

Minutes for Tuesday, November 7, 2017 5:00 PM

Regular Monthly Provincetown Shellfish Committee Meeting

Called to Order: 5:03 Members present: Rick Macara, Nancy Ann Meads and Davis Flattery.

Also Present: Steve Wisbauer (Shellfish Constable), Owen Nichols (Center for Coastal Studies observer).

Public Comments: Owen Nichols (Center for Coastal Studies observer) reported that he would be doing surf clam research from Woods End to Long Point with a science permit.

Approve minutes of March 29, 2017 and October 10, 2017: We could not approve of the minutes because not enough members present and the meeting were present at the meetings. Postponed to

Old Business: None

Shellfish Constable Report:

- New “Danger Sinkhole” signs in place
- Navigational Channel: Working with the Harbormaster, a boating channel through the intertidal area of aquaculture is being created. This, combined with proper grant markings will hopefully avoid any interaction with boats.
- ADA Buoy Lights: All the buoy lights have been repaired or replacements bought. They will be deployed on the next available day with calm weather.
- ADA Gear on Beach: Whether due to storm or boat interaction, multiple shellfish cages were found on Beach Point. In each instance, word was quickly put out to the aquaculture community and the cages quickly found their way back to their owners. Special thanks to our neighbors in Truro for the combined effort. Ways of improving the radar signatures of the marker buoys are being looked into.
- Cape Cod Cooperative Extension is doing a species study on surf clams to determine if there is a separate southern species in our waters. They will be visiting December 2 for the next dig on the East End as the study requires undersized surf clam. Diggers found this sized surf clams (along with giants) on the November 3rd opener. This will be a great educational opportunity for people new to the species. If two distinct species are found it could be very helpful for butter clam aquaculture as the southern species has a greater temperature tolerance.

New Business: David Flattery presented an early draft of the harbor plan. It was decided that the shellfish section should be broken down for next meeting and edits/votes be taken at that time.

Update on opening day

Update on bonus day

Recreational shellfish season opening days were successful even with difficult tides. A total of 48 ten-quart baskets were landed over the weekend.

CCB4.4 The East End opened for one day on Friday, October 3 for a sunset dig. The wind was onshore and didn't reveal the full potential of the area during this significant low tide. Fortunately, the recent storm conditions had moved quite a few large quahog towards shore so even first timers with children were able to fill a basket. People with proper equipment, hip waders and basket rakes were able to access the main beds and found beautiful medium to small clams in quantity. The resource definitely appears to be extensive and only accessible on significant low tides.

CCB5.0 West of the West End breakwater opened at sunrise and sunset on Sunday, November 5. Everyone crowded onto the one area of expose sand but was able to walk out with full or near full baskets of mixed sized quahog. Oyster singles are in the area from last year's propagation effort. Many are 3 inch and better in size.

Motion to Adjourn: by D. Flattery, Second by N. Meads to adjourn at 6:18pm. Vote 3-0 approve R. Macara