

Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: September 17, 2008
TIME: 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: MEAD Building

Shellfish Committee Members present:

Stuart Rapp, Matt Ostrowski, Andre Sampou, Richard Haskell, Les Hemmila, Gerard Ganey

General Public present:

Jean Crocker, Mark Begley, Dolores Lowe, King Lowe, Spero Piantes

NR Staff present:

Doug Kalweit

Chairman's Report:

Stuart Rapp chaired the September 17th, 2008 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Stuart Rapp and Andre Sampou are assigned to the newly formed Coastal Resources Management Committee (CRMC). Meetings are held every other Tuesday at 5 P.M. at the Selectman's Conference Room, Town Hall, Hyannis. This committee has been formed to address the mandates of the Shellfish Overlay District and is currently reviewing the Camp, Dresser and McGee study from 1991. Stuart announced that the CRMC has invited recreational and commercial shellfishermen and shellfish aquaculturists to make comment on how the water sheet should be used relative to the Shellfish Overlay District at a meeting of the CRMC on September 23, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. The meetings are open to the public.

Natural Resources Report

Doug Kalweit informed the Shellfish Committee of the current shellfish propagation fund budget of -\$23,964. Doug noted that there were 2032 recreational shellfishing permits, 37 seasonal recreational permits and 109 non-resident recreational shellfishing permits issued by the Town as of September 17, 2008.

• **Barnstable Harbor Shellfishing Area Closures:**

The following areas are subject to seasonal water quality closure by the Division of Marine Fisheries from September 15th through December 14th, all dates inclusive.

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| - Barnstable Harbor, North (DMF/CCB:31.1) | Section 2.1, page 27 |
| - Barnstable Harbor (DMF/CCB:31.2) | Section 2.2, page 27 |
| - Barnstable Marshes (DMF/CCB:33.0) | Section 2.3, page 27 |
| - Upper Scorton Creek (DMF/CCB: 34.1) | Section 2.4, page 27 |

The above listed areas shall not automatically reopen to shellfishing on December 15th, 2008 and will remain closed until examined and shellfishing is allowed by DMF.

• **Contaminated Quahog Relay Area Openings:**

The following shellfish relay areas have been approved for the harvest of shellfish by the Division of Marine Fisheries and are open for the harvest of shellfish as of **Saturday**,

September 27, 2008 (subject to state and local rules and regulations).

Hyannis Outer Harbor:

The **Hyannis Harbor Relay Area** is defined as: the waters, flats and shoreline of that portion of Hyannis Harbor between the Hyannisport Yacht Club pier and the pier located at 10 Hyannis Avenue, and from the seaward end of the Hyannisport Yacht Club pier to the offshore sign/buoy (when deployed) located seaward of the pier at 10 Hyannis Avenue (DMF/SC27.22).

Cotuit Bay:

The **Cotuit Bay Relay Area** is defined as: the waters, flats and shoreline of that portion of Cotuit Bay between the signs located along the shoreline at 884 Main Street (and extending to the offshore marker buoys when deployed) (DMF/SC21.22).

- **Contaminated Quahog Relay Closures:**

The following shellfish relay areas are closed to shellfishing by the Division of Marine Fisheries until a future opening date pending DMF certification .

Cotuit Bay:

The **Bluff Point Relay Area** is defined as the waters and shoreline of that portion of Cotuit Bay southwest of an imaginary line drawn from the end of the pier at 124 Bluff Point Drive to a sign along the western shore of Cotuit Bay at 996 Main Street, Cotuit Ma. (DMF/SC21.20)

Cordwood Lane Relay Area (Northern Portion)

The **northern portion** of the **Cordwood Lane Relay Area** is defined as: the waters, flats and shoreline of that portion of Cotuit Bay located within the area defined by the “No Shellfishing” sign/post located on the shore at 721 Old Post Road to the NR “No Shellfishing” sign/buoy located offshore to the green navigational buoy at the southern end of the Cotuit Narrows to the “No Shellfishing” sign/post located on the shore at 797 Old Post Road. (DMF/SC 21.21)

- **Seasonal Assistants and Volunteers**

NR wishes to thank seasonal assistants Amy Raitto and Mark Babson, members of the Barnstable Association for Recreational Shellfishing and all the volunteers for their valuable assistance in completing natural resource management and shellfish propagation projects during 2008.

- **Recreational Quahogging Class:**

On Saturday September 27th 2008 the NR will conduct a recreational quahogging class. Novices will meet at quahogging grounds and be shown the rudiments of harvesting quahogs by NR staff. For more information contact the Natural Resources Office.

The Shellfish Committee reviewed and discussed the following proposed pier application:

Applicant: Richard M. & Anna Tocci

Application: (N.O.I.) Construct and maintain a timber pier, ramp, and float in North Bay.

Location: 80 Great Bay Road, Osterville, MA. (as shown on Assessors Map 093-074)

The Shellfish Committee discussed that many N.O.I.'s, proposals, etc for coastal projects, i.e., piers, are applied for and publicly heard in between scheduled Shellfish Committee and other committee meetings. This application and submittal procedure bypasses any review by various committees.

Ways to Water

Andre Sampou informed that Shellfish committee that the town has officially completed a list of 78 ways to water soon to be available in a publication.

Jean Crocker requested that the appropriate Town agency investigate the status of a particular way to water located in the southern portion of Cotuit Bay.

New Business

Andre Sampou informed the Shellfish Committee that the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issues alerts of ocean planning information that the shellfish committee should be aware of and make use of.

Gerard Ganey discussed the ambiguousness of the shellfish propagation area closure signs that the Natural Resources Office uses to demarcate shellfish propagation projects located along the shoreline of the Three Bays Area.

Gerard Ganey asked the Shellfish Committee to consider the use of Crocker Neck Area of Popponeset Bay for shellfish relay / propagation projects and to make use of potential pollution remediation funding sources to put more shellfish in the area for pollution remediation purposes. The Shellfish Committee and the general public attending the meeting undertook a discussion of the Conservation Division management protocol that closes the access road gate to the Crocker Neck Area. Spiro Piantes said that he supports any shellfish projects in the area and that the major problem is restriction to vehicular access. King Lowe also supports shellfish enhancement projects in the area and suggested that the gate closure rules be abided by. Jean Crocker informed the Shellfish Committee that the Crocker Neck access road was always open and that it should remain open except for the nighttime for fire safety. Stuart Rapp said that the Shellfish Committee will consider requesting that the access gate be opened on recreational shellfishing days. Stuart will request Rob Gatewood of the Conservation Division attend a meeting of the shellfish committee to address the issue of the gate closure at Crocker Neck.

Other Business

Les Hemmila informed the Shellfish Committee of the upcoming annual Cape Land and Sea Harvest (CLASH) festival to be held between September 25th and September 28th, 2008. CLASH is a weekend long celebration of the rich fishing heritage and abundant local foods of Cape Cod. Proceeds from the 8th annual Cape Cod Oyster Festival will benefit the Cape & Islands United Way. Les Hemmila mentioned that he has noticed more oysters setting in Barnstable Harbor probably on account of the amount of ongoing oyster culture in the Harbor.