

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

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	August 5, 2014		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ

Council	State/Fed Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Russell Babb, Acting Chief	David Bushek, Director
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		
Attendees	General Public	

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted July 22, 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.

Minutes Update – Packet on backdated minutes will be received by weeks end.

Revenue collected for April totaled \$35,487.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$3,300.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$352.00
Nets	\$4,651.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$210.00
Application Fees	\$330.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$16.00
Menhaden	\$926.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$1,574.00
Tonging Tags	\$200.00	Dealer License	\$300.00
Tags	\$23,528.00	Area 1, 2 & 3	\$100.00

Revenue collected for May totaled \$52,908.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$2,600.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$400.00
Nets	\$3,346.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$210.00
AC Crab Dredge	\$400.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$2.00
DB Crab Dredge	\$100.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$674.00
Application Fees	\$242.00	Survey Fees	\$180.00
Menhaden	\$774.00	Otter Trawl	\$102.00
Tags	\$43,878.00		

Revenue collected for June totaled \$39,464.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$1,100.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$350.00
Nets	\$1,746.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$350.00
Application Fees	\$160.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$10.00
Menhaden	\$154.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$162.00
Tags	\$35,432.00		

Revenue collected for July totaled \$25,649.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$1,000.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$150.00
Nets	\$1,003.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$210.00
Application Fees	\$126.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$6.00
Menhaden	\$206.00	Non-Resident Shellfish	\$40.00
Tags	\$22,830.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$78.00

Oyster Resource Development Account:

<i>August 4, 2014</i>		
Unexpended	\$520,379.63	Budget authority less expenditures (<i>total spendable dollars currently in account</i>)
Expended	\$0.00	Total amount spent against the appropriation (<i>spent from account during FY'15</i>)
Pre-encumbered	\$0.00	Total outstanding requisitions processed against the appropriation (<i>Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts - since cancelled</i>)
Encumbered	\$0.00	Total outstanding purchase orders processed against the appropriation (<i>Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)</i>)
Uncommitted	\$520,379.63	Amount available for pre-encumbrance, encumbrance, or expenditure (<i>Current free-balance that is not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.</i>)

Lease Ground Transactions (Consideration)

Section	Lease Number	Acres	Lessee
ADZ	2B	1.5	John Burke
ADZ	9B	1.5	Point Pleasant Packing
ADZ	6B	1.5	Sea Harvest Inc
ADZ	10B	1.5	F/V Lori Ann

There was a motion to accept ADZ leases 9B, 6B, and 10B, and all were in favor to approve. ADZ lease 2B was not approved since neither John Burke nor a representative attended the meeting; this will be moved to next meeting's agenda.

Lease Ground Transactions (Decision)

Section	Lease Number	Acres	Lessee
B	13	200	Edward Gaine (attended last meeting)

There was a motion to accept Lease B 13, and all were in favor to approve.

For Council's Information

Boat Transfers:

Oyster Dredge Boat Miss Samantha and License #37 was transferred from Don Carter to Steve Fleetwood.

1. Old Business:

Direct Market Harvest Update

Jason Hearon started the update by stating Shell Rock seedbed has been closed for a while, and the high mortality beds were closed the previous week of July 27. Therefore all beds below Shell Rock and all high mortality beds are closed. He added that Sea Breeze was also included in the closures because that was an intermediate transplant bed, and is not available for direct market harvest. The medium mortality beds have an available quota of 22,316 bushels (bu.) left for harvest.

Shellplanting Update

Mr. Hearon moved the meeting along to the Shell Planting update. He establishes that 170,000 bushels of shell were planted this year. Of those 170,000 bu., 20,000 bu. went to the tongers area, 55,000 bu. to Ship John, 55,000 bu. to Shell Rock, and

40,000 bu. to the Nantuxent seedbed. In addition to the planted shell, Mr. Hearon says that an additional 15,000 bu. went towards replants, and brings the total up to 185,000 bu.

Mr. Hearon brought further news to expect a reduction in shell planting next year. His basis is that the shell that has been donated in the past for exchange of land use will not be donated since the donating company no longer needs the land space. This would require the project to buy the shell that is usually donated, which is typically about 50,000 bu. of shell. This money would have to come out of the cultch account, which entices Mr. Hearon to add that this year's project funding was not entirely from the cultch account.

Mr. Hearon continues by saying this is the last year for the Athos project and replants, which will go to Middle. Also, all the beds excluding the very low mortality beds received some type of shell planting. Mr. Hollinger asks if there has been any spat set on the Reeds Beach shell planting site, and further inquires about any mudding issues. Mr. Hearon responds that he hasn't been to the site to check yet, and that there haven't been any mudding problems in the past, but there is usually a *Sabellaria* (polychaete tubeworms problem).

Intermediate Transplant Update

Mr. Hearon gives an approximate quota increase from 555 bu. per boat to over 900 bu. per boat. This significant increase was because of 3 boats that did the intermediate transplant this year. With only 3 boats carrying the intermediate transplant this year, Mr. Hearon stresses that it would be better if the project had a more sufficient fleet and if there were any boat issues this past year the project would not of been completed. He wanted to address this early so the industry can keep this in mind since it weighs heavily in the industry for individual quotas.

2. New Business:

Dermo Report

David Bushek distributed a handout. He started by saying the temperatures have been normal in the bay, but a lot of fresh water has been coming through. The freshwater has depressed dermo prevalence. He has also noticed mortality in Arnolds, Shell Rock, and Cohansey. Mr. Bushek touched on shell planting by saying all the sites are doing well. Also, all the intermediate transplant sites are responding the same way as the rest of the bed in terms of growth and disease levels. In a relevant topic, Mr. Bushek mentioned there have been low levels of MSX found, with some mortalities reported from Cape Shore. Further discussion ensued.

NJ Local Services Planning project for the Bayshore region that has evolved out of the Cumberland County Long-Term Recovery Group put together by FEMA following Hurricane Sandy

FEMA created Long-Term Recovery Group to develop mechanism for economic and resilience recovery for the Bayshore region. Mr. Bushek mentioned he was contacted to inform about their shell planting efforts. He wanted the Council to know that they may be contacted for interviews, since they are part of 1 of 6 focus groups being formed for FEMA's new group. There will also be a workshop in October to aid in the groups formation.

Status of the Oyster Revitalization Task Force efforts

Mr. Bushek informed about the task force's efforts. They are trying to get a new project called Habitat Productivity underway, and are seeking letters of support to get a federal interest determination to prove federal interest. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Bushek also discussed another project, living shoreline project. It is located on the road to Money Island, and is funded. Further discussion ensued.

Status of Rutgers shellfish breeding program

Mr. Bushek asked the Council for a letter explaining if they did or did not include Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory in their support against shellfish gardening. Further discussion of the topic ensued. More time was requested from the Council to make a decision.

Shellfish Aquaculture Working Group Update

Russell Babb took the floor to discuss this topic. There are eleven different groups involved in this working group. This group was made to increase interagency communication, and once that is established to create better communication with the industry. They are dealing with permitting issues, and updating old rules that are governing newer methods in aquaculture. Minutes will be circulating soon. Further discussion ensued.

Leasing Committee

Mr. Babb said this new committee is being formed. The members are still being selected, and letters will be sent out to advise lease holders about the committee and when the meetings will be held. Further discussion ensued.

Adjourn	@ 08:00 PM		
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on: October 6, 2014		<u>OR</u>	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory