

Hi Tim, we had a great meeting on Wednesday, a lot of fishermen but only three committee members were in attendance. The discussion was on the following items-

For the 2016 bay scallop season, all those in attendance unanimously decided recreational starts the 1st of October as the regulations state, and the commercial season start date will be the 21st of November.

The commercial limit is two struck baskets per day Monday-Friday.

The only areas that will be closed for recreational and commercial fishing are in the eel grass restoration sites and will be buoyed off to prevent any fishing activity.

Those in attendance also discussed the need for a higher price for a non-resident shellfish permit to take affect next season. We will have more meetings to make recommendations as to how much the non-resident permit will cost.

Amandine Hall from the MV Shellfish Group is in her second year of an experimental Kelp project and would like to request permission from the Selectmen to grow Kelp in the pond and possibly outside Menemsha. Sugar Kelp, which is native to this area has aquaculture potential and grows during the winter months. It has benefits to wherever it grows by uptaking nitrogen and improving the water quality. If we get good results with this project there could be some potential for Chilmark residents to grow this product in the future for commercial uses. I recommend Chilmark helps her with this project. We will discuss the two areas at Tuesdays meeting, and she will be there to answer any questions- should there be any.

We probably need some alternates or some more full time shellfish advisory committee members, even though they are only an advisory board, it seems that trying to get committee members to show up to the meetings has been difficult.

Thank you,  
Isaiah Scheffer