

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Attendance: Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard, Don Bakker, Joe Silva, Bill Mitchell, Jay Harrington.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Dave Dunford could not attend this meeting so there was no selectman's report.

**HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:**

Dawson stated that Scott Johnson called him and said the herring run clean-up at Pilgrim-Lonnies will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Bring rakes, clippers, boots, etc.

Dawson informed us that there will be no change at Rock Harbor. The dumpsters will remain in place along with the portable toilets and there will be no planting of beach grass.

Dawson said that at the next selectman's meeting there will be a discussion on the by-laws. One by-law concerns the Harbor Master's department about the abuse of emergency mooring permit usage. As it states now, a person can have a hardship use up to 14 days. People have taken advantage of this and moored their boats for a much longer period with breaks in between. Dawson is looking to eliminate the two week period permanently.

Dawson stated that Pleasant Bay will become a no discharge area for boats. A statement will be filed at the State and Federal levels stating that our committee is in favor of this. Cape Cod Bay was designated a non-discharge area last summer. The committee took a vote and there were five members in favor and one abstention.

Dawson stated that Rock Harbor made it thru the winter without any significant damage. Two pilings will have to be replaced. That will be done over the next two to three weeks. Docks, moorings, and channel markers will be going in shortly.

09 APR -9 AM 8:47  
TOWN OF ORLEANS  
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE  
*Cecil Newcomb*

Dawson stated that the \$10,000 that was taken from the \$18,000 propagation fund will not happen again. Next year we will have the full amount for propagation.

Bill asked about the supply of shellfish for the next season considering the cut in the propagation program. Dawson stated that the propagation adds a small amount in comparison with the natural supply of shell fish. Bill wondered whether more people are going to be commercially shell fishing to supplement incomes during this recession. Dawson stated that as of now, there has not been an increase in commercial licenses given out.

Jay has noticed that he is selling a lot more of the larger quahogs than before. People are using them more for a meal, like chowder or baked stuffed quahogs, rather than just for an appetizer.

Don asked if there has been a size limit on razor clams. Dawson stated that there is no size restrictions in place yet.

Dawson stated that the Oyster Propagation Program has not been discontinued yet. Funds will be cut 20% to 25% so there will be some funding.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Cecil attended a meeting of the Pond Coalition last week to see if they would have funding for the monofilament recycling program that we would like to start. They liked the idea of the program but they won't know until their next meeting whether or not they would have the funding. Cecil and Lara went to the Chatham Recycling Organization for funding, but they will consider also. Cecil also visited the Friends of Chatham Waterways and they said that the project should be funded by the town it will be established in.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill stated that there are 47 counters for the herring run count. He would like to have at least 3 more for the late afternoon count. The counting will start April 1<sup>st</sup>. The team captains will report to Judy on the week-ends and she will file the reports for Dr. JoAnne Muramoto. The count will continue up until June 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bill stated that the fish don't start moving in until the water temperature reaches 10 degrees centigrade. Bill mentioned that counters should keep a look out for the

glass eel migration also. The count will be taking place at the same spot this year thanks to Scott Johnson. This is a private driveway and should be treated with respect.

Cecil attended a meeting in Baltimore, MD concerning the herring fisheries. He believes the river herring don't stand a chance. The seiners harvested an estimated two million river herring last year. He believes that amount is the total population of the Cape Cod and Plymouth runs. There are three areas that they are fishing. Those areas are off Gloucester and Cape Ann, Wellfleet and Eastham, and Block Island. The boats are after sea herring, which is used for bait, and the river herring harvested are a by-catch. In 1970 there were 180 million tons of sea herring harvested. Last year there was less than 1 million tons harvested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> in the Skaket room at 7:00 PM. Please bring agenda and minutes and notify the chair if you cannot attend.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marty Leonard".

Marty Leonard (Secretary)