

NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL



Delaware Bay Section

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	November 10, 2009		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Russell Babb, DFW Shellfisheries	Eric Powell, Director
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	John Kraeuter, Assoc. Director
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Research Professor
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

Compliance with the Sunshine Law	Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, and Daily Journal pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.	October 27, 2009
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Minutes	
May 2009	Councilman Fleetwood made a motion to approve the May 2009 minutes. Mr. Hollinger seconded the motion. All in favor.
July 2009	Presented – Decision held over to next meeting due to inadequate time to review
October 2009	Presented – Decision held over to next meeting due to inadequate time to review

Revenue collected for October totaled \$7,344.50. This revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab License	\$300.00	Oyster Dredge Boat License	\$132.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	\$200.00	Cultch Fees	\$4,616.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$100.00	Net License	\$1,349.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$550.00	Lease Fees	\$49.50
Recreational Shellfish License	\$10.00	Application Fees	\$36.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	\$2.00		

Oyster Resource Development Account as of:

November 10, 2009		
Unexpended	\$538,177.79	Total dollars currently in account
Expended	\$1,452.34	Spent from account during FY'10
Encumbered	\$1,007.66	Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)
Uncommitted	\$537,170.13	Current free-balance (not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.)

Oyster Dredge Vessel Transactions

For Council's information, Robbins & Robbins, Inc. has transferred the oyster dredge vessel *Linda Claire* (License No. 69) to Jeffery Moore.

Shellfish Leased Ground Transactions

Lease Transfers

Original Lessee	New Lessee	
Robert J. Robbins	David Robbins Jr.	
Section	Lot	Acreage
D	472	62

The Council unanimously approved the preceding leased ground transaction.

1. Old Business

Direct Market Update

Mr. Tomlin stated through November 9, 2009, approximately 79,000 bushels (bu.) of the total allowable catch of 85,000 bu. quota had been harvested. Mr. Tomlin informed the Council that only five boats had a greater than 200 bu. quota balance and that four of those boats had not yet begun harvesting.

MRC Transplant Program Summary

Mr. Tomlin stated that a total of 4,900 bu. of material (oyster seed and shell) had been transplanted from the special restricted waters of the Maurice River to the Maurice River tongers' area (i.e., tongers' bed proper located in seasonal waters). He informed the Council that approximately 70 percent of the material was oyster - of which 83 percent were marketable. He added that the areas that had been planted contained less than 20 percent oyster prior to the transplant.

Dermo Report

Mr. Bushek stated that Dermo levels were high compared to long-term averages. He noted that the mortality levels were increasing but were still below average for that time of year.

2010 Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW)

Chairman Hollinger stated that he needed to submit the names of two people to represent the industry during the 2010 SAW. Mr. Hollinger stated that he and Mr. Fleetwood would be the two Council representatives for the 2010 SAW. A lengthy conversation ensued regarding Council representation over the past decade and the method by which future appointments should be made.

Coastal America Award for Shell Planting

Chairman Hollinger stated that the Coastal America Award that was presented to the Council should be displayed publicly at either the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory or at the Bureau of Shellfisheries' Delaware Bay Office. A lengthy conversation ensued. Councilman Fleetwood requested that the award be displayed in the lobby of the Delaware Bay Office.

2. New Business

Extension of the Direct Market Season

Mr. Focca asked that the Council make a recommendation to the Division of Fish requesting a one week extension to the direct market season. Mr. Riggan stated that he also would like the season extended. Councilman Malinowski questioned whether this was a yearly occurrence adding that the season is lengthy to begin with. Mr. Babb stated that while the Division was not necessarily against extending the season by one week, at some point a management plan's season control measures - such as starting and ending dates - should be fully supported by the Council, if out of principal alone. Mr. Babb added that this would continue to be an issue each year following the adoption of the new regulations, which set the range of a possible direct market season at April 1 through November 30. A lengthy conversation ensued regarding season extensions in the past. Chairman Hollinger made a motion to extend the direct market harvest season by one week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Fleetwood with all council members in favor. Mr. Babb stated that he did not expect any issues with the Division approving the extension.

FDA - ISSC Proposed Standards for Post Harvest Treatment of Oysters

Mr. Canzonier stated that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had proposed a new set of standards regarding the post harvest treatment of Gulf State's oysters to eliminate the threat of *Vibrio vulnificus*. He stated that the statement calls for the post harvest treatment of oysters from all Gulf States and warned that it could eventually, and likely would, affect other oyster producing states. Mr. Canzonier stated that the Council should write a letter to legislators asking them to stop the FDA from circumventing a long standing agreement with the International Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC). Mr. Canzonier noted that this movement was pressed by political pressure from "certain" groups. Mr. Fleetwood mentioned that during the recent ISSC meetings, the New Jersey oyster industry's proactive approach to reduce *Vibrio* illnesses was widely praised and looked at as a model for other states. Mr. Hollinger stated that he would have a letter drafted from the Council to legislators.

Lease Extensions

Mr. Hearon reminded the Council and those in attendance that the State of NJ would no longer be sending out reminders to lease holders that lease extensions were required prior to December 31, 2009. He reminded the Council that a letter was sent out last year (fall of 2008) reminding lease holders of this longstanding statutory requirement and that the letter advised them that the State would no longer be mailing reminders in an effort to reduce costs. He stated that the extensions were ready and available at the Delaware Bay Office.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Hollinger. All were in favor. The Council agreed that a meeting in December was not necessary and that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the library of the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory.