

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Town of Bar Harbor

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2022

ITEM 1

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

Attendees: Chris Petersen-chair, Matt Gerald, John Avila, Natalie Springuel, Joanna Fogg.

Guests: Heidi Leighton- Maine DMR area Biologist, Chris Johannsen- assistant shellfish warden, Massimo Hamilton and Sophie Chivers – BHMRC summer interns

Approval of minutes – Tabled

Old business:

A. Update on clam recruitment on-going study—We still have intact boxes estimating recruitment without predators at all sites, although we have lost at 1 box at Clark’s Cove, Hadley Point, and each site at Otter Creek. Some if this has probably been due to strong currents and winds, while in at least one case there was clearly some vandalism.

This led to a short discussion about shellfish wardens, and the sharing of police between Bar Harbor and Mount Desert and how this might affect the sharing of warden duties. Chris Johannsen said he was unsure, but will reach out to Jim Willis at the Town of Mt. Desert and Bar Harbor police to see where people are on this issue. In Southwest Harbor the warden has been harbor master, so while that position is open they have no obvious enforcement. Southwest Harbor only has recreational harvesting on a small resource, and Chris Petersen will reach out to the clam committee chair.

B. Ordinance Language Change. The committee looked over a draft of proposed language changes in the ordinance. The committee went over the exact changes, with adding both quahogs and eastern oysters to the ordinance it was necessary to change ‘soft shell clams’ to shellfish in several sections, and this and some

other minor changes were suggested. Natalie makes a motion to approve changes. Matt seconds the motion. Motion pass 5-0. For our next steps we will send this document to the Town Council to begin the approval process, which should take 1-2 months.

Chris made a motion to wait until 2023 to adopt the previously approved closure area around the salt pond area at Clark's Cove. If we still wanted the closure to go into effect in 2022, it wouldn't be until mid-September when the risk of shellfish contamination would already have subsided due to cooler weather. The motion passed 5-0.

New business:

Update on MSRRF grant. Massimo and Sophie gave an update on the interviews they have been conducting. People have been willing to chat. Interviews have been mostly with recreational harvesters and a couple of commercial harvesters. The focus of the harvest has been on quahogs. It seems that very few individuals know about the size regulations for harvest with possibly the exception of the 2" on Mya.

We agreed to try to get more copies of the pamphlet out and posted. Joanna will contact Liz to arrange for more copies to be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

Submitted by Fiona de Koning