

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
Friday September 17, 2019
6:00 p.m. Library

Dave Seitler called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Attended: Dave Seitler, John Duane, Zack Dixon, Tom Siggia, Jacob Puffer, Rebecca Taylor, Chip Benton

Regrets:

Others in attendance: Others: Helen Miranda Wilson, Justin Dalby, Jacob Dalby, Brett Morse, Ralph Bassett, Jude Ahearn, Brent Valli, Bob Wallace, Stephen Pickard, Alfred Pickard, Damian Parkington, Andy Koch, Jason Weisman, William Sullivan, Donovan McElligat, Casandra Healy, David Ziemba, David Ziemba

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes

Jake Puffer made a motion to approve minutes from August 9, 2019. John Duane seconded, motion passed 7-0.

2. Thank you, Barbara Austin, for Decades of Service!

Barbara not here. Let's thank her next time too.

3. Shellfish Dept. update

Shellfish Constable not present due to illness. See WSD report at <https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department>

4. MSI update (Damian Parkington, ~5-10 minutes)

Topics discussed included:

-MSI meeting in Chatham tomorrow at Community Building, 7:00 p.m. Will probably be summary of what's going on and MSI looking for direction on their process.

-Damian encouraged all to ask for support in any form for our shellfishing community.

-concern that this organization was not coming from a fishing background. He said that those concerns have been partly addressed.

-DMF has a Strategic Plan and is part of MSI.

-what is broken and why try to fix something if it's not broken?

-Seems like the state is trying to get involved in what has always been managed by Wellfleet.

5. Overwintering Discussion and vote

board and audience comments/discussion included:

- taking all racks off
- leaving last SAB recommendation as is
- aerial survey will be done - has it ever been done before? how can this be conclusive regarding recent rack loss?
- putting a bounty on found racks
- requiring liability insurance
- reasons for leaving gear out is to maintain a customer base
- use a drone to document racks left out
- educate the BOS on reasons for SAB recommendation
- what has the town actually spent on rack clean-up? anything?
- some people can sell oysters in the winter without racks
- what about WSD proposal of
 - fee
 - 100 rack limit
 - pumping down to ground

Dave Seitler made a motion that SAB does not want to weigh in on the imposition of a per rack fee or the 100 rack limit because SAB has already made its recommendation to change height restriction to 4-6" and remove condos, John Duane seconded. No vote.

Motion revised after discussion:

Dave Seitler made a motion to BOS recommending against the 100 rack limit and against any per rack fee (as per #4 in constables proposed

overwintering contract). SAB reiterates its previous recommendation regarding rack height and condo removal. John Duane seconded. Passed 6-1.

Dave Seitler made a motion that John Duane draft a letter to BOS, explaining reasoning of previous motion. Tom seconded. Passed, 7-0.

5. Dragging and Dredging Regulations Discussion and Vote

discussion of current regs and potential changes:

Regulation 8.3

2" ring for dredges?

18' knife blade?

Audience opinion/comments:

-Bay scallop regs - can use an oyster drag to catch scallops? bay scallop drag to catch oysters?

-discussion of whether oyster dredges do some harm to the bottom when fishing for scallops

-Bay scallop dredges should be used exclusively for bay scallops and oyster dredges should be used exclusively for oysters

Dave S. made a motion to postpone this topic until next meeting when Nancy is present. John D. seconded. Passed 7-0.

6. Future Agenda Topics

Dragging and Dredging Regulations

Shellfish Management Plan

input from shellfishing community for next HRSG meeting

plastics in the harbor

boat regulations

additional WSD employee

Next meeting Wednesday, October 9 at 6pm at Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:02