting. The quality oysters are indicative of a solid aquaculture program and Warren stated that he has been giving direction to the fishermen on where the oysters are located because they should be harvested.

Rob reported that the extension to the scallop and oyster seasons were both approved by the Selectboard yesterday. He has also submitted the extension request to DMF; they were on island today and were impressed with the scallop catches coming in.

Rob stated that he will be looking to cut the Edgartown Great Pond again in a few weeks as the first cut was only open for a few hours before closing. The pond is still high and conditions are good for another attempt.

The Committee discussed the opening schedule for the Great Pond, and Dudley Levick's request for an opening schedule. Rob stated that a schedule would not be helpful as it would only measure a failure to adhere to it based on conditions outside of the Department's control. Rob suggested it would be more effective to come up with a list of factors that determine the appropriate times for openings, as well as budgetary concerns.

Rob presented some new signage for display and distribution to folks who get shellfishing licenses. The design was taken from a previous sign for the department and updated.

Rob distributed questions from Liz Durkee regarding the Harbor Plan update; she will attend the next Committee meeting to discuss.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Rob stated that he sent a letter to Mr. Rogers and his delinquent raft was addressed the following day. Everyone is on good terms and the letter was an effective course of action.

NEW DEPUTY HIRE

Rob stated that he has received three applications so far and is looking to conduct interviews during the second week of April.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The next meeting will be on April 25th, 2023 at the Library.

At 5:50pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 4-0.

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.