



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 1, 2013**  
**7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm St., Stonington, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meetings of June 6, 2013 – Tabled until the next meeting.
- 3) Correspondence
  - a) A copy of a Certificate of Permission Application Form submitted to CT DEEP by New England Sailing and Science (NESS) for an aquaculture education project was provided to SCC for informational purposes.
- 4) Business
  - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional Areas A and Outer Quiambaug were closed for most of June 2013 due to more than 6” of rain on June 7-14. Water testing on June 24 and 30 all yielded good results, as did meat sample testing on June 24. Areas A and Outer Quiambaug were opened on July 3 and remained open for the entire month.
  - b) **Discuss how to manage the new seasonally conditional shellfishing area in the Mystic River** – Town of Groton will take the lead on managing this area. A draft amendment to the Groton Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reviewed. A 2” trigger based on rainfall measured at the Groton Filtration Plant will close the area; Chairman Murphy will be notified. Groton will do the required monthly water sampling. A **motion** was made by Mr. Swenarton, seconded by Mr. Raffo, and approved unanimously, to authorize Chairman Murphy to sign the amended Groton MOU when it is finalized.
  - c) **Spreading the word on the threat of Vibrio bacteria during warm weather** – The SSC shellfish hotline now includes guidance on proper handling of harvested shellfish, as does the informational pamphlet. Shellfish Warden Russell is also providing guidance to recreational shellfishers during his patrols.
  - d) **Update on re-stocking conditional areas** – A preliminary date of August 10 has been set for restocking, pending Bloom refrigerator truck availability.
  - e) **Enforcement** – Shellfish Warden Russell has been patrolling. He has ordered a shirt with the SSC logo. There have been several reports of softshell clam harvesting on the north end of Sandy Pt. This has been brought to the attention of the Warden.
  - f) **Equipment – update on work on the shellfish boat** – The SSC patrol boat is serviceable, but is in need of some cosmetic work and the console cover is worn.
  - g) **Discuss renewal of commission membership in BoatUS towing service** – The current towing service membership is about to expire and is under the name of Dave Motherway because they do not give commercial/municipal memberships. Rob Russell has a SeaTow account. Mr. Banister will investigate the possibility of a commercial membership with SeaTow.
  - h) **Discuss results of a meeting with EPA LISS's Habitat Restoration Workgroup** – The

workgroup is primarily interested in re-establishment of oyster reefs.

- i) **Discuss application by CT Cultured Oysters to conduct aquaculture on one acre of the Mystic River south of Clam Point, Mason's Island** – Steve Plant was in attendance and notified SSC that he is withdrawing his application pending further evaluation of the parcel.
  - j) **Update on finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – Financial reports from the Town and Mr. Raffo all indicate the SSC accounts are in good standing. Permit sales were reviewed. There was a **motion** made by Mr. Raffo, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously to authorize payment of up to \$900 to cover costs of SSC patrol boat preparations for the 2013 season. There was a **motion** made by Mr. Banister, seconded by Mr. Raffo and approved unanimously to authorize payment of \$221.50 to AGJO Printing and Copying for shellfish permits. There was a **motion** made by Mr. Banister, seconded by Mr. Raffo and approved unanimously to authorize payment of \$204.52 to Chairman Murphy as reimbursement for expenses he incurred on behalf of SSC. Remuneration spreadsheets were reviewed – no changes since the last meeting. Jim Markow has reiterated his offer to harvest clams for transplant to recreational areas.
  - k) **Commercial shellfishing; reports and discussion** – Kevin Blados reported that State and Federal officials tested his cooling methods, which are required that shellfish should be cooled to  $\leq 50^{\circ}\text{F}$  within 10 hours of harvest. His method cooled shellfish to that temperature in 2.5 hours. Steve Plant reported that the 3" minimum size for oysters was being strictly enforced.
- 5) New Business – A representative from NESS was in attendance and asked if there were any other requirement from SSC needed for them to proceed with educational aquaculture project they are proposing at their facility. SSC agreed to provide a letter to NESS to allow education aquaculture at their dock as already approved by the Dept. of Agriculture/Aquaculture Division and the Army Corps of Engineers.
  - 6) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. Raffo, seconded by Mr. Swenarton and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary