

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP**

22 February 2007

A special meeting/workshop of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at a town meeting room at 808 Stonington Road. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. John Swenerton and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:04PM.

Mr. Murphy noted that the purpose of the workshop was to determine specifics of a scallop rehabilitation project being undertaken in partnership between the Stonington Shellfish Commission and The Nature Conservancy.

Gear

- ADP mesh of 3/8" size will be used for spawner scallop cages. Bags will be constructed by folding the mesh in half and securing sides with hog rings. This is a very simple yet functional design.
 - Squaring off bag ends/corners and stacking them 2-high will be explored. This would cut the project footprint in half.
- A stocking density of 100 spawner scallops per bag is anticipated.
- Deployment of 100 bags is the target for the spawner scallops. At the anticipated density, 10,000 spawning scallops would be participating in the project.
- Runs of 5 to 10 bags will be considered for deployment, with slack line between bags and buoys in the slack to facilitate handling at retrieval.
- All gear will be deployed in the area opposite of (SE) the Barn Island Boat Launch, off the northern shore of Barn Island. The area will be buoyed according to CTDEP requirements, with additional explanatory wording of the Commission if needed.

Action Items

- Ms. Getchis agreed to sketch out the gear footprint on a map and submit to CTDEP, CT Dept. Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture and USACE for preliminary consideration. Project footprint and design will be modified, if needed, pending regulatory agency comments.
- Mr. Murphy will set up a separate account for the grant money so that it can be tracked and accounted for in a more transparent manner. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to contact TNC staff to determine when grant funds would be dispersed, and would request a letter of assurance that the Commission had been granted \$20,000 for scallop rehabilitation activities in Stonington waters.
- Mr. Banister reported that he has received permission from Pine Point School to enlist the Oceanology class in scallop rehabilitation activities provided the Oceanology teacher is agreeable. Mr. Banister will open a dialogue with the teacher.
- Mr. Murphy agreed to contact the Oceanography teacher at Stonington High School to determine level of interest to participate in the project, opening a dialogue if

appropriate. Mr. Murphy also agreed to contact the Ledyard Vo-Ag School to determine if they had any interest in participating in scallop rehabilitation activities.

- It was agreed that once more specifics are known, a media campaign should be developed and implemented to alert other users of the Barn Island/Little Narragansett Bay area that scallop rehabilitation activities will be undertaken during the 2007 calendar year. At a minimum the following groups should be notified: local recreational fisherman; local recreational crab harvesters; windsurfers; boaters/kayakers/canoeists. Suggestions were to post articles in local newspapers, both daily and weekly, and in local club newsletters and/or trade magazines (RI Salt Water Anglers; CT Coastal Flyfishers; Trout Unlimited, etc.). It was agreed this should be discussed at an upcoming commission meeting.

It was agreed that as much information, and as many action items as possible, should be collected/addressed by the 06 March 2007 commission meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Murphy adjourned the workshop at 3:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet, Secretary