

NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL



Delaware Bay Section

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	May 6, 2014		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State/Fed Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox, Field Researcher
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Gary Wolf, USFDA	
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Bruce Friedman, Marine Water Monitoring	
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted April 23, 2014 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 March totaled \$8449.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$1150.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$300.00
Nets	\$3116.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$10.00
AC Crab Dredge	\$300.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$886.00
DB Crab Dredge	\$700.00	Dealer License	\$100.00
Application Fees	\$216.00	Lease Fees	\$1150.00
Menhaden	\$414.00	Tonging Tags	\$100.00
Map Sales	\$7.00		

Oyster Resource Development Account: Not Available for Month of May

Lease Ground Transactions

Application For New Grounds

Decision – Edward Gain (approved)

LOT #	SEC	ACRE
13	B	90

For Council's Information

Boat Transfers: Vessel & License from W. Riggan & Son, Inc. to Bivalve Packing Co., Inc.

#33 Kelly's Pride
#12 Miss Kathy
#43 Dale Riggan

1. Old Business

Direct Market Harvest Update:

Mr. Tomlin noted a harvest of about 10,000 bushels of oysters so far this season, and the catch per unit effort was about 76 bushels per day. Most of this season's catch was from the Cohansey bed with 27%, Ship John with 20%, and Nantuxent with 20%. There was still 48,000 bushels available before reaching this year's quota excluding the extra quota that comes from oyster transplants.

2. New Business

FDA Presentation

Mr. Wolf provided 2 handouts. The first was a summary of proposals that deal with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) from the 2013 ISSC Meeting held in January 2014. The second was a copy of the adopted proposal that redefines an outbreak that Calliope Alexander reviewed at the previous Council meeting. This adopted proposal was summarized on the first handout, and was the focus of Mr. Wolf's discussion. The summary states: "This proposal establishes a significant step toward developing a consistent approach among States for responding to Vp illnesses or outbreaks. It uses tiered procedures that ties the harvest State response of VP confirmed illnesses to the established risk in the Growing Area of that particular State based on criteria such as the number of meals served (landings of oysters in that State and average servings per meal). It also takes into account sporadic Vp cases that may have harvest dates that are days, or weeks apart. It does establish mandatory protocols for notification, closure, recalls, and reopening based on a combination of pre-established illness time frames. FDA plans to work with the ISSC membership to achieve the optimal implementation."

2014 Vibrio Season

Mr. Friedman discussed New Jersey's Vp Management Plan. He stated that the FDA and the State want to immediately implement the new plan. He stated last year was a good year for Vp since there were only a few sporadic Vibrio illnesses. Mr. Friedman said the requirements for the vessels remain the same as last year. The only difference would be that vessels with refrigeration must fly an orange flag after the typical time limit of harvest to show they have on board refrigeration.

Mr. Friedman discussed a west coast strain of Vp that acts differently than the ones found on the east coast. The past year there have been problems in other states north and south of New Jersey, but New Jersey did not have any issues. He explained that this strain is naturally occurring on the west coast, but it is unclear how it was introduced to the east coast. Mr. Friedman also stated New Jersey is receiving a grant to identify strains of Vp, and look for virulent strains through different techniques. The testing will help determine when to reopen waters in case of a closure due to Vp. New Jersey can also help other states if needed. Another approach to Vp is going to be effects of salinity on Vp. Mr. Friedman said Great Bay will be studied because it has high salinity beds and low salinity beds. The findings can help the industry harvest in an appropriate salinity where Vp is less prevalent. This year the Vp plan starts June 1, and ends August 31.

Mr. Shuster of the NJ Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring stated that sampling would commence May 12, 2014 for Vp. The plan was to take samples throughout the season to see how Vp progresses. This was in collaboration with Dolphin Island, and includes water column samples, sediment samples, and oyster tissue samples. The samples will be from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

2014 Transplant

Mr. Hearon updated everyone on the oyster transplant. He stated the transplant from Sea Breeze, Middle, and Upper Middle to Shell Rock seedbed was completed. About 16,000 bushels were moved so far, which was the target was for this part of the transplant. He mentioned that May 6 was the start of the upper bay transplant and a closure letter went out in the mail with coordinates on Ship John that will be closed to harvest. Mr. Hearon stated that the transplant target should be met and a quota update will be provided once everything has been moved. He also wanted to note that the cultch counts have been lower this year than they have been in the past.

2012 Administrative Consent Order(ACO) 2 Year Update:

Mr. Hearon said that the ACOs were only valid for two year from signing. He then noted that some ACOs that were close to reaching the end of this term. Mr. Hearon stated that the office had sent out a letter to remind industry members to stop by the office and update the ACOs.

The Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force

Councilman Hollinger stated that with Dave, Kathy, and Jason's help the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force was started up again to find money for shell planting in Delaware Bay. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM in the RVA building in Delaware. Mr. Hearon stated that group has been responsible for obtaining funding for shell planting from 2005-2009. He also cautioned that the task of finding funds involves many meetings and a lot work. Dave Bushek announced that Eric Weissburger from Maryland DNR is coming to the Haskins Fisheries Forum to speak about their programs and how to leveraged funds from the state and federal government June 5, 2014 at 04:00 PM. This is to help the Task Force receive funding in the future.

Next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on: July 1, 2014.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded. The meeting ended at 07:25 PM.