

Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: May 20, 2009
TIME: 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: MEAD Building

Shellfish Committee Members present:

Stuart Rapp, Richard Haskell, Gerard Ganey, Les Hemmila, Robert Lancaster, Matt Ostrowski, Andre Sampou

General Public present:

Albert Suprenant, Wayne Hayes

NR Staff present:

Tom Marcotti

Chairman's Report:

Stuart Rapp chaired the May 20th, 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Stuart informed the committee that the 2009 Shellfish Forum can be viewed on television after the Zoning Board meeting and over the weekend of May 23rd.

Les Hemmila requested a revision of the minutes of the April 15th, 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee to delete the word "salability" from the second to last sentence in the third paragraph of the section titled "Native American Shellfishing Rights and the Town Commercial Shellfishery" and insert the words "transferability" and "heritability" in place of. The Shellfish Committee adopted the minutes of the April 15th, 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee as amended.

Natural Resources Report:

• **Lewis Bay Shellfishing Closures:**

Portions of Lewis Bay described below shall be closed to shellfishing June 1st through October 31st, all dates inclusive. The areas shall not automatically reopen to shellfishing on November 1st and will remain closed until examined and shellfishing is allowed by DMF.

2.8 Harbor Bluff, Lewis Bay: The waters and flats and all tributaries thereto in Lewis Bay northwest of a line drawn from the southern end of Harbor Bluff in the Town of Barnstable to the end of Glenwood Street in the Town of Yarmouth and southerly of a line drawn from the end of Channel Point Road Way in the Town of Barnstable to the end of Columbus Avenue in the Town of Yarmouth. (DMF/SC:28.2; classified as conditionally approved; **status: Closed to shellfishing June 1 through October 31, all dates inclusive. The area shall not automatically reopen to shellfishing on November 1 and will remain closed until examined and shellfishing is allowed by DMF.**)

2.9 Lewis Bay: The waters and flats of that portion of Lewis Bay in the Town of Barnstable, west of a line drawn from the Town Way at Harbor Bluff in a southwest direction to the Hyannis Yacht Club Pier and east of a line drawn from the end of the stone jetty at Snow's Creek to the "No Shellfishing" sign on the opposite shore. (DMF/SC:28.8; classified as conditionally approved; **status: Closed to shellfishing June 1 through October 31, all dates inclusive. The area shall not automatically reopen to shellfishing on November 1 and will remain closed until examined and shellfishing is allowed by DMF.**)

- **In-Town Contaminated Shellfish Removal and Relays**

The Natural Resources Office is contracting for the removal of contaminated shellfish (i.e., quahogs) from designated portions of the Bumps River, Centerville River and East Bay. The quahogs are currently being relayed and free planted in the designated relay area as defined below for depuration purposes. Pending testing and certification by DMF, the relay area is scheduled to reopen for harvest on November 1, 2009. Contractors are being paid \$40 per 40 quart tote basket for harvested quahogs. Contact the Natural Resources Office for further information.

The **Bay Street Relay Area** is defined as: the waters, flats and tributaries of that portion of North Bay from the Town landing at Bay Street to the sign at the tip of the salt marsh at 237 Seapuit Road and extending to the offshore sign/buoys (DMF/SC23.20).

- **Shellfish Propagation**

Tom Marcotti noted that the out-of-Town contaminated quahog relays were recently completed at the Cotuit Bay Relay Area and are about to begin at the Hyannis Harbor Relay Area.

Tom explained the process and progress of oyster propagation / enhancement projects in the Marstons Mills River. Single oysters and remote set oysters will be cultured in the Marstons Mills River during 2009. The single oysters will be relayed to North Bay and West Bay for depuration purposes prior to the Fall recreational oyster season opening. The remote set oysters will remain indefinitely in the Marstons Mills River for enhancement of the river. Three Bays Preservation Group had donated funding for last year's single oysters and a portion of this year's single oysters cultured by the Town. Three Bays Preservation Group has offered to fund the 2009 Marstons Mills River remote set oyster project either directly or through a grant award.

The Town Commercial Shellfishing Licenses

Les Hemmila drafted a written concept for the transferability and heritability of Town commercial shellfishing licenses and submitted it to the committee for discussion. Many aspects and details of the Town commercial shellfishing licensing system were discussed by the committee. Andre Sampou asked if the input of existing commercial shellfish licensees could be obtained to help determine the impact of more commercial shellfishing effort on the resource and their livelihoods. Stuart Rapp said he would request the Town to send out a notice to the existing commercial shellfish licensees seeking their input, at the June 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee, regarding Andre's questions and pertinent topics.