

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

04 February 2009

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

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to approve the 15 January 2009 minutes as amended to correct a typographic error. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Ms. Getchis and Mr. Swenerton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A CTDEP permit consultation form regarding the Jurczyk dock and containing commission comments to CTDEP on the proposed work.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
 - a) Area A, Outer Quiambog Cove and Area B were open 01-06, closed 07-14, open 15-28, and closed 29-31 January.
- 2) *Enforcement and Equipment*
 - a) Patrols by the warden have been slow due to the cold and generally poor weather.
- 3) *Scallop Enhancement Project Update*
 - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the NMFS lab in Milford does not have adult scallops for use in the project, and so he will begin looking to other sources; an email will be broadcast over the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association listserv as a first attempt to test the market.
 - b) Mr. Murphy reported the availability of used bottom bags and is looking into them to see if they can serve our purposes in this project. If so, he will report back. Cost is about \$2.00 per bag.
 - c) Mr. Raffo reported that Mr. Johnson's Manufacturing Engineering class at Stonington High School is interested in making the scallop bottom bags for the commission, but not time and/or date has been set yet. Mr. Raffo agreed to continue the follow up on this project element. Mr. Murphy agreed to check with Jon Mitchell at Pine Point for a date to build bottom bags as well.
 - d) Ms. Getchis reported that Corey may be available over the summer to act in the capacity of project manager, and agreed to check with her in the coming week.
 - e) Mr. Desbonnet reported that a draft website for the project is in progress and that he hopes to have a draft for review over the coming weekend, and will send a link to everyone when ready for viewing and comment.
 - f) Mr. Murphy reported that about \$3,000 of project money remains, and the commission will have to prepay project costs with the intent of reimbursement upon project

completion and production of a final report to the funder. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to request that the funder release \$5,000 for the coming season, pending release of the project website and submittal of an annual/year 1 report for the project and work plan for year 2 efforts.

- g) Ms. Getchis suggested have the adult scallops checked for spawning status once we get them; condition status will help determine the correct timing to have them on site and when to deploy the spat bags.

4) *Amendment of Aquaculture License AQP-04-2005-2010*

- a) Mr. Murphy presented the details of the amendment, which is basically dividing the larger original plot into two (2) smaller sections; reason for the amendment is to hold under the license only that area that is actually being used for oyster aquaculture.
- b) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to amend aquaculture license AQP-04-2005-2010 as per the marker points/lat–longs defined in the official amendment document, to be signed by both parties, and which results in two (2) plots with a total combined area of 3.0 acres of aquaculture ground, and an annual fee to the commission of \$180.00, to be paid as defined in the original license agreement. Mr. Swenarton made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Steve Plant, Connecticut Cultured Oysters, reported that he is still finding lots of oyster drills on his culture grounds, and will have to find a way to deal with them over the course of time. He also reported seeing good numbers of juvenile scallops, about half-dollar size, on his grounds in the Mystic River.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Raffo brought up the idea of the commission purchasing a laptop computer for use at meetings, to hold its license agreements, GIS maps, etc. It was agreed to consider this further, and to better assess the need and the degree of use it would receive relative to cost.
2. Mr. Banister summarized outcomes of the benthic survey Docko Inc. had presented, noting that the information collected was interesting, and perhaps of value to the commission, but the cost for conducting the surveys may exceed their value to the commission.

There being no further business, Mr. Murphy made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Desbonnet. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary