

# STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

3 June 2009

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Human Services Meeting Room at 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

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

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to table the 6 May 2009 Regular Meeting minutes. Mr. Swenarton made a second to the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Connecticut Department of Transportation to SSC dated 21 May 09 re: State Bridge Program, bridge replacements on U.S. Rt. 1 over Stony Brook and Quana duck Cove.

### BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Conditional Areas A and Q were opened for the entire month of May 2009 as daily rainfall never exceeded 1"; Area B was closed per our MOU. Sampling on 6 May and 19 May yielded good result with the exception of Station 13. Wet weather sampling protocols from DA/BA were discussed.
  - b) Permit fees are rolling in and the Shellfish Warden is now patrolling.
- 2) *Equipment* – An invoice was received from Don's Dock for \$770.16 for de-winterizing and launching the SSC patrol boat, outboard repairs and summer trailer storage. A motion was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Desbonnet to allocate up to \$800 to cover these costs (approved unanimously).
- 3) *Geospatial Technologies to Improve Shellfisheries Management Project* – To wrap up this project, a draft report was prepared by Tessa Getchis on behalf of SSC/Town of Stonington for submittal to the Dept. of Agriculture. A motion was made by Mr. Desbonnet and seconded by Mr. Raffo to approve the final report (approved unanimously).
- 4) *East Grand St. Homeowners Assoc. Dock Application* – SSC has no comment.
- 5) *Connecticut DOT Rt. 1 Bridge Replacement Projects over Stony Brook and Quana duck Cove* – SSC has no comment.
- 6) *Update on the Scallop Enhancement Project in LNB (The Nature Conservancy)* – Due to issues raised regarding the potential of transplanted scallops from Martha's Vineyard to introducing algal cysts associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning, and logistical problems accommodating the quarantine procedure, there was agreement among SSC members to hold off on the project this year. Chris Littlefield from TNC was notified of the issues and suggested establishing oyster reefs as an alternative, but there was concern that this would have little recreational benefit. Steve Plant mentioned he may be able to accommodate the quarantine procedure next year, and Mike Theiler suggested Fishers Island as a possible local source of scallops to avoid the need for any quarantine.
- 7) *Summary of Commercial Activities* – Steve Plant reported getting ~ 600K oyster seed for distribution on his grounds. Kevin Blados reported minimal activity in Stonington waters, and noted his Masons Island plot was doing well. Both Mike Theiler and Dennis Meyers were in attendance and discussed harvesting clams in Stonington waters and transplanting a portion to restock recreational beds. It was suggested that this could be most easily accommodated if they submitted wild harvest permit application.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 1) *SSC Website* – Mr. Raffo brought up that the web site needed updating to change dates to 2009 - it still had 2008 on most pages, and Mr. Desbonnet agreed to do that.

Mr. Raffo made a motion to adjourn, which Mr. Desbonnet provided a second. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectively submitted,

John Swenarton, Acting Secretary