

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Town of Bar Harbor
Minutes – Special Meeting
Wednesday, May 8 2019

CALL TO ORDER – 4:07 p.m. Port Authority Building, Bar Harbor Municipal Pier
Present: Present: Megan McOsker (chair), Chris Petersen, Fiona de Koning, Natalie Springuel
Guests: David Dunton, Heidi Leighton (DMR), Nicholas Glover

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April minutes were approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance language on agenda for town meeting. This was delayed, and now appears to be on the agenda for May 21st. The discussion of the merger of the MRC with the Conservation Commission has been delayed to July 16th (we believe)
- B. Spring schedule recruitment experiments/surveys. We are not planning any surveys for spring. One commercial harvester complained that he had called committee members about having surveys done quickly so that a question from DMR could be addressed. Members of the committee explained that they had limited capacity and
- C. License number request to DMR. Heidi explained that the potential request for the town to change its allocation from 4 to 3 commercial licenses could be problematic without substantial evidence from the town of decreases in clam populations for the resource over the town's mudflats. One possible outcome of such a request would be the removal of all commercial licenses if DMR felt that the town was not adequately managing its resource. After substantial conversation, the committee voted unanimously to keep the current commercial license limit of 4 that has already been approved for 2019-20, but to plan for extensive clamflat monitoring this summer. We discussed other options for our commercial licenses, such as having an unlimited number of commercial licenses available (which Heidi told us most downeast towns do), changing commercial licenses, or limiting harvest to recreational harvesters only. Heidi also let us know that we could change the level of harvest by an individual at a site more easily than some other changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Educational material for clam experiments- for public. The committee voted to allocate \$100 for any materials needed to add copies of newspaper articles or summaries of the current clam populations and green crab issues at the Hadley Point Signboard. We have been happy that the site has not been vandalized, Natalie and Megan will look into what is currently at the signboard and what might be best to add.
- B. Regional cooperation among shellfish committees. Victor Doyle, the chair of the Mount Desert clam committee, introduced the idea of forming an island-wide committee. He has talked with the Southwest Harbor Committee and to individuals interested in creating a clam committee in Tremont. Currently Mt. Desert has an allocation of 9 resident and 1 non-resident license available, Southwest has only recreational harvesting, and Tremont does not have an ordinance, so that any individual with a state license could harvest there. Victor invited all of the members of the committee to the next Mount Desert meeting where they were going to discuss if or how to move forward. Because we share a police department with Mount Desert, we are already doing some sharing of shellfish wardens. Several members expressed support for some form of Island-wide collaboration, although the committee did not commit to any particular form, whether it is only for information sharing, or if the towns grant reciprocal rights to harvest among towns if

someone has a license in one town, or whether the towns form one island-wide committee. The concern was voiced that this larger amount of harvesters could depress clam populations in Bar Harbor. There has been a feeling that at some levels of the DMR there has been disappointment at the lack of capacity of town co-management and that by combining towns we could increase the capacity of our co-management.

C. Changes in committee membership. Megan and Chris are up for renewal this year, Megan announced that she would be leaving the committee as she would be working next year away from town. The committee will then have two open member slots, and we talked about how to best communicate that with interested parties.

The next meeting date was set for June 12th.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.