

Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: July 15, 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, Matt Ostrowski, Andre Sampou

General Public present:

Norman White

NR Staff present:

Tom Marcotti

Chairman's Report:

Stuart Rapp chaired the July 15th, 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

The Shellfish Committee adopted the minutes of the June 17th, 2009 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Stuart Rapp and the Shellfish Committee reviewed and discussed the proceedings of the Coastal Resource Management Committee (CRMC). A final draft and public hearings of a management plan will occur in the coming months.

There is a position vacancy on the Shellfish Committee for a commercial shellfishing representative.

Natural Resources Report:

Tom Marcotti informed the Shellfish Committee that as of July 14th, 2009, the Town has issued 1983 recreational shellfishing permits, 99 out-of-town recreation shellfishing permits, 28 seasonal recreational permits (for a total of 2110).

Tom informed the Shellfish Committee that as of July 15th 2009 (fiscal year 2010), \$1,725 has been expended from the Shellfish Propagation Revolving Fund. There is a current balance of \$76,695. During fiscal year 2009 \$92,655 was expended from the fund.

Natural Resources is currently growing 1,000,000 quahog seed in the flupsies at the Prince Cove Marina under the efforts of Kris Clark. The seed is used to enhance specific habitats of the Three Bays.

Tom currently observed an exorbitant proliferation of ulva (sea lettuce) in the Marstons Mills River illustrating excessive nutrient loading.

During late June members of the Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishermen (BARS), Three Bays Preservation Inc. staff and volunteers assisted Natural Resources staff and deployed 350 shellbags of remote set oysters to nursery sites in the Marstons Mills River. The remote set oysters were provided by Barnstable County and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and cultured by Aquacultural Research Corporation.

2009 year class oysters will be relayed from the Marstons Mills River nursery sites to depuration areas in North Bay and West Bay during the summer.

Tom informed the Shellfish Committee of DMF contaminated quahog relay areas that are tentatively scheduled to reopen during the Fall of 2009. Due to Town budget cuts and relay area logistics the DMF out-of-town contaminated quahog relays have been rescheduled to the Spring of 2010. The Shellfish Committee reviewed and discussed the future use of contaminated quahog relay areas.

Town Apprentice Commercial Shellfishing Licenses

The Shellfish Committee reviewed and discussed the “Apprentice Commercial Shellfishing Permit” regulation (407-12C). The Shellfish Committee passed a motion that a commercial shellfishing permit should not be issued to a person under 16 years of age. The Shellfish Committee proposed that an apprentice commercial shellfishing permit should be issued to a person between their 14th birthday and their 18th birthday. Upon meeting the requirements of the apprenticeship the apprentice would then become eligible for a commercial shellfishing and may apply for a commercial shellfishing permit through their 20th birthday. The Shellfish Committee and Natural Resources would formulate a proposed amendment to the regulation for the next meeting of the committee.