

NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL		Delaware Bay Section
<i>Meeting Agenda</i>		

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	October 2, 2012		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Joe Myers, NJDA	
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.		
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. - Vacant		

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted September 4, 2012 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.

Revenue collected for July totaled \$25,253.00

License Type	Total		License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$600.00		Dealer License	\$100.00
Application Fees	\$48.00		Oyster Tags	\$23,410.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$50.00		Copy Sales	\$1.00
Recreational Shellfish License	\$160.00		Net License	\$878.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	\$6.00			

Revenue collected for August totaled \$21,879.00

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$300.00	Oyster Tags	\$20,208.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$300.00	Net License	\$778.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$ 100.00	Application Fees	\$66.00
Recreational Shellfish License	\$110.00	Lease Fees	\$11.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	\$6.00		

Oyster Resource Development Account

<i>October 1, 2012</i>		
Unexpended	\$549,152.09	Total dollars currently in account
Expended	\$0.00	Spent from account during FY'13
Pre-encumbered	\$0.00	Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts (cancelled)
Encumbered	\$136,000.00	Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)
Uncommitted	\$413,152.09	Current free-balance (not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.)

Shellfish Leased Ground Transactions

Applications for New Grounds

Decision:

Name	Lot #	Section	Acres
Olga Gaine*	5	ADZ4	1.5
Mark Zitter*	TBA	ADZ3	10

*Satisfied attendance requirement

Mr. Hollinger made a motion to accept both lease applications. Mr. Fleetwood seconded the motion.

1. Old Business:

Direct Market Season

Mr. Hearon updated the New Jersey Shellfisheries Council (Council) that only the high mortality oyster beds are still open to harvest. Shell Rock has produced 30.62% of the fishing effort, which was followed by Ship John (24.29%) and Cohansey (18.53%). There are over 11,000 bushels left to harvest to meet this year's total allowable quota. There has been 885 days fished this year with a catch per unit effort of 76.15 bushels per day.

Shell Planting

Mr. Hearon informed the Council that this year the Ship John oyster seed bed had received a direct plant of approximately 100,000 bushels of shell. There were also approximately 46,000 bushels of shell planted down bay. All the shell that was planted in the summer of 2012 in the high recruitment areas experienced low recruitment.

Hope Creek Enhancement Pilot Study

Mr. Hearon discussed the Hope Creek Enhancement Pilot Study. The study was completed with approximately 13,000 bushels of the previously discussed 46,000 bushels of seeded shell being transplanted from down bay to Hope Creek. Seeding on the shell was lower than anticipated, with less than 30 spat per bushel. This low recruitment was attributed to sea grapes and *Sabellaria*. A similar project with ATHOS has not yet been completed. Mr. Hearon is encouraging ATHOS to leave the shell until next year due to the low spat recruitment.

Economic Development Opportunity

Economic Development Zone funding has been made available through FEMA. Mr. Hearon stated that a “sizeable” grant proposal was being put together by Rutgers, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and a few other entities to receive funding to compensate for the freshwater kill of oysters last year. The proposal was in the final stages of completion, but was in need of a blessing from the Council. Mr. Hollinger made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Fleetwood to support a commitment of \$300,000, out of the cultch count, over a 3 year period to be used as matching funds for the project. This commitment would support a direct plant of 200,000 bushels of shell up bay, and to replant 50,000 bushels of shell down bay, per year, for the next 3 years.

2. **New Business:**

Ground Leases

For the Council’s information Arthur Hinson transferred a ground lease to wife Virginia Hinson.

Tongers Bed Update

As requested by Mr. Hollinger, a tongers bed summary was completed. Mr. Hearon informed the Council that just under 1300 spat bags were deployed with an average spat bag recruitment of 111 spat per bag. This allowed for 135,420 individual oysters to be transplanted to the Maurice River Cove Tongers bed. The poor recruitment experienced by the spat bags was attributed to sea grapes and *Sabellaria*. There has not been a direct shell plant on the tongers bed in recent years.

Grant Application Status – J. Myers

Mr. Myers informed the council that the Federal State of Market Improvement Program grant application for \$134,000 was not accepted. Mr. Myers said that there was still hope for the Rural Development grant of \$44,000. Mr. Myers also informed the Council that a joint press release between the NJDA and NJDEP on the Aquaculture Development Zone went well. He added that the Aquaculture Advisory Council meeting, which was scheduled for this month, has been postponed.

Adjourn	@ 6:15 PM		
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on:		TBD December 11, 2012	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory

Please be reminded that all shellfish leases must be renewed (in person) by December 31 each year. Bureau offices will begin accepting lease renewals beginning October 15 of each year.