

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

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 7, 2013		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	6:00 PM		
<b>Venue</b>	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
<b>Attendees</b>	General Public		

<b>Council</b>	<b>State Representatives</b>	<b>Haskin Research Lab</b>
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.		
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

*Compliance with the Sunshine Law*

Notice of this meeting was posted April 11, 2013 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 April totaled \$ 32,301.00 :**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>License Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$ 3,900.00	Oyster Tags	\$ 23,154.00
Net License	\$ 4,123.00	Commercial Shellfish License	\$ 200.00
AC Crab Dredge License	\$ 200.00	Recreational Shellfish License	\$ 100.00
Application Fees	\$ 296.00	Juvenile Shellfish License	\$ 8.00
Dredge Boat Renewal	\$ 320.00		

**Oyster Resource Development Account**

<i>May 6, 2013</i>		
<b>Unexpended</b>	\$554,255.15	Total dollars currently in account
<b>Expended</b>	\$ 41,626.94	Spent from account during FY'13
<b>Pre-encumbered</b>	\$ 0	Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts (cancelled)
<b>Encumbered</b>	\$281,873.06	Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)
<b>Uncommitted</b>	\$272,382.09	Current free-balance (not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.)

**Shellfish Leased Ground Transactions – No Transactions**  
*Applications for New Grounds*

Decision:

Name	Lot #	Section	Acres

**Old Business:**

- Direct Market Harvest Update

Craig Tomlin gave an update of the direct market harvest. Mr. Tomlin said that 9,000 bushels of oysters had been landed. The majority of the catch was harvested from Ship John seedbed. The CPUE was 55 bushels per day, which was slightly below normal for the time of year. Further breakdown of the harvest was available from Mr. Tomlin for those who were interested.

**New Business:**

- Transplant

Jason Hearon updated everyone on the 2013 Transplant. He said Friday, May 3, 2013, was the last day of the 2013 Transplant. Mr. Hearon reported the transplant from the low mortality beds to Shell Rock gave an increase of 13,949 bushels to the total allowable catch (tac). The transplant from medium mortality beds to Benny Sand gave an increase of 9,505 bushels to the tac. This gave a total quota of 1,018 bushels per vessel, and added 502 bushels to each vessel's quota. Furthermore, this brought the total allowable catch 85,497 bushels.

- Direct Market Harvest, 2nd quota

*suggestion: anyone who "plants" use cage tags (since we were short single tags last year. These tags are returned to DBO after planting)*

Mr. Hearon referred to the above note and recommended to use cage tags as opposed to single tags if someone wanted to plant their quota to their grounds. He stated he would be looking into the topic the following day with Marine Law Enforcement to provide further information.

- 2011-2013 ACO 2 year update (6 boats)

Mr. Hearon informed that ACOs expire after 2 years. Letters were sent out informing those that had an ACO approaching expiration to renew for another 2 years.

- Consolidation Revisions

Mr. Hearon stated that there had been requests to revisit consolidation rules. Previously 3 licenses were allowed to 1 boat. The Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring agreed that one way to circumvent the Vibrio plan was to allow refrigeration on boats, as to not have to abide by Vibrio plan timeframes. If refrigeration was done, it would not have been economical to only harvest 3 licenses on one boat. Mr. Hearon had heard many requests and ideas of how to pursue the issue.

Mr. Hearon said the course of action would have been to reconvene the Consolidation Committee, the Committee would have had come up with a proposal, questionnaires to have been sent out for consensus, and to have held a series of public hearings. Mr. Hearon had a copy of the old Consolidation Committee revised in 2004. The members were Scott Bailey, Dina Mason, Barney Hollinger, Jenny King, Howard Mason, Barney McConnell, Bill Riggins, Bobby Robbins, Gary Robbins, Wayne Robinson, and Scott Shepard. The Council made a motion, seconded, and approved to have the Consolidation Committee reconvened. Mr. Hearon said he would send out letters to contact the necessary people and arrange a date.

- The Nature Conservancy's Gandy's Beach Oyster Reef Break Water Project (Moses Katkowski).

Moses Katkowski gave a presentation. The summary included that the Nature Conservancy was trying to find a different method of living shorelines for Delaware Bay, and to see if and where it would have been viable in Delaware Bay. The Nature Conservancy wanted to incorporate community needs through their habitat restoration projects that reduce risk on coastline communities. Mr. Katkowski informed that Delaware had success on lower energy shorelines that had ribbed mussels planted along the shoreline to make the shoreline more erosion resistant. This was in partnership with Delaware Estuary and Rutgers University. Mr. Katkowski reported more success in the Gulf of Mexico where there had been oyster reefs installed in near shore waters. This reduced the wave energy in high energy waters, and reduced shoreline erosion.

The site of Gandy's Beach was selected because there was road access for public viewers, and it was also a prime example of the type of shoreline community that could benefit from such a project. The project would have been 270 meters (about 885 ft.) and a footprint of half an acre. They would have been placed in the water between 1 and 3 feet, and 20-30m (about 65-98 ft.) from mean low water. The goal was to test this method, and see where it can be applied. The project would have benefits of reduced erosion and increased biological habitat. The course of the project was having it designed, implemented, monitored, and then communicated to the community. It could then be applied to other areas if successful.

Mr. Katkowski asked for some type of agreement before having moved forward on the project. The Council wanted more details, and further discussion ensued.

<b>Adjourn</b>	@ <b>PM</b>		
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on: July 9, 2013	<b>TBD</b>	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory	