

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

**01 October 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. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 09 September 2008 minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Swenarton and Mr. Desbonnet abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter dated 13 August 2008 from CTDEP OLISP to Mr. Murphy re: permit for marker buoys in Little Narragansett Bay for scallop project work.

**BUSINESS**

*1) Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open 01-05, closed 06-13, open 14-25 and closed 26-30 September. Area B was closed all of September as per the MOU.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that despite the impressive rainfall amounts, water quality samples were exceedingly clean at all stations in town, even those that are generally troublesome.
- c) Mr. Banister made a **motion** to allocate up to \$3,500 for the purchase of hard clams for transplant into Area A. Mr. Swenarton provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved. Mr. Murphy will have the warden being efforts so that clams can get in the water by mid-October.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that the requirement for Faxing was left out of the Closing Procedures document, and that he would edit that in to remove that error. Mr. Banister noted that the wording for the Fax for use in 3 inch rainfall events was confusing, suggesting that the word "recreational" be removed. Mr. Murphy agreed to make this change.

*2) DEP Streamlined Permitting Process*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported on the new process developed by DEP for dock applications, which puts the commission up front to review applications before they are submitted to DEP. Under this new process, the commission would therefore review each application at least twice, once before submittal and once during the public comment period. Mr. Raffo noted that each applicant will no doubt want to make a presentation to the commission, which will take up a lot of commission meeting time; Mr. Murphy voiced concern that the commission would begin spending too much time as a "dock review commission," which is not the intent of our focus. Mr. Swenarton pointed out that he could easily envision have each dock application come before the commission a minimum of 3 times, more for those the commission noted conflict with shellfish resources or public access.

- b) Mr. Raffo suggested considering a fee to the applicant to cover commission time and effort. Mr. Murphy agreed, suggesting that the most suitable methodology would be to send the warden out to assess the work site. Mr. Swenarton suggested the warden have a checklist of focus the assessment, and upon completion the warden would submit a "staff recommendation" to the commission. Any fee would need to minimally cover all costs of the warden and use of the boat, etc.
- c) Mr. Murphy requested that any comments be forwarded to him by the 8<sup>th</sup> of October so that he could put together a response to DEP regarding the proposed streamlined process.

### 3) *Enforcement*

- a) Nothing of substance to report.

### 4) *Equipment*

- a) Nothing of substance to report.

### 5) *Dock Application #200801129-DL (McKay/Masons Island)*

- a) No concerns were voiced and no comments will be submitted.

### 6) *Scallop Enhancement Project*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the spat bags will be removed, as will cages, buoys and all other gear, over the Columbus Day weekend, weather provided.
- b) Mr. Banister reported that Pine Point School may overwinter several hundred scallops as a class project. All agreed that the remaining scallops be distributed throughout town waters.
- c) Mr. Murphy agreed to store the anchors at his house; buoys will be stored in lockers at Don's Dock; Mr. Banister and/or Mr. Murphy will check to see if cages can be stored at Pine Point School after they have been cleaned.
- d) Mr. Murphy reviewed the NMFS report from the divers who visited the area looking for scallops brood stock, and while here, checked the scallop project site; the report made several suggestions that will be considered for next season. Mr. Murphy will seek clarification on reference to new eelgrass growth, and suggested the commission consider a survey and/or clam removal in the Barn Island area because of the high density of very large hard clams.
- e) Mr. Desbonnet noted that the commission should put together an interim report to TNC sometime in January 2009 to recap the scallop project, and to map out the strategy for similar work in 2009.
- f) Mr. Desbonnet requested anyone with photos taken during any operations on the scallop project let him know what they have as he is interested in images for use on the commission website. A separate set of web pages will be developed before the end of the year that focus on the scallop project.

### 7) *Commercial Activity Updates*

- a) Steve Plant reported good growth and low mortality in his sites. He also mentioned the presence of scallops in the Mystic River in areas where he generally has not seen them in the past several years.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

There being no further business, Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Banister. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary