

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
November 10, 2016
Town Hall

Present: John Duane, Barbara Austin, Jacob Puffer, Tom Siggia, Zack Dixon, Jim O'Connell, Rebecca Taylor

Others in Attendance: Helen Miranda Wilson, Andy Koch (Constable), John Mankevetch (assistant constable), Bob Wallace, Pat Woodbury, Michelle Insley,

Meeting called to order, 7:00p.m.

1. MINUTES

Jake moved to approve minutes from Oct 5, 2016. Barbara seconded. Minutes passed 7-0

2. BUDGET REQUEST WORKSHEET

Barbara - Our budget is \$100. Do we want to ask for more?

After discussion, it was agreed that \$100 is an appropriate amount.

Barbara motioned to request \$100 for 2017. Jake seconded. Approved 7-0.

3. E-MAIL LISTS

Barbara - It is important that all permit holders be on the e-mail list so the town or Shellfish Dept. can get the word out quickly if needed.

Zack - What is the best way to create this list?

Barbara asked if SAB wants to request that Shellfish Dept. put together an e-mail and cell phone list.

Jake - can a line be added to the form on the non-commercial and commercial application?

John Duane made a motion that SAB recommend that beginning in 2017 all shellfish permit applications include a request for home phone number, cell phone number and e-mail address. Jake Puffer seconded, approved 7-0.

Andy K. mentioned that he will send a letter to all grant holders to update their employee list and include contact info for them. Also, he thinks that that list should be updated annually.

Helen brought up the issue of employees of grant holders should submit their contact info also.

John Duane said that he will draft a letter informing the town of this recommendation (attachment 2).

4. SEAWALL

The height of the beach in front of the seawall at Pleasant Point is eroding and getting so low that it is threatening the seawall.

There are 4 property owners there that want to buy the space between their homes and the seawall.

The select board has not decided yet if they are even going to entertain this idea. BOS is waiting to hear from town counsel.

5. TOWN PETITE REGULATIONS

Helen presented a draft of 7.16 Petite Oysters and Gems (attachment 1) for SAB recommendation.

Discussion of the ability to have a commercial license and a petite license.

- some want to have the commercial license for half the year, then give it up and have the petite license

- Shellfish Dept. has an issue with this, because there is too much risk for abuse

- Andy brought up the possibility of a separate license for scallops, so that people with petite licenses would not be restricted from fishing for them. However, he suggested that they would have to apply for the license between Dec and Jan to protect the people who are committed to Bay Scallops.

Further discussion was centered around how best to license for this, or whether to license for it at all (because of the difficulty of enforcement).

Discussion was tabled as no fisherman is presently asking for it.

Barbara motioned to approve the definitions and draft regulation 7.16.1 - 7.16.6. Zack Dixon seconded, approved 7-0.

6. DISCUSSION OF NOV. 9 DMF MEETING

SAB agreed to move this to the next meeting

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Next meeting - Herring River Restoration Project

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Add to **1. Definitions**

Container - Any bag, box, basket, cage, or other receptacle containing loose shellfish which may be separated from other shellfish after harvest, on a lease, or from the entire load or shipment.

Hinge Width - The distance between the convex apex of the right shell and the convex apex of the left shell.

Undersized Oysters, Quahogs and Surf Clams - Oysters whose greatest length is between 2.5 and 3"; quahogs whose hinge width is between 7/8" and 1"; surf clams whose shell diameter is between 1 1/2" and 5".

7.16. Undersized Oysters, Quahogs and Surf Clams

7.16. 1 Containers Holding Undersized Shellfish Must be Tagged

All containers that hold market-bound, aquaculture-raised shellfish whose size is less than that allowed by the State when that species is harvested from the wild (petite oysters whose greatest length is between 2 1/2 and 3", quahogs whose hinge width is between 7/8" and 1", or surf clams whose shell diameter is between 1 1/2" and 5") must be tagged with the words "AQUACULTURE-RAISED" or "FARM RAISED".

7.16.2 Sale Only from Grower to Primary Buyer The primary sale of undersized, aquaculture-raised (oysters whose greatest length is between 2 1/2 and 3", quahogs whose hinge width is between 7/8 and 1", and surf clams whose shell diameter is between 1 1/2 and 5") must only be between the aquaculturist or their licensed

employee, and a licensed wholesale dealer that is also a "primary buyer of shellfish". If the aquaculturist is also licensed as a primary buyer, they may be considered as the primary buyer of their own product.

7.16.3 State Endorsement Required

Aquaculturists who grow and then harvest undersized shellfish for sale must have the required endorsement on their propagation permit granted by the State, allowing them to sell undersized shellfish for consumption.

7.16.4 Petite Oysters

An aquaculture license holder may harvest and sell farm-raised petite oysters whose greatest length is between 2.5 and 3 inches **both in and out of State** if:

- a. they do not have a Town of Wellfleet commercial shellfish permit;
- b. they have documented proof of purchase of seed;
- c. they are limited to selling petite oysters for a term of not less than a year beginning with the routine issuance of an annual propagation permit from the State.

7.16.5 Undersized Quahogs aka "Gems" or "Vongole"

An aquaculture license holder may harvest and sell farm-raised quahogs whose hinge width is between 7/8" and 1" if:

- a. they are sold only to primary buyers on the inter-state shippers list that distribute them out-of-state. The in-state distribution of aquaculture farm raised quahogs whose hinge width is under 1" is prohibited;
- b. they have documented proof of purchase of seed;
- c. they do not have a Town of Wellfleet commercial shellfish permit;
- d. they are limited to selling such farm-raised quahogs whose hinge width is more than 7/8 and less than 1" for a term of not less than a year beginning with the routine issuance of an annual propagation permit from the State;

7.16.6 Undersized Sea/Surf Clams aka "Butter" Clams

- a. An aquaculture license holder may harvest and sell farm-raised surf clams whose shell diameter is between 1 1/2 and 5" **both in and out of state** if:

- a. They have documented proof of purchase of seed.

ATTACHMENT 2

Town of Wellfleet
Shellfish Advisory Board

Jeanne MacLauchlan
Town of Wellfleet
300 Main Street
Wellfleet. MA 02667

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator

November 10, 2016

Dear Jeanne:

The Shellfish Advisory Board at its November 10th meeting voted to request the following information be provided by any applicant for a town shellfishing permit at the time of application beginning on January 1, 2017:

1. Email address
2. Home phone#
3. Mobile phone#

The information will be used exclusively by the Shellfish Department for the purpose of notifying all those engaged in shellfishing within Wellfleet of any time sensitive news regarding the fishery. Applicants should be assured that the information will not be shared with any other entity, and will be used only for the reason stated above.

Sincerely,

The Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board:
Barbara Austin (Chair), Zack Dixon, John Duane, Jake Puffer
James O'Connell, Thomas Siggia, Rebecca Taylor

Shellfish Advisory Board
Town of Wellfleet
300 Main Street
Wellfleet, MA 02667

