

Shellfish Advisory Committee Meeting February 6, 2012

Present: Members: Nancyann Meads, Rick Macara, Paul Tasha, Mel Cote, Alex Brown, Chair. Absent: John Baldwin. Others: Tony Jackett, Shellfish Constable; Owen Nichols, Beth Larsen, CCS Liaison. Public, Bob Hazzard.

Guests: Henry Lind, Truro Shellfish Committee. Erin Burke, State Bureau of Marine Fisheries, Dr. Stormy Mayo, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies

Called to Order 5PM.

Read the minutes of December 13, moved to accept, Rick Macara, second, Alex Brown, Vote 5 to 0 to accept.

The first item on the agenda was discussion of the potential Provincetown and Truro deep water aquaculture shellfish grants being proposed and developed in the common harbor of the towns. The committee is in the process of developing regulations for applications for leasing the grants in the area. Several people were asked to attend and give guidance and express any concerns.

Erin Burke the state marines fisheries representative opened by noting that the harbor in question is a critical habitat for marine life, especially the right whale. Thus, any fixed gear in the area must meet requirements that will not endanger marine mammals and other species, especially by entanglement.

Dr. Mayo also noted concern especially for right whales which feed in shallow water and described the campaign to reduce and eliminate vertical and horizontal lines in ocean waters. Various methods being explored to eliminate this threat include breakaway lines for gear and buoys, acoustic and other electronic releases for gear and buoy lines. Questions were asked by committee members and several alternatives were discussed including chains, ropes that do not tangle and sink, floating pipes for boundary markers, pvc rope protectors, etc.

Ms. Burke noted that all proposals will be considered before particular permits are issued. Other concerns that will need to be addressed with our aquaculture grant regulations will be provisions for enforcement; minimum standards for all gear, responsibility for clean up, inspections, and penalties.

Alex asked all members to read the Truro regs in preparation to develop our own.

Mel Coté moved to adjourn at 6:15, seconded by Paul Tasha and all voted to adjourn.