

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Town of Bar Harbor

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

ITEM 1

The meeting was called to order at – 4:02 p.m.

Attendees; Chris Petersen-chair, Scott Swann, Matt Gerald, John Avila, Chris Johannsen- assistant shellfish warden, Natalie, Springuel, Heidi Leighton- Maine DMR area Biologist, Joanna Fogg, Fiona de Koning, Emily Rose Stringer.

ITEM 2

Motion to accept previous meetings minutes, voted to accept 5:0 approved.

ITEM 3

OLD BUSINESS;

- Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience fund grant was approved by the town council and the MRC voted 5:0 to approve to have the funds transferred to the College of the Atlantic to manage the funds for the project for the town.
- Emily Rose Presented her finding from her oyster survey work at Clarks Cove. The MRC thanked her for her work. Emily found many oysters from the town road towards NW Point and on towards Clark Cove and the salt pond is full of oysters. The committee discussed the the public health concerns of harvesting oysters from the salt pond in summer. Oysters are predominantly eaten raw, unlike other shellfish species and the danger of naturally occurring bacteria such as vibrio parahaemolyticus. With advice from Heidi our DMR area biologist we discussed conservation measures that would protect the public health concerns.
A sign would be erected showing that the salt pond would be closed from May 15th to Oct 15th for harvest of Oysters.

The MRC voted and approved 5:0. John and Joanna? Would work on the wording . Chris Petersen would like to record the temperature of the salt pond over the summer. Another Chris (Johannsen) and his pal Chris (Wharff) would be able to help with the pole.

ITEM 4

NEW BUSINESS

- Listening sessions ShAC DMR. Natalie Springuel, Chris Petersen, Liz Graves and Fiona de Koning attended one or more of these listening sessions. There was generally positive feedback and the meetings were well attended and constructive. A couple of points that stood out to some of us were the History of the program presentation. This was perceived as helpful. The how best to transfer of information discussions. “Clammers don’t like meetings”. some of the testimony from clam harvesters such as Joe Porada on the daily earnings data from clam harvest (\$400-\$1000 range) and some insightful information on the positive effect high prices have on decreasing the number of problems related with addiction. This was generally considered to be counter intuitive. Higher clam price meant less stress for the harvester, therefore less drug use.

Another valuable point for consideration that was raised was the sociological fact that many clam harvesters do not have driver’s licenses or perhaps are felons and therefore may be locked out of many other job opportunities. Clam harvesting could be one of the only ways they may have to earn a decent living wage.

The professional mediator will be summarizing the discussions and we will share the results with the MRC when they are available.

- Future work on Bar Harbor clam studies:
Beal Boxes: 5 Hadley Point
5 Clark Cove
5 Windaway

Chris Petersen has renovated 40 Beal Boxes. He also mentioned that he and his students at the COA will be performing a green crab survey at the COA beach using the protocol developed by Manomet. This way the data generated will be comparable to those of Casco Bay.

- Bar Harbor Commercial Clam Harvest License eligibility.
Those eligible this year are : David Dunton and Guilia Cardoso.
- Finally, Chris Petersen asked Heidi if we may have access to any data that the area biologists have on their myriad of intertidal “walk studies” of all shellfish species that she is able to share with us. The DMR area biologists have a wonderful resource of all shellfish and we have a lot to learn about the ecological

interactions and what the oysters may be doing locally. They weren't here before, they are now. What does this mean going forward?

- Quahogs
- Soft shells
- Razors
- Surf clams
- Mussels
- Green crabs

ADJOURNMENT -meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.