

Shellfish Committee Meeting Minutes- Recommendations to the Chilmark Board of Selectmen

September 28, 2017 5: 00PM

Non committee members present: Karsten Larsen, Stephen Larsen, John Larsen, Scott Larsen, William Reich and Isaiah Scheffer

Committee members present: Liz Lewenberg, Wayne Iacono, Dennis Jason Jr, Mathew Mayhew and Warren Doty

Commercial Bay Scallop Season 2017/18

1. Dennis Jason Jr motioned that the commercial scallop season in Nashaquitsa should start on November 20, 2017. This will be from the outside of Quitsa Pond west to the town line and all interior areas of Quitsa and Stonewall Ponds excluding eelgrass restoration sites. Matt Mayhew seconded and all approved. Discussion of how to delineate open and closed areas will be the responsibility of the shellfish constable.
2. Dennis Jason Jr motioned that the commercial scallop season in Menemsha Pond should start on December 1, 2017. Matt Mayhew seconded and all approved.
3. Warren Doty motioned that the commercial limit be two struck bushel shrimp baskets. Matt Mayhew seconded and all approved.

Recreational Bay Scallop Season 2017/18

4. Matt Mayhew motioned that all areas in Chilmark be opened for recreational bay scallop harvest on October 1, 2017. Dennis Jason Jr seconded and all approved. Discussion on eelgrass restoration sites and the recreational harvest. It was decided that dip netting should be the only form of harvest in Quitsa. All other areas are opened to dragging.

Commercial and Recreational Oyster Season 2017/18 (Tisbury Great Pond)

5. Matt Mayhew motioned for commercial and recreational harvest of oysters should begin in Tisbury Great Pond on November 1, 2017. Warren Doty seconded and all approved.
6. Dennis Jason motioned that the limit be a count instead of a bushel measure. He recommended 800 pieces per limit per day. Matt Mayhew seconded and all approved.
7. Warren Doty motioned for commercial fishermen to be able to harvest oysters on three of the five fishable days Monday thru Friday. Matt Mayhew seconded and all approved. Discussion that fishermen will need to communicate with the shellfish constable which days they will be fishing by either text or phone call.

Permit rate change for non-resident bay scallop

Discussion- All those present talked about how inexpensive the Chilmark non-resident permit was compared to other towns. Everyone was concerned that it has attracted quite a few more people to harvest in Chilmark and that was putting a dent in the recreational and commercial harvest for Chilmark residents.

8. Matt Mayhew motioned to sell a separate bay scallop license to non-residents for \$100. This would go into effect April 1st 2018 when new permits are sold. Non-residents must already have the normal \$50 permit which includes steamers, quahogs, mussels and oyster. Wayne seconded and all approved.

Everyone was in agreement that this would bring the non-resident license closer in cost to other town's.