MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC COAST SECTION OF THE NJ SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Port Republic, NJ April 18, 2016

Present were:	Chairman:	John Maxwell	(Atlantic County)		
	Vice Chairman:	Walter L. Johnson III	(Ocean County)		
	Councilman:	Walter Hughes	(Monmouth County)		
	Councilman:	Vacant	(Cape May County)		
	Councilman:	Vacant	(Burlington County)		
DEP Representatives:		Brandon Muffley, Marine Fisheries Administration Jeffrey C. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries Jenny Tomko, Bureau of Shellfisheries			

Mr. Normant read the State's compliance with the Sunshine Law and announced that the meeting would be recorded. Notice was filed with the Secretary of State Office and newspapers designated by the Department.

1.	Total Revenue for March 2016:	\$ 1,224.42
	Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund:	\$ 1,038.00

2. Presentation of March 21, 2016 minutes for approval.

The minutes of the March 21, 2016 meeting were tabled until the next Council meeting in order to give the Council an opportunity to review the minutes.

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
Scott Powell	Christopher Scales	2228.1	В	2.50	Dry Bay	24.2
Scott Powell	Christopher Scales	2228.2	В	2.35	Dry Bay	24.2
Robert Williams	Luke Williams	1023	А	2.00	Great Sound	5
Ronald Nicklow	John Daffin	41	В	1.72	GB-Graveling Pt.	1
Ronald Nicklow	John Daffin	83	В	0.47	GB-Graveling Pt.	1
Ronald Nicklow	John Daffin	84	В	3.80	GB-Graveling Pt.	1

3. <u>Applications for Transfer</u>

Without discussion, the lease transfers were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson, which was seconded by Mr. Hughes.

4. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Thomas Glenn	223	А	2.00	Ludlam Bay	1

Mr. Glenn was present at the meeting. Pursuant to leasing regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:25-24.6, the applicant must attend one of two meetings at which the Council reviews their application. A decision on the above application would be rendered at the next meeting.

5. <u>Applications for Decision</u>

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Robert D.Fricke	39	В	2.00	GB-Graveling Pt.	1
Michael Camp	222	А	2.00	Ludlam Bay	1

Mr. Normant stated Messrs. Fricke and Camp were present at the last meeting. The above lease applications were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Normant stated the applicants have 30 days to sign their lease agreements.

6. <u>Old Business:</u>

Sandy Hook Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) Proposal

Mr. Normant discussed that there was no new information regarding the proposal to create a NMS Sanctuary in the Sandy Hook Bay, including the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers. Mr. Muffley commented that the NJDEP Administration was aware of the proposal and the opposition from the commercial and recreational fishing communities.

Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) Meeting

Mr. Avery provided an overview of the AAC meeting that took place on April 8, 2016. Topics that were presented and discussed at the meeting included: Brooke Maslo's presentation on the "*Preliminary results from the first year of research aimed at identifying potential impacts of intertidal oyster aquaculture on foraging red knots*"; representatives from the Bureau of Shellfisheries, US Fish and Wildlife and from the Department of Agriculture were in attendance and answered questions regarding the Programmatic Biological Opinion; Mike De Luca, from Rutgers University discussed the status of the NJDEP Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring's Shellfish Growing Water Classification Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:12) proposal in regards to concerns raised during the comment period.

7. <u>New Business</u>:

New Leases and Lease Areas

Mr. John Daffin expressed interest in establishing a new block of leases in Great Egg Harbor Bay. Mr. Normant stated that any new lease blocks in Great Egg Harbor Bay would need to be discussed before the Leasing Committee. Mr. Normant suggested that Mr. Daffin discuss his proposal with him before presenting it to the Council to make sure there were no conflicts. The Committee would also need to decide whether or not to wait until the leasing regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:25-24 were revised before establishing a new lease area.

Mr. Dale Parsons discussed a friend's interest in applying for a new lease in a creek adjacent to the existing Middle Island Channel leases. Mr. Normant informed Mr. Parsons that the Leasing Policy stated that any new leases in Middle Island Channel need a Leasing Committee recommendation.

Mr. Theo Gerike stated that he had applied for a Big Creek lease in Great Bay (Lot 403.1) and was inquiring when the lease would be up for consideration. Mr. Normant stated that Mr. Gerike needed to stake his lease first and notify the Nacote Creek Shellfish Office when the staking was completed. Mr. Normant stated that a biological investigation was not required for the Big Creek leases, as per the leasing regulations.

Messrs. Matt Hender and Scott Hender expressed interest in applying for new leases in the Little Egg Harbor Bay in the Rose Cove area. Mr. Normant stated that in the Leasing Policy, expansion of leasing in Little Egg Harbor Bay should be developed as a block and that a new lease block needs to be presented to the Leasing Committee for consideration and to accept applications.

Mr. Maxwell stated that these new lease proposals would be discussed the next Leasing Committee meeting.

Executive Session

Mr. Maxwell announced that the Council was going into executive session to discuss the Marine Fisheries Administration budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Hughes.

8. <u>Date, time and place of next meeting:</u>

DATE:May 16, 2016TIME:7 PMLOCATION:Law Enforcement Office
360 New York Rd. Rte. Port Republic, NJ 08241