

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Town of Bar Harbor

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Draft minutes

CALL TO ORDER – 4:05 p.m. Virtual meeting through zoom link available to the public

Present: Chris Petersen, Fiona de Koning, Matt Gerald, Joanna Fogg, Scott Swann
Guests: Heidi Leighton (MEDMR), Aliza Leit, Alex de Koning

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –June minutes were reviewed and approved 5-0.

Item 1. Election of officers.

After a brief discussion, the following slate of officers was put forward and approved by the committee for 2020-2021.

Chair : Chris Petersen
Vice-Chair: Matt Gerald
Secretary: Natalie Springuel
The slate was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Item 2: Changes in the ordinance update

Chris updated the committee on his meeting with the town regarding the change of ordinance. The town recommended approved the change and it has now been sent on to the Maine DMR and has been entered into our ordinance.

There was positive feedback from the selectmen regarding the junior license addition to the ordinance and the suggestion was made to reach out to the High school and COA with information on junior commercial licenses, and the requirements.

We expect to have one commercial clammer this year, although several people have met the conservation-hour requirement. Chris will send the conservation hour spreadsheet summary to the town clerk before the September 1 opening of new licenses.

Item 3: Changes in water quality status in clamflats

The Mount Desert narrows area (near the campground area; D.1 on the DMR water quality map) has improved water quality due to a fixed septic system and accelerated water sampling protocol from the DMR lab. This restricted status has changed to open status and the DMR asked if the town wanted to put any harvest restrictions in that area. The chair will send a message to the DMR thanking them for the accelerated testing, and the committee agreed to add the add DMR report to the minutes (ThomasBayBarHarbor47upgrade2020.pdf).

Item 4: Clam survey reports.

a. Mt. Desert Narrows Campground. Aliza shared some information on the clam flat survey that she and Chris performed (at the MDI Narrows Campground) on 8/19/2020. The data looked

great with a high yield (largest distribution was the 45-50 mm size) on about 60 acres of flat, and not many ribbon worms were seen. The committee discussed the possibility of reducing harvest in the form of a conservation area, but decided that there was no need to put in harvest restrictions. Part of this discussion was that about the general state of the clam industry was discussed and it was noted that the prices for clams has been good with a price of over \$3 per lb.

b. Hadley Point. Heidi presented the results from the clam survey that she and Hanna Annis performed on Hadley Point on 7/10/2020. Both the East and West side of Hadley had good recruitment of clam seed but few adult clams. There was a huge recruitment of mussel seed. They saw a clam set in Berry Cove and no mussel set there. The committee agreed to add Heidi's report to the minutes (BarHarbor_HadleyPt_MAP_071020.pdf).

Item 5. Grant work.

Chris talked about the remaining funds in the MSRR grant, and timing of clam seed box placements. It was decided to pay David Dunton \$30 per hour for the 3 hours he spent on seed surveying, which was the price listed in the grant. We also agreed to pay Scott Swann \$20 for 4 hours of building boxes (Swann abstained from this discussion and decision). The boxes need to be pulled, opened and the clams counted at the end of October. We currently have 66 boxes in the Bar Harbor intertidal. We approved allocation of supplies as needed for Alex de Koning to set up adequate nursery facilities for clams on his site.

Chris shared about other seed recruitment work going on along the coast and particular the work being done by Sarah Randall at the Down East Institute. This brings an opportunity to share data and compare results. The Hadley Recruitment levels were "off the charts" an incredible number this year. Hadley 1000 seed per square foot, compared to the rest of Maine 1- 30 per square foot. Their report can be accessed here:

<https://downeastinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/deitechnicalreportclambaselinesurvey.pdf>

Town of Bar Harbor Clam License information sheet review.

Item 6. Materials for recreational clammers.

The committee looked at the information sheet that was given to people buying clam licenses. This basic biology and most information has not been updated in several years. Fiona and Scott agreed to review the document and come back to the committee with suggestions for an update in the next few months.

One thing the committee thought would be a good thing to include is the recreational harvest personal limits for species of shellfish (most on species other than soft-shelled clams) other than soft-shelled clams. Heidi gave us the follow daily harvest rates:

Mussels: Size restriction 2" limit 2 bushel (bu)

Quahogs: Size restriction 1" hinge width, limit 1 peck

Soft shell Size restriction 2", Clams: 1 peck

Razor clams: Size restriction 4", limit 1 peck

Surf clams: No size restriction, 3 bu.

We thought this would be a good thing to include in the information sheet to harvesters or to somehow add the information to the BHMRC website. We also wanted to make sure to include the minimum size requirements, if any, for these species.

Item 7. Temperature data in Frenchman Bay.

Chris talked about some available water temperature loggers and told us that they are waterproof to 100 ft. Chris said that we could gather data from the surface and from the sea bed. It was discussed that we could put them on some of the local aquaculture lease sites. Heidi informed us the DMR was also looking at intertidal temperature loggers.

Item 8. Frenchman Bay Partners. The committee discussed in brief the Frenchman Bay Partners organization and the challenges and choices that will have to be made.

Future business items

Next meeting September 16. Aliza will be looking at historical clam surveys from Steve Savage's paper on the mudflats from the mid 70's.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Walkover Survey: Hadley Point, Bar Harbor

July 10, 2020

Legend

-  Clam Sample Points
-  Walkover Track

