

NEW JERSEY SHELL FISHERIES COUNCIL - DELAWARE BAY SECTION -

MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2007

NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Shellfisheries
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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Warren Hollinger, Chair, Cumberland Co.
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.
Stephen Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.
Cape May Co. Seat (Vacant)
Salem Co. Seat (Vacant)

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

James W. Joseph, Shellfisheries
Russell Babb, Shellfisheries
Jason Hearon, Shellfisheries
Craig Tomlin, Shellfisheries

HASKIN SHELLFISH LABORATORY

Eric Powell, Director
John Kraeuter, Assoc. Director
David Bushek, Research Professor

An audio recording of this meeting may be screened at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Delaware Bay Office at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory in Bivalve, New Jersey. For further information, please contact the Delaware Bay Office at (856) 785 0730.

Mr. Hollinger called the meeting to order.

Compliance with Sunshine Law: Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, The Press, and Daily Journal on July 25, 2007 pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

Mr. Joseph informed the Council that this meeting would be recorded.

1. Revenue collected for June 2007, \$24,043.00. This revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	1,100.00	Tongers	40.00
Commercial Clam License	650.00	Cultch Fees	19,920.00
Recreational Clam License	240.00	Dredge Boat License	340.00
Juvenile Clam License	10.00	Survey Fees	240.00
Non Res. Clam license	20.00	Nets	1,127.00
Dealer License	100.00	Application Fees	256.00

2. Revenue collected for July 2007, \$45,005.00. This revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	800.00	Tongers	20.00
Commercial Clam License	250.00	Cultch Fees	37,076.00
Recreational Clam License	430.00	Dredge Boat License	4,870 .00
Juvenile Clam License	14.00	Nets	1,123.00
AC Crab Dredge License	100.00	Application Fees	222.00
Del Bay Crab Dredge License	100.00		

- Oyster Resource Development Account balance as of July 31, 2007: \$402,039.28 (uncommitted)

3. Mr. Hollinger made a motion to accept the minutes for the April and May 2007 Council meetings. All voted in favor.
4. Vessel Transactions

For Council's information, Bivalve Packing Company, Inc. transferred the oyster dredge boat *Lindbergh*, license number 10 (16 GRT) to *NJ4702FL* (5 GRT).

5. Old Business

5.1 Direct Market Update

Mr. Babb stated that the current harvest from the Shellrock seed bed was just over 12,000 bushels. The high mortality beds have seen a harvest of approximately 13,000 bushels. Approximately 15,000 bushels have been harvested from the low mortality beds. Then he stated that at the current harvest rates, the Shellrock bed would close in approximately eight weeks, the high mortality beds would close in 14 weeks and the low mortality beds would remain open until the end of the season.

5.2 Intermediate Transplant Update

Mr. Babb stated that in late June just over 15,000 bushels of material had been moved from the Middle seed bed to the Nantuxent seed bed. Mr. Babb went on to say that based on the estimate of 263 market sized oysters per bushel there could be a direct market increase of 7,849 bushels, or 106 additional bushels per eligible vessel. He further added that approximately 2,000 bushels of material had also been moved from Middle to the Maurice River tongers' area.

5.3 Dermo Update

Dr. Bushek stated that the rapid increase in Dermo that was typically associated with the months of July, August, and September had not been observed. He stated that with the high temperatures and the lack of rain that the outlook did not seem good. Dr. Bushek stated that the size of the oysters is larger than average due to the lack of recruitment. He added that as compared to the long-term averages we are at the same rates of Dermo. He stated that the mortality of oysters due to Dermo is relatively low with the exception of the transplant beds, which have had a heavy mortality rate. A lengthy discussion ensued about the taking of the transplanted oysters this year or whether to leave them for 2008. **Mr. Bailey made a motion that the 7,849 bushels from the transplant be made available for harvest in 2007. The allocation should be split amongst the eligible boats and that these bushels be added to the area management plan for the high mortality beds. Councilman Fleetwood seconded the motion. All members were in favor.**

5.4 Upper Bay Re-Survey Update

Dr. Powell said that the survey was going well and that there had been a bed identified above Round Island. He stated that he hoped that they would be able to survey this area before the end of this survey period. Currently, the survey was working on the Arnold's Bed. Dr. Powell stated the survey numbers were not available to date adding that he might have them by September.

6. New Business

6.1 Title 50 Update

Mr. Joseph updated the Council on the status of Title 50. He stated that the DEP had met with the Office of Legislative Services and an aide to Assemblyman Douglas Fisher. He added that the bill had been scheduled to be introduced last month. Mr. Joseph stated that this bill was not introduced and will probably not be introduced until after the November elections.

6.2 New Legislation

Mr. Canzonier stated that there was proposed legislation introduced to create a Coastal and Ocean Protection Council. He warned that this introduced bill (A4332) is very "anti-aquaculture" and that there should be actions taken.

6.3 Water Classification

Mr. Hollinger asked if Bob Connell had a report on the pollution factors at the mouth of the Maurice River. Mr. Joseph stated that he would talk to Mr. Connell and report back to the Council. A discussion ensued regarding ocean scallop boats running aground on the Maurice River tongers' beds. A lengthy discussion ensued.

6.4 Shell Sources

Chairman Hollinger stated that by next spring the Cumberland County Improvement Authority would be initiating a program to pick up "discarded shell" from all the restaurants in the County. Mr. Joseph stated that this had been attempted in a number of other states but have received limited amounts of shell. All of those in attendance agreed that if it cost the industry nothing it would be a good public relations initiative. A lengthy conversation ensued.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was inaudible.

The next meeting of the Delaware Bay Section of the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council will be held on September 4, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. in the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory library.