

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

**15 January 2009**

A special 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 7:08 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 03 December 2008 minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter dated 03 December 2008 from the Stonington Selectmen's Office to Boards and Commissions re: FY09/10 Budget Requests.
2. A letter dated 05 January 2009 from Docko Inc. to Harbor Management Commissions and the Shellfish Commission re: a presentation on bottom sediment conditions in town waters.
3. A letter dated 05 January 2009 from Paul Watts to Mr. Murphy re: 2008 Harvesting Report.
4. A letter dated 05 January 2009 from Steve Plant, Connecticut Cultured Oysters to Mr. Murphy re: change (reduction) in acreage in the license agreement for the use of town waters for aquaculture purposes.

**BUSINESS**

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Area A, Outer Quiambog Cove and Area B were closed 01-05, open 06-11, closed 12-20, and open 21-31 December.
  - b) Mr. Murphy reported that new permits have been printed to reflect changes made to oyster harvest regulations, and distributed to vendors (except Greenhaven Marina which was closed).
  - c) Mr. Murphy reported that meat analyses had been conducted to reopen conditional areas in December. This process still appears to be in flux and it is unclear, based on lack of guidance from Bureau of Aquaculture, if this will become the norm or not.
- 2) *Summary of Gathering of Shellfish Commission Meeting*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the meeting was interesting and useful. The meat analysis procedure was brought up, and Jim Citak (DA/BA) noted that it was being prompted by the FDA and was at least partly based on the premise that shellfish management is being based on "old" water quality data. No greater detail was provided.
  - b) Mr. Murphy reported that the Docko Inc. seminar on bottom sediments had been rescheduled to the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.
- 3) *Enforcement and Equipment*
  - a) The commission patrol boat is now winterized and covered for the season.
  - b) Mr. Banister made a **motion** to allocate \$887.99 for boat washing, storage and other winterization needs and for 2 storage lockers for gear for 2009. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion which was unanimously passed.

4) *GIS Project Update*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported the project is going well, and that transient mooring and a few other small data points are still to be entered into the GIS, but all is nearly done.

5) *Scallop Enhancement Project Update*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported the article drafted by Mr. Desbonnet is being published in an upcoming issue of "The Dredge."
- b) Mr. Murphy noted that it is imperative we find a point person to oversee the scallop project for the summer of 2009. He agreed to check with Tessa Getchis at CT Sea Grant to see what might be possible with graduate or other students, or with part time staff options.
- c) Mr. Murphy also noted that we must begin the search for brood stock scallops, agreeing to contact NMFS first, then the growers on Nantucket and then Martha's Vineyard if need be to find scallops for the project.
- d) Mr. Murphy requested Mr. Raffo check on holding a gear building workshop at Stonington High during late February or early March. A similar workshop will be held in late February at Pine Point School. About 30 cages must be built at each workshop to satisfy project needs. February 21<sup>st</sup> is the tentative Pine Point date.

6) *Dock Application Review*

- a) Jurczyk Application—The dock would be located in Area A, but in a region that is lightly used by recreational harvesters. It was agreed to submit comments mimicking those submitted by DA/BA regarding no live aboard vessels allowed, removal of floating dock over the winter season and not to limit access to public shellfish resources. Mr. Murphy agreed to develop the actual wording and submit the DEP required form.
- b) Application#200800422-DL—no concerns were voiced and no comments will be submitted.

7) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Mr. Murphy noted a need to develop an invoicing system to track grower remuneration to the commission. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to develop a spreadsheet tracking system and Mr. Murphy agreed to develop a draft invoice for commission use.
- b) Mr. Murphy opened a discussion on the request of Connecticut Cultured Oysters (Steve Plant) to amend their aquaculture license agreement to reflect a reduction in the acreage used for oyster culture. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to draft an amendment, as per the Shellfish Management Plan, for commission consideration. Mr. Murphy agreed to redo the map and recalculate the acreage so that the amendment can be drafted.

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 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary