

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
June 27, 2016
Town Hall

Present: John Duane, Barbara Austin, Jacob Puffer, Tom Siggia, Zack Dixon,
Regrets: Jim O'Connell, Rebecca Taylor
Others in Attendance: Barbara Brennessel, John Mankevetch (assistant constable), Fred Richard,

Meeting called to order, 7:06 p.m.

1. MINUTES

Jake moved to approve minutes from March 30, 2016. Tom seconded. Minutes passed 6-0

2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION DECISION ON CULTCHING

Barbara B. reported that the ConsCom approved the not of intent for cultching.

There are some problems with cultching:

- It has been going on for a long time without any permits
- Although propagation is allowed, restoration is an entirely different thing.
- Hillary submitted this application as an aquaculture Notice of Intent, then this was changed to be a propagation permit
- Seashore was objecting to cultching on the sites of their long time monitoring study. Their was a verbal agreement with Andy in 2014 that no cultch would be dumped on any study sites, but some did get dumped there. The Seashore was not objecting to cultching, but to the lack of communication.
- Permit has been approved by ConsCom with the following conditions:
 - Warden has to notify the Park of cultching plans
 - Has to be a monitoring report submitted to ConsCom by October each year
 - Before cultching in the river, temporary buoys must be deployed to outline the cultch area

Fred asked if Pebbly Bar can be cultched
Barbara B. - not in it's entirety

John D. - Is the data from these studies available? Barbara B. - Yes, public info

Barbara B. suggested that SAB write a letter thanking Hillary for doing this.

Jake - do any new areas need separate NOI applications? Barbara - yes

Zack - Please outline the permits necessary for cultching: Barbara B. - I don't know exactly, but it goes through DEP and other state agencies and the last step is ConsCom.

John D. - Is cultching happening yet. John M. - Not yet, but very soon. Barbara B. - Andy has a window of time to cultch.

Barbara A. - will there be a format for the permitting process for new areas?

Barbara B. - Yes, ConsCom has thought about this and they are putting something together.

Zack - will a new permit be required each year?

Barbara B. - No, it will be a renewal process.

Barbara and John D. - Can cultch that has caught a set be moved? Barbara B. - I don't know.

2. REPORT ON HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY

May of 2012 we wrote a letter to DMF asking to close Wellfleet Harbor to Horseshoe crab harvest and a statewide April Lunar closure (which they granted). They did not agree to close the Harbor because of lack of evidence of harm, displacement of fishing to other harbors leading to overfishing and no data about the Wellfleet Horseshoe Crab.

DMF is basing their management on 40 year offshore trawl data. They have not seen any major changes. Based on that they are not inclined to do anything.

Audubon has been studying Horseshoe Crabs for 10 years and reports that Wellfleet has the lowest spawning population.

DMF is sympathetic, but they can't close an area for 10 years to see if it works and they don't have the money to make a juvenile study. Audubon may have the capacity to do a juvenile study.

4:30 July 11th - Umass lecturer at Wellfleet Library on the topic.

Fred - Maybe instead of asking for an entire harbor closure, we could do just one area?

Barbara - the Park where there is no harvest is the control area, and there is no difference in that area.

Helen W. reported that Sarah Peake told her that there are a lot of new people in the DMF. So, maybe it is worth re-petitioning.

Helen W. - When there was a moratorium in Pleasant Bay, the population rebounded.

Barbara A. - They should not be allowed to harvest when they are spawning.

John Duane said that he will look over the old letter to DMF and draft something new for the next meeting. Barbara B. said that she will help.

Library has a talk on July 25 @ 4:30 - Sediment Transport on the Herring River and August 1st @ 4:30 - Hydrology of the Herring River Restoration Project.

Barbara B. gave the website for Planning for Climate Change Impacts on Shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor. The website is: wellfleet.seri-us.org.

3. ACCESS TO SHELLFISHING AREAS

John D. is working on collecting every shellfish access point that the shellfishing community feels that they can not do without. Idea is to ensure that all access points that are needed and used are legally preserved. John talked to Harry Terkanian about the best way to do that and he suggested that an agreement be made with property owners. Or, town could take the private road and make it a public road.

Helen - There are new signs in the King Philip Rd subdivision (at the end of Field pPoint and end of Omaha Rd.) saying that these roads are for owners and guests.

The path to the grants at Field Point is on private property, but is in the same sub-division as the land that was donated to the Conservation Trust.

John Duane - not sure if one homeowner can offer use of the road as a guest or if it has to be the Homeowners Association.

John said that the main point is to not count on the good nature of homeowners because things can change. How is it that we can ensure permanent access for shellfishing?

Barbara A. - if we start poking around it may open up a can of worms. John D. - maybe, but it may come back to bite you if nothing is done.

Barbara A. - maybe the shellfishing people who use Omaha Rd. could get together and make a donation to the homeowners association to help to maintain the road.

4. REASSESSMENT OF BLOOD ARK FISHERY

John M. - There are 3 boats fishing for blood arks. The numbers have been dwindling slightly. The boat that John spoke with said that as long as the limit doesn't go below 5 bushels they could still make a good day's pay. However, the bigger boat may not agree.

Helen - I would like SAB to vote to take the limit down to 5 bushels to keep it sustainable.

John M. - Maybe or maybe not? DMF says they may be setting at the exclusion of other clams. Also, the market may take care of it.

John D. - we should put it on the agenda for next meeting so those fishermen show up.

5. SIGNS RELATING TO BOATING

Tom S. - in the beginning of June Tom asked DPW for 5 more signs to put at kayak landings. To do a complete job, we need about 7 signs. Paddle boarders are a concern because of paddles doing damage and because of the danger of falling off and getting hurt on gear.

DPW told Tom that the signs are \$200 a piece to make.

John M. suggested that we don't make too many.

Tom and John M. agreed to take a ride at low tide to determine the important spots to post signs then go back to DPW for sign requests.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Helen - I brought up to the Select board that they should dedicate a meeting or a portion of a meeting to shellfishing so they have little more of a sense of what is going on out there.

Helen is also wondering if there should be a separate regulatory board for shellfishing (like the water commission). However, because of conflict of interest how would we populate this board.

Barbara A. said that she would not want people who know nothing about shellfishing making the rules.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27TH AT 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

