

Truro Shellfish Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

For

12-8-17

Meeting Called to Order: 3:05pm EST

Members Present: Scott Lindell (Chairman), Gary Sharpless (Secretary), Dan Smith, Mark Wisotzky, Dana Pazolt, Nick Brown & Tony Jackett (Truro Shellfish Constable). Public: Jeff Souza, Steve Roderick and friend

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes were reviewed for the 8-22-17 meeting. Changes were noted by Dan Smith and confirmed by Gary Sharpless to incorporate. Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve the minutes as presented. Dan Smith seconded, and the **motion** passed 5-0-0

Review a Request For Permission to Use Lighted Buoys in ADA – Jeff Souza (Current grant holder and grower in the Truro Aquaculture Development Area (ADA)), requested permission from the SAC to use some type of lighted buoys to mark the ADA because there has some boat traffic that has damage some of the grant holders gear. Both Dan Smith and Dana Pazolt (current grant holders and growers in the Truro ADA) both agreed and concurred. Jeff, Dana and Dan suggested approximately five lighted buoys to be placed along the outside of the ADA. This would not increase the number of allowed vertical lines, since every grant holder can mark the four corners of each one-acre grant – therefore the five lighted buoys would in fact decrease the theoretically allowed vertical lines. Dana indicated that Steve Wisbauer might have five buoys that he can provide to the ADA and the SAC was in favor of such a plan. Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve the use of lighted buoys in the ADA as outlined. Gary Sharpless seconded, and the **motion** passed 5-0-0

Discussion and review of proposed Quarterly Aquaculture License Report – Dan Smith handed out a current Annual Aquaculture License Report (AALR). The SAC reviewed this current version in comparison to an Annual Aquaculture License Report (AALR) and a Quarterly Aquaculture License Report (QALR) that Dan had also submitted and proposed to use (one or the other). The two newer versions both provided more information than the current one relative to type of species grown, number of shellfish planted this year & source; seed purchased from, Wild caught from Chinese hats, number of shellfish harvested, wholesalers sold to, estimated mortality and final current license summary. The SAC discussed both versions among the committee members, with the Shellfish Constable and also with the other commercial shellfish growers at the meeting. The consensus among the SAC members was that the newer (AALR) would be a good improvement and that maybe in the future a QALR would be needed if tracking more activity was required. Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve the adoption of the new Annual Aquaculture License Report and bring this forth to the BoS for their next meeting, Scott Lindell seconded, and the **motion** passed 5-0-0. In the meantime, Dan Smith will modify some minor changes that include a note to attach the bill of lading or invoice to the report from the license seed grower. A final version will be provided from Dan Smith draft final version to the SAC Chairman, Scott Lindell in an electronic word document that can be edited and the final version submitted to BoS for agenda item.

Review Truro Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) Activity and New Applications – Steve Roderick (Truro resident and potential ADA grant holder for growing shellfish) wants to apply for a 5-

acre grant in the ADA. There is currently 10 acres available in the ADA and he is on the wait list. He wants to learn how to do aquaculture and is looking to start in the 1st quarter of 2018 with about (10) floating Oyster Grows. Dana Pazolt, Jeff Souza, and Dan Smith (current growers in the Truro ADA) indicated that they would help Steve in learning from their mistakes and the SAC also expressed it's support – since we all want success in the ADA to help boost economic development in the town of Truro. Steve said he would go to the town office staff and get an application to fill out and submit to the Shellfish Constable ASAP so that the SAC could vote on his application at the next meeting.

As a second item under this agenda item, Dan Smith handed out John Burn's ADA grant application for 5-cres in the ADA. John is Truro resident, has had experience working with Dana Pazolt on his grant, is on the wait list and is now ADA Grant Applicant. The SAC reviewed his application and Mark Wisotzky made a **motion** to approve John Burn's ADA Grant Application as presented. Nick Brown seconded, and the **motion** passed 5-0-0.

Update on possible grant for salt water ice machine that would be shared between P-town and Truro – Dana Pazolt indicated that there was no new news about this activity and suggested that the SAC get the P-town Harbor Master (Rex McKinsey) and Shellfish Constable (Steve Wisbauer) at our next meeting. Jeff Souza indicated it would be nice to have a saltwater ice machine, but there might be other priorities like fixing the floating docks that might be higher priority. Scott Lindell said he would try to invite the P-town Harbor Master and Shellfish Constable to our next meeting.

Discuss the use of floating rafts and/or platforms in ADA - since Steve Wisbauer it will be an agenda item for next meeting when Steve might be able to attend and also Rex could possibly have some input as well initially brought up this agenda item.

Discuss seed planting soft shell clams in Pamet – Scott Lindell imitated the conversation about seed planting of soft shell clams in Pamet Harbor. Gary reiterated that shellfish in Pamet is somewhat cyclical – one-year we have good quahogs and oysters and the soft shell clams suffer and vice versa. The existing Truro Shellfish Budget has mostly been used for quahogs and the oyster remote set to help propagation – and this has been successful since most of the recreational shell fisherman are interested in quahogs and oysters and will take what they can get with soft shell clams because of the single basket weekly limit. Also it was noted that the soft shell clams are starting to come back at the mouth of the Little Pamet, going toward Corn Hill. If the SAC wants to do something in this area we would need to get some clam tents & netting and designate an area in the harbor for an experiment (probably up river toward Jams). The SAC plans to continue discussions on this subject to do an experiment in April 2018 with ½" soft shell clams to see if there could be success. Actions Items are: 1. Scott Lindell will contact seed vendor to see what is required/how much it costs/timing to order seed for this spring assuming it is not too late. 2. Tony Jackett will schedule time frame in spring 2018, exact area in Pamet where this could be done and see about getting the clam tents & netting 3. SAC figure total cost to do this small experiment and look for outside donors & funding to get the necessary funds for seed and equipment 4. Get our bid in for the seed order (assuming not too late) and SAC organize a volunteer event and labor pool to actual do this experiment in the April 2018 time frame.

Review updated FAQ's related to Shellfish – Gary Sharpless (Secretary) passed out the hard copies of the FAQ's relating to #14. Shellfish storage and handling (see below). The SAC looked at edits to be incorporated into final version. Gary made changes and will provide hard copies and electronic copies to be sent to Scott Lindell (Chairman) to be incorporated into the Town of Truro website. Additionally it was suggested that these changes be consistent and also be incorporated into the Shellfish Regulations. Gary will do the same and send to Scott as well.

#14. How should I store and safely handle my shellfish?

- Always keep shellfish cool or on ice. Refrigerate at 40 degrees F. A wet paper towel placed over shellfish will keep a fresh catch alive. Do not submerge shellfish in water to store or keep. Refrigerate oysters with cup facing upwards in a shallow pan.
- Live shellfish will close their shell when handled. Discard broken or gaping shells that do not close when tapped firmly a few times. Discard shellfish that do not open when cooked.
- When opening shellfish, always use a sterilized knife

Review of potential changes to Regulation for Taking of Shellfish, Sea Worms, Eels and Crabs.

(Refer to latest regulations dated 1/12/16 for reference). - Gary Sharpless pointed out suggested changes to current Shellfish Regulations that need to be clarified (See below). These changes were suggested to be consistent with the FAQ's and also be incorporated into the Shellfish Regulation. Gary will edit and send to Scott for final review as well.

- Permit holder can go clamming with other people or children as long as they only take one basket per permit. (Refer to Regulation #2, #3, #10).
- Displaying permit on persons - since sometimes the environment does not allow it to be displayed outside the person because of fear of physically losing the badge in the wind or getting it wet. (Refer to Regulation #3).
- Clarification on the number of sea clams allowed per week with other shellfish (Refer to Regulation #10 a. thru e.).

Additionally, the SAC decided that it made sense to simplify the regulations to read that a permit holder could only take one basket (or equivalent to one ten-quart bucket of shellfish in the shell) per week. And that the basket could be full of a single species of either oysters or quahog or soft shell clams or razor clams or sea clams – or any combination of species. And as long as it was - one basket per individual permit per week.

Topics for next meeting SAC agenda:

1. Review any new ADA Grant Application, SAC vote and if in favor provide as agenda item for next BoS Meeting
2. Review Shellfish Regulations SAC vote and if in favor provide as agenda item for next BoS Meeting
3. Review status of Soft Shell Clam Seeding experiment for funding, seed procurement, volunteers and exact timing & area in Pamet Harbor.
4. Update of discussion of pursuing grant for saltwater ice machine for P-town & Truro with P-town Harbor Master and Shellfish Constable
5. Update on the use of floating rafts and/or platforms in ADA with P-town Shellfish Constable and potentially with P-town Harbor Master

Adjourn: Scott Lindell made a **motion** to adjourn at 5:20pm. Mark seconded, **motion** passed 5-0-0.

Garrett C. Sharpless

Minutes approved 1-26-18 Garrett C. Sharpless, Secretary, Truro SAC

