

Sept 15

Provincetown Shellfish Committee – In person meeting Caucus Hall

Called to Order: 5:07pm

Members present: Alex Brown, Bob Hazard, Nancy Ann Meads and Lory Santos

Also present: Steve Wisbauer (Shellfish Constable).

Public Comments:

- S. Wisbauer stated that Kallipe Chute wants to be on next agenda to report on their project.
- **Committee reorganization:** Due to reorganization of Select Board it is required that Committees must re-elect officers. **Motion** by A. Brown **Second** by N. Meads to re-elect existing officers. Vote 4:0 Approve

Consent Agenda: Approval without objection for the following seven minutes of; 2/9/21, 2/25/21, 3/9/21, 4/7/21, 4/21/21, 5/4/21 and 5/5/21. **Motion** by A. Brown **Second** by N. Meads to accept consent. Vote 4:0 Approve

Old Business

- **Marking of commercial grants:** S. Wisbauer indicated grant area corner markers were done with mushroom anchors (with stems turned down); later found to be a banned use and will be replaced.
- **Working commercial grants:** Chair asked who are working grants and who should not renew? Shellfish constable indicated active and inactive grants are well known and will resolve itself. He also suggested we might consider changing Shellfish Regulation to eliminate annual \$25 /A grant fee as it does not achieve much gain for the collection effort.
- **Any other old business:** A. Brown commented on issue of dogs defecating on shellfish grants. Adding that the areas are a food source. S. Wisbauer check with DMF regulations.

Shellfish Constable Report ;

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Shellfish Department September 15, 2021 update:

Recreational Shellfishing Season 2021-22:

- Proposing the Shellfish Committee recommend opening the area labeled on maps as East of the Breakwater– Area located directly to the east of the Provincetown breakwater to the public for recreational shellfishing on Fridays and Sundays beginning on Friday, November 5, 2021 and ending on Sunday, March 27, 2021(see agenda action request; public notice will be posted for 10 days after an approval)

- East of the Breakwater was well stocked with large quahog seed last year, has an over abundance of relayed oysters and natural set including soft shell clams loves the place. The resource should be adequate for this season

- If we wanted a “bonus day”, the East End would be appropriate.

Aquaculture Permitting:

- State level permitting with MEPA is approved for 38 acres in the cove (we set a standard for the State again; I am told that Towns with existing contiguous aquaculture in excess of 38 acres will need to follow an abridged but similar process before any transfers will take place)

- The 4 licensees from 2020 and 3 transfers from 2021 have been able to acquire propagation permits

- See attached final map

- For some, interests have led elsewhere so I expect we have available acreage if needed

Propagation:

- Replenishing the quahog resource West of the Breakwater is the focus after last seasons approx. 40% increase in harvest stress • 166k 2 mm quahog seed arrived in June. It was under-sized requiring tighter screen size, reducing water flow and producing mixed results (see image)

- Slightly larger seed to start would result in better flow and consistent results

- We are working with the County Seed Bid Program collectively and Muscongus Bay hatchery individually to resource larger seed moving forward

Provincetown Select Board AGENDA ACTION REQUEST TBD OPEN THE SHELLFISH SEASON – Public Shellfish Areas Requested by: Stephen Wisbauer, Shellfish Constable on behalf of the Shellfish Committee Action Sought: Approval Proposed Motion MOVE that the Select Board vote, pursuant to MGL C.130, §52, §54 and the Town Recreational Shellfish Regulations, to suspend closures to the public shellfishing area as follows: Subject to testing, the area labeled on maps as East of the Breakwater– Area located directly to the east of the Provincetown breakwater, will be open to the public for recreational shellfishing on Fridays and Sundays beginning on Friday, November 5, 2021 and ending on Sunday, March 27, 2021 Additional Information At their meeting on September 15, 2021, the Shellfish Committee unanimously approved (5-0-0) recommending the opening of shellfish beds to the public with the conditions stated above. The proposed opening date is subject to results of testing relayed oysters but not water testing as the area has Approved classification by MA DMF. The limit per week, beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday, shall be one peck (ten-quart basket) of mixed shellfish harvested during one tide cycle regardless of the day and location. If bay scallops are abundant, the Shellfish Constable will post the location of their taking on the Town website and the recreational limit shall be two pecks per week. Harvest of bay scallops will be allowed on Sundays and Fridays beginning on Sunday, November 1, 2020 and ending on Sunday, March 28, 2021 and the recreational limit shall be two pecks (ten-quart baskets) per week in addition to the mixed shellfish limit. Licenses and a copy of the regulations will be available online. Fees are \$15.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents valid yearly beginning November 1st as well as a weekly permit for the fee of

New Business:

- **Committee review and sign Provincetown Code of Conduct:** Members present submitted required signed document
- **Recreational Shellfish for 2021-2022:** Constable report included copy of Select Board agenda request for our recommendation. Nov 1,2021 to March 28,2022 in area east of breakwater.
- **Other new business:** None

Next meeting: Oct 5th.

Motion to Adjourn: by B. Hazard, seconded by A. Brown to adjourn. **Vote** 4-0 to approve.at 6:13.

B. Hazard, Secretary