

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
Feb, 24, 2014
Town Hall Hearing Room

Present: Barbara Austin, Barbara Brennessel , John Duane, James O'Connell. Becca Taylor

Regrets: Joel Fox, Jacob Puffer

Others in Attendance; Andy Koch, Shellfish Constable, Andrew Cummings, Bob Wallace, Peggy Jennings Clark (?)

1. Meeting convened at 7:15 pm.
2. Minutes from Jan. 6, 2014, approved as amended
3. There was some discussion about the decisions of the BOS regarding seasonal closure of south side of Lieutenant Island (approved) and limited seasonal noncommercial shellfishing to one day per week. (decision postponed until September). The regulation to change the annual report date, to reflect the change in Mass. General Law, was approved, as well as the closing date to obtain a commercial permit, effective for 2015.
4. Jim O'Connell presented items for the agenda of the next meeting:
 - a. Reusable gear. There was a brief discussion of broken, damaged and unused gear on the flats and the need for checking and tagging gear.
 - b. The need for liability insurance for all growers.
5. Andrew Cummings suggested that all growers receive a letter in the fall to remind them about how to take care of their gear. The suggestion was made to take the BOS for a site visit to see some of the violations.
6. DMF vibrio management developments. Andy Koch and Jim O'Connell reported on the last informational meeting sponsored by DPH/DMF. "Proper icing" has now been defined. Helen MW moved that the SAB recommends that the proposed regulations include the fact that product must be iced within 2 hours of exposure and "iced at landing." Andrew Cummings will send Helen MW the wording that he used in his comments to DMF/DPH. There was also discussion about the two week "soaking" period after culling and other proposed regulations. The SAB will also critique the proposal that dealers hold product for at least 24 hours before selling. Helen will email directly to Dan McKiernan and Mike Hickey. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
7. BB reported about the Wellfleet Shellfish Research Committee's efforts to hire a shellfish and aquaculture specialist. The hiring process should be complete in early March. BB will email the job description to SAB.
8. Climate Change group. BB described the work of the Climate Change Group and its interaction with DMF and DPH. Julian Cyr and Mike Hickey took a conference call from the group prior to the ISSC meeting and also met with them after the ISSC meeting.
9. Green crab issue: Barbara A. described the current status of green crabs and there was a discussion of how to trap them. Bob Wallace mentioned that they

- are used for bait and that harvesters might want to trap them on grants. They serve as bait for black sea bass, tautog and conch. BB will draft a letter to SPAT to see if they will help to support projects for removal of green crabs (traps, a disposal mechanism).
10. Blood Arks: Andy Koch reported that there is a big set of blood arks in the harbor and that there is a good market. Andy suggested that there be a size limit and a catch limit. The market price is \$2/lb and one bushel is about 80 lbs. Andy K will be checking out the Harbor for distribution and abundance. He will also let the BOS know about this resource. There will be changes to the Shellfishing Policy and Regulations to reflect new harvest regulations for blood arks.
 11. Beach Clean up: the date will be set at the next meeting.
 12. Horseshoe Crab Conservation Association Meeting will be Thursday Feb. 27 at Long Pasture. Helen MW made a motion to will ask the DMF for a followup of the Nov. 26, 2013 meeting at Long Pasture. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Helen M.W. will send the email.
 13. Next meeting: Monday March 10 at 7 pm
 14. Adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brennessel