

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

07 September 2011

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

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Banister made a motion to accept the 04 August 2011 meeting minutes as presented; Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Desbonnet and Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A memo dated 15 August 2011 from NMFS Milford Lab announcing their Open House on 15 October, 2011.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
 - a) Area A and Outer Quiambaug Cove were open 01-14 August, closed 15-31 August; Area B was closed as per the MOU with DA/BA.
 - b) Mr. Murphy reported that all areas remain closed due to continuing periods of rainfall.
- 2) *Hard Clam Restocking*
 - a) The tentative date for transplant of hard clams into Area A is 01 October; time to be announced pending determination of the incoming tide.
- 3) *Equipment*
 - a) The boat was removed from the water for the passing of tropical storm Irene.
 - b) Mr. Raffo made a motion to allocate \$198.00 for hauling and launching the commission boat; Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- 4) *Enforcement*
 - a) No report; areas not busy due to inclement weather.
- 5) *Proposed Little Narragansett Bay Study*
 - a) Mr. Banister provided a summary of objectives of the proposed study to be undertaken by the Pine Point School Oceanology Program; Assess hard clam abundance, and assess submerged aquatic vegetation status. Seven survey trips would take place, and students would also sample temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and measure sediment size.
 - b) Jon Mitchell mentioned that the students would give a public presentation of the study sometime in February 2012, when convenient for the commission. Commission members are also welcome to join in on survey cruise dates by calling ahead to be sure there is adequate room on board.

- c) Mr. Desbonnet made a motion to allocate a budget of up to \$500.00 for fuel and supplies for the survey work; Mr. Swenarton made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- 6) *Scallop Season 2011-2012*
- a) Reports to date have been good regarding abundances of scallops, with indications that the upcoming season may be better than has been the past few years. Scallop abundances appear to be improved throughout the southern New England region.
 - b) There was discussion regarding open date for the scallop season, and whether a later opening would allow for larger scallops or for the occurrence of a fall spawn.
 - c) Mr. Swenarton made a motion to open the 2011-2012 scallop season at sunrise on 08 October 2011 and to close it at sunset on 31 March 2012; all limits and fees will remain unchanged from the 2010-2011 season. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- 7) *Commercial Activities*
- a) Kevin Blados reported tropical storm Irene has all waters closed, but he is gearing up for reopening.
 - b) Steve Plant/Connecticut Culture Oysters submitted a letter of request to extend his aquaculture license area in the Clam Point/Mystic River as he has, while working the area this past season, found what he believes will be good growing area. The requested extension to existing aquaculture area would add about 1 acre to his existing area, and does not conflict with other aquaculture or water dependent activities in that area.
 - c) Mr. Raffo made a motion to allow Connecticut Cultured Oysters to plant oyster seed stock in an area extending approximately 100 yards south of the southern boundary described in existing aquaculture license AQP-07-2008-2018(B2) for a period not to exceed three (3) months to test the suitability of that area for oyster aquaculture. Mr. Desbonnet provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

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

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Desbonnet; Acting Secretary