

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

**16 September 2010**

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at Town Hall. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Acting Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

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

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 12 August 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was passed.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 01 March 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Murphy provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Banister and Mr. Desbonnet abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. An email dated 01 September 2010 from Mark Johnson, CTDEP, re: Yankee Oyster LLC aquaculture application.
2. An email dated 01 September 2010 from Steve Plant, Connecticut Culture Oysters, re: aquaculture license renewal request.

**BUSINESS**

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open 1-22 August, closed 23-29 August and open 30-31 August. Area B was closed as per the MOU with DA/BA.
  - b) Mr. Murphy reported a minor misunderstanding regarding reopening date of Conditional Areas after the last closed, but that he opened them according to the MOU stipulations.
  - c) Mr. Murphy reported that the clam transplant to Area A was successful, and that the operation went along quickly and smoothly.
- 2) *Purchase and Transplant of Hard Clams*
  - a) Mr. Murphy opened a discussion regarding the purchase of more hard clams for transplant to Area A this fall. After discussion, it was agreed, given that two transplants had been done already this year, and that there appeared to be no input from recreational clammers suggesting a lack of clams, no further transplants would be done this year. It was agreed to consider doing two transplants again next year, one in the spring and one in the fall. It was also agreed to look into having a commercial harvester work Area B in the spring to relay clams into Area A.
- 3) *Enforcement*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the warden has been on patrol according to weather and opportunity. No further reports on the problematic recreational clammer reported during August.

- 4) *2010–2011 Scallop Season*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the NMFS divers will be in Stonington in late September to collect scallops for their broodstock research program.
  - b) Reports to date suggest a very good set of scallops, with lots of juvenile scallops being found in town waters, particularly in the Mystic River.
  - c) A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to open the scallop season at day break on 09 October 2010 and to close the season at sunset on 31 March 2011, and that all rules, regulations, and permit fees remain unchanged from the 2009/2010 season. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was unanimously passed.
  
- 5) *Dredging Application #200602372-MG; Dodson Boatyard*
  - a) After review of the application and discussion, it was agreed that there were no comments to be submitted by the commission.
  
- 6) *AQP–04–2005–2010 Renewal / Connecticut Cultured Oysters*
  - a) After review and discussion of the aquaculture license renewal request, the applicant was requested to correct the acreage requested and to resubmit for further consideration at the October commission meeting. Mr. Plant agreed to do so.
  
- 7) *Commercial Activities*
  - a) Steve Plant reported that all is going well, and that he has been seeing lots of juvenile scallops on his grounds. Plant also reported that he will be petitioning DA/BA to change the status of the lower Mystic River to “Conditional” once he has a few more months of water quality data in hand. He feels the prospects for the change are good.
  
- 8) *Public Hearing on Yankee Oyster, LLC Aquaculture Application AQP-08-2010-2020*
  - a) Mr. Murphy called the Public Hearing to order at 8:00 PM.
  - b) A brief presentation was provided by Yankee Oyster LLC on the proposed site, gear and operations to be conducted.
  - c) The commission had no further questions regarding the application.
  - d) Mr. Murphy opened the floor to public comment.
    - i) Steve Plant, Connecticut Cultured Oysters wished the applicant the best of luck.
    - ii) No other comments from the public were put forth.
  - e) Mr. Banister made a **motion** to approve aquaculture application AQP–08–2010–2020 as presented for public comment. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
  - f) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to enter Executive Session to discuss remuneration and other particulars of the aquaculture license agreement. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously passed.
    - i) The commission entered Executive Session at 8:17 PM, with Mr. Banister, Mr. Desbonnet, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Raffo in attendance.
    - ii) The commission came out of Executive Session at 8:23 PM. No votes were taken during the Executive Session of the commission.
  - g) Mr. Desbonnet presented the particulars on remuneration to the commission for use of town bottom as \$60.00 per acre per year, payable to the commission in cash, cash value in shellfish, or cash value in services. Total annual fee for the license would be \$420.00 (\$60 per acre X 7 acres).

- h) After discussion Yankee Oyster LLC agreed to the remuneration structure. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to draft the full license agreement for review. It was noted that, once a final license agreement was drafted and accepted by both parties, the agreement could be used by the applicant to gain any required state and/or federal permits, and that the license agreement would not be executed by the commission until all appropriate state and/or federal licenses had been gained by the applicant and copies/proof provided to the commission.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

There being no further business, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Desbonnet. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Desbonnet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Desbonnet; Acting Secretary