

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 2009

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
09 SEP -8 AM 11:34

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Marty Leonard, Don Bakker, Judy Scanlon, Bill Mitchell, Jack Moran.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Scott Johnson could not attend this meeting to give us a report on the Pilgrim Lake herring run.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:

Dawson also could not attend this meeting. Dawson related to Tim that business is as usual, the Red Tide count is decreasing and the Nauset Estuary should be open to shell fishing in a couple of weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cecil's report on the Mono Filament Line Recovery Program: Cecil is in the process of putting the units together. They should be in place this weekend. Dawson is taking three of the units and placing them at various spots at Rock Harbor. Cecil has the posts for the units at the town landings. The signs that he received were the wrong ones but the new one's are on their way. Cecil presented our program to the Conservation Committee and it was approved. He also mentioned that Lara Slifka attended a meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to pass on emergency legislation for placing more observers on the Commercial Vessels in order to monitor the taking of river herring. The Secretary of Commerce is pushing to pass this bill.

Bill Mitchell stated that the unofficial count of river herring at the end of April was 369. Last year during the count there were two big surges of fish. One in April and one in May. This year we had a surge in April but none in May. Bill mentioned that these observations were during the daylight hours. The fish may have run more at night. The unofficial count for May was 27 fish. The official count is still being tabulated, but Bill thinks that this years count is going to be much lower than last year. Scott Johnson, keeper of the run, on the other hand stated that he observed more fish this year than last year. He lives there and has

more time to observe the waterway.

Bill mentioned that through observation, the fish swim up the run and mill around the dam for about 8 to 15 hours before entering Pilgrim Lake. Although there was one exception. The day of the largest count of fish entering the run, they went right into the lake. There were 130 fish in that surge. That was on April 22.

Bill mentioned that the glass eel migration was steady throughout the count. At times there were thousands milling at the pen boards trying to enter the lake. Their migration ended at the beginning of June.

Judy mentioned that the official count at the bridge as of right now is 100 fish. Judy said that the counting time slot and the fish counted could formulate to over 1,000 fish.

People who are monitoring other runs on the Cape are seeing fish leaving the spawning areas and going back down the runs to the sea. Noone has seen or reported any fish leaving Pilgrim Lake.

Judy thinks that between the snapping turtles and otters, the mortality rate is very high on the returning fish. Cecil has noticed that he has seen schools of herring swimming by in the lake.

Judy wants to figure out a way to accommodate the elvers at the pen boards so they can enter the lake more easily. She also mentioned that a salinity meter is going to be installed in Cedar Pond.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on September 8th 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 that reads "Marty Leonard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marty Leonard