

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

05 November 2008

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the meeting room at the Human Service Building. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 01 October 2008 minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 14 October 2008 from the Stonington Finance Director to Boards and Commissions re: 08/09 Budget Reports.
2. An email dated 29 October 2008 from Connecticut Sea Grant to Shellfish Commissions re: 5th Annual Shellfish Commission meeting on the 10 January 2009 in New Haven, CT.
3. A letter dated 22 October 2008 from Cynthia Ladwig to Boards and Commissions re: 2009 meeting date schedule.

BUSINESS

1) 2009 Meeting Date Schedule

- a) After discussion it was agreed to set commission meeting dates for 2009 as the 1st Wednesday of each month.

2) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were closed 01-08, open 09-31 October. Area B was closed all of October as per the MOU.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that on 11 October clams were transplanted into Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove; Warden Motherway reported in that most all the clams had dug into the sediments within 24 hours.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that while Area B technically is allowed to open on the 1st of November, DA/BA would not allow opening because 4 sailboats remain on moorings in the area. Mr. Murphy agreed to follow up with the Harbor Master if the boats remain in the water through the coming weekend.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that he is hearing rumors that both water quality and clam meat samples will have to be taken and processed to reopen conditional areas once closed due to rainfall or other events; no official word on this has come yet from DA/BA. Mr. Murphy agreed to follow up on this and request specific wording as put forth by FDA, if such change is being made. Such a rule could result in winter closure of conditionally approved areas as a boat would not be available to harvest clams for processing.

3) Enforcement

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the Warden is now patrolling mainly by car and/or foot, and on a more limited basis.

4) *Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the boat will be brought to Don's Dock for cleaning and then to PMW for winterizing. The boat will be stored at Don's Dock for the winter.

5) *DEP Streamlined Permitting Process*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that he did not write a letter to DEP about this matter as he had received notice from DEP just after the October commission meeting that the new permitting process had already been put into place; given that, a letter of protest would have no value.
- b) Mr. Murphy provided copies of the new DEP process as well as a section from the Norwalk Shellfish Commission management plan that describes their process for dock application review. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to draft some wording and find an insertion point into the existing Shellfish Management Plan for review at the December meeting.

6) *Walker's Dock Permit*

- a) Upon review, it was agreed that the application is being made to permit structures and changes already in place at the marina. After further discussion it was agreed that the commission had no concerns to voice regarding the proposed activities.

7) *Scallop Enhancement Project*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported all the gear has now been removed from the water and is being stored at Don's Dock; spat collector bags could not be salvaged and therefore will be replaced next year.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that about 80 juvenile scallops were recovered from the spat bags, so despite a late start some success was demonstrated. Concern for ramping up number of brood scallops towards the 10,000 mark was voiced given that 2,500 adults took considerable time and effort. It was agreed to carve out time on the December agenda to review the project as performed and develop a work plan for 2009. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to contact Chris Littlefield at TNC to see if he would like to join the commission for its discussion in December.

8) *Commercial Activity Updates*

- a) Kevin Blados reported putting oysters for grow out on his Mystic River site.
- b) Steve Plant reported about 15% mortality due to oyster drills, and that he is looking at ways to minimize future impacts.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

There being no further business, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary