

**November 5, 2019**

**Regular monthly Provincetown Shellfish Committee Meeting**

**Called to Order:** 5:02 pm

**Members present:** Alex Brown, Bob Hazard, Wendy Loughlin , Rick Macara, Nancy Ann Meads and Lory Santos( chair).

**Also present:** Steve Wisbauer(Shellfish Constable) and Laura Ludwig(Center for Costal Studies)

**Public Comments:** L. Ludwig commented that on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> the CCS is having a “Local Bounty Banquet” at St. Peter’s Hall. (\$100/person; \$90/members). This is a fundraiser for the Ghost Gear Recovery Project. Oyster donations would be appreciated.

**Approve minutes of Oct 10:** Motion by A. Brown, seconded by N. Meads to approve minutes.

**Vote** 4/0 approve, 1 abstain.

**Old Business-**

**Shellfish Constable Report November 5, 2019 update:**

**Recreational Shellfishing Opening Weekend 2019-20:**

Friday Nov.1 had foul weather and an early tide (30 people attended) Sunday Nov.3 had good weather and time but a +1.3ft low tide (80 people attended)

**Scallops:**

A limited quantity of bay scallops are stranding in the same location as last year. Most are of a larger second year size. If, as the water temperature drops, more quantity and varied size begin to strand it will be a sign that the fishery will sustain itself in future years. The dept. will continue to update the committee.

**Propagation of West side of Breakwater:**

Seed shellfish grown out at the John Baldwin nursery have been broadcast with the help of a wonderful volunteer. The west side has limited boat access so the focus has been on seed propagation rather than relay of adult shellfish.

**Cutler Bill:**

MAA sent out a notice to the effect that they are (temporarily) withdrawing H746 from consideration by the Joint Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, and Agriculture, and are planning to continue working on the issue through the MSI.

October 15 letter from MAA: Greetings Members, At the start of the 2019 legislative session, on behalf of the Massachusetts Aquaculture Association (MAA), Representative Cutler filed H746 - An Act Relative to Shellfish Aquaculture Licensing. The primary intent of the proposed legislation was aimed at starting a conversation about some long standing challenges associated with statutory limitations that were becoming an increasing concern for shellfish growers; Namely, lack of consistency or certainty for shellfish lease transfers. For several reasons, including misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the intent of the legislative action, unanticipated negative reactions from the shellfish community and inaccurate linkage of the proposed legislation with timing of the launch of the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (MSI), it became clear that much more in depth conversations are needed to fully discuss the priority needs of MAA as well as the broader shellfish community. With the above in mind, MAA has requested that the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agri-

culture, the committee where the bill is currently held, further study H746. As stated in the letter, MAA remains hopeful that our interests will move forward as part of the current dialogue that has begun through the MSI. Aquaculture, specifically the cultivation of shellfish, has become a significant contributor to the Commonwealth's economy and to the Bay State's future as a leading seafood producing state. Considering the tremendous growth and emerging opportunities that face aquaculture, MAA will remain engaged and continue our advocacy on your behalf. Thank you for your continued support and for your participation and contributions to our "growing" industry! Sincerely, Seth Garfield President

### **Lighted Marker Buoys for ADA (Truro):**

Truro is still in the process of gathering and delivering equipment. When all necessary materials are provided, the Shellfish Dept. will deploy the markers, report them to the USCG as new aids to navigation and attempt to have the area appear on popular map programs.

### **Funding for multi-season tern staging study associated with existing and proposed expansion of shellfish aquaculture in Provincetown Inner Harbor (The Cove):**

You will remember, as a condition from the ConCom, NHESP is requiring this study before the extent of aquaculture expansion to the south and west in the cove can be determined. The Shellfish Department is requesting, from the Town, a "one time only" additional budget item to fund this study. A vote from the committee either endorsing or not endorsing the study would be appropriate (see committee mission below).

#### *Shellfish Committee Mission & Authority:*

*To initiate, promote and manage shellfisheries in Provincetown; make or cause to be made such studies as may be necessary to enhance the value of such shellfisheries and shall enforce all statutes, ordinances, by-laws, rules & regulations relative to shellfish in Provincetown.*

### **Reminder of gear marking requirements:**

A reminder of regulation #17 has been sent to all Provincetown aquaculture license holders. The State marking requirement will be on the next Truro SAC meeting agenda. Provincetown Aquaculture Regulation #17. All shellfish nursery boxes shall be indelibly marked with the aquaculture license number. The aquaculture license holder shall assume liability for all boxes, racks, spat- collection devices and other shellfish equipment used in shellfish farming. If any such items are moved by a storm or other event to a location off of the aquaculture license site it shall be the responsibility of the aquaculture license holder to remove it. If within three (3) weeks the aquaculture license holder has not complied with this requirement, the Town, through the Shellfish Department, may cause such boxes, racks, and other shellfish equipment to be removed and may bill the aquaculture license holder.

### **Boundary between Recreation and Aquaculture at West End Area:**

Marker buoys with breakaway devices have been placed on flats to help reduce conflicts between recreational shellfishing and farms.

**Surveillance Camera on shellfish grants:** Defer to next meeting.

**Wakes in harbor:** Public hearing in December

**Cutler Bill:** Bill has been temporarily withdrawn.

**All Terrain Vehicle:** Low cost vehicle can cost \$16,000; but it is not amphibious. S. Wishbauer getting info on vehicle that will work on land and in water. Possible uses listed were Shellfish constable, harbormaster, beach cleanup plus Fire and rescue. Groups to contact are Con Com, Harbor Committee, First responders, emergency management and beach cleanup. For this goal we need a plan and proposal. Shellfish Constable to work on this.

**Letter sent to Select Board:** L. Santos sent letter to acting Town Manager supporting existing origination status of Shellfish Constable reporting to Town Manager and reporting on daily basis to Marine Coordinator.

**Any other old business:** None

### **New Business**

**Labeling commercial aquaculture gear:** Covered in Constable's report. A. Brown mentioned plastic labels marked with info; two available sources are from Fishermen's Supply or on-line at TOPME TAGS.com (est 500pc/\$50).

**Any other new business: Motion** by A. Brown, second by N. Meads to recommend funding of next phase of multi-season tern study. Vote 6-0 approve.

**Next meeting:** Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to Adjourn:** by A. Brown, seconded by N. Meads to adjourn at 6:10PM. **Vote** 6-0 to approve.

B. Hazard, Secretary