

# MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## Town of Bar Harbor

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – **4:04 PM** Virtual meeting through zoom link available to the public

Present: Heidi Leighton (DMR area biologist), Natalie Springuel (secretary), Chris Petersen (Chair), Joanna Fogg, Fiona de Koning, John Avila, Charlie Phippen (harbor master), Matt Gerald (vice-chair)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 2020 minutes were approved 7- 0 with the following revision:

We talked about updates needed in the section materials for recreational clammers. We back corrected the minutes to show the appropriate info:

Quahogs: Size restriction 1” hinge width, limit one peck

Razors: Size restriction 4”, limit one peck

Mussels: Size restriction 2”, limit 2 bushel

Surf clam: Size restriction none, limit 3 bushel (Surf Clam = Hen clams)

Soft Shell clam: Size restriction 2”, limit one peck

Peck= 25 pounds, based on peck/clam roller, not weight. But is = about 25 lbs

Bushels, traditionally 50 lbs. But new containers are 60lbs

These are dry weight measures, roughly two gallons for a peck, 4 gallons for a bushel

Discussion – We agreed to post the information on recreational and commercial harvest limits on the town website (including periwinkles etc).

We could request to add any bivalve other than mussels to the town ordinance, then DMR would decide if we could include them in the ordinance depending on status of species locally, and if we have anyone harvesting them.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### A. Bar Harbor Maine Shellfish Resilience and Restoration Grant

Background: 1x2 wooden boxes with pet screening were placed in the intertidal zone at six sites to estimate clam predation and recruitment.

Results so far: In Otter Creek, virtually no clams. At the Thomas Island site, many more.

66 boxes out this fall. Some clams will be kept to experiment with growth on Acadia Aquafarm and COA aquaculture sites. Clammers, aquaculturists and some students are receiving funds to help. Aliza Leit (COA student) is doing pH measurements. Chris' Marine Biology students will help with counting. We may have lost some proportion of the boxes over the season.

B. Letter to Maine DMR on opening at MDI Narrows Campground,  
Chris is still planning to write the letter and Charlie will send on letterhead.

C. Update on materials for recreational clammers  
The information includes a map and some info about hotline and other details that needs updating. Fiona and Scott are going to look into this. We will carry this over to the next meeting.

D. Temperature data work with aquaculture

Chris has waterproof temperature loggers. The idea is to grab temperature data around the bay at aquaculture sites. Acadia Aquafarms (de Koning) and Bar Harbor Oyster (Fogg) are interested in having sensors at some of their sites in Frenchman Bay. We will approach Graham Platner and Sarah Redmond to see if they are interested in having some at their aquaculture sites. Hannah Webber may have some already at Schoodic. The idea is to develop some coverage around the whole bay.

E. Frenchman Bay Partners – potential collaboration

The leadership committee of Frenchman Bay Partners (FBP) recently met to explore revitalizing the partners. FBP might be a place where marine-based work on a broader scale could go through. Of the five conservation targets that FBP was focused on (mudflats, eelgrass, benthic habitat, diadromous fish, rockweed), mudflats was/is the most relevant to our committee, and there is momentum to look at collaborations around opening mudflats. Most of the flats have been re-opened and the ones that haven't been often have overboard discharges or other structural issues that can't be easily addressed.

Some things have changed in the Bay since the start of FBP, such as more aquaculture, which might be added to the issues worked on by FBP. FBP is planning to look retrospectively and see what has been done so far, and potentially put together some updates.

The committee thought that communications across the bay was important, but maybe we should wait until after COVID to have more of the complicated conversations that work better in person. We thought that social science and hard science are parallel efforts that should be connected. But our role at BHMRC seems to be more science focused.

People also liked the idea of information sharing of data, for example with the temperature sensors, which seems very useful.

We talked about the current conservation targets in Frenchman Bay –

-For eelgrass, Jane Disney is no longer focusing on eelgrass work but researchers at Bowdoin picking some of the work.

-People believe that the website and in particular the maps in the Frenchman Bay Atlas have all been very useful and a positive product.

-Diadromous fish runs have been re-opened, such as Smelt brook. This work was begun by FBP and others but has really been championed by Downeast Salmon Federation over the last 10 years.

Chris proposed that at some point we have a combined Frenchman Bay clam committees meeting. The seven towns meetings is the same Wednesday as us. Gouldsboro is the second Wednesday of the month. BH and Gouldsboro are both trying to overwinter clams but with different methods- that would be good to network about that. All of us have grants from same source. We were reminded that if we want to have successful meetings that engage harvesters – to remember to have meetings at high tide, make sure you are having the meeting in a convenient place for them, and if in person, bring food.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Work for fall – We will continue to collect the data on our clam experiment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.