

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

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 1, 2012		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	6:00 PM		
<b>Venue</b>	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	<b>City</b>	Bivalve, NJ
<b>Attendees</b>	General Public		

<b>Council</b>	<b>State Representatives</b>	<b>Haskin Research Lab</b>
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Russell Babb, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.		John Kraeuter, Assoc. Director
Warren H. Hollinger, Cumberland Co.		Eric Powell, Research Professor
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		Kathy Alcox, Field Researcher
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

*Compliance with the Sunshine Law*

Notice of this meeting was posted on April 16, 2012 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.

<b>Minutes</b>	
January 24, 2012	Pending Approval
March 8, 2012	To Be Mailed to Council

Mr. Hollinger made a motion to approve January 24, 2012's minutes. Mr. Bailey seconded that motion.

**Revenue collected for March totaled \$12,950.00:**

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$3,300.00	Area 1,2,3 License	\$128.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	\$500.00	Oyster Dredge Vessel Licenses	\$442.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$400.00	Net License	\$5,496.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$600.00	Oyster Tonger's Tags	\$200.00
Recreational Shellfish License	\$240.00	Application Fees	\$264.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	\$6.00	Lease Fees	\$1,367.00
Map Sales	\$7.00		

**Revenue collected for April totaled \$37,676.00:**

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$3,600.00	Dealer License	\$200.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	\$300.00	Dredge Boat Renewal License	\$364.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$200.00	Net License	\$3,878.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$550.00	Oyster Tags	\$25,552.00
Recreational Shellfish License	\$80.00	Application Fees	\$296.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	\$6.00	Lease Fees	\$2,540.00
Copy Sales	\$10.00	Survey Fees	\$100.00

**Oyster Resource Development Account as of April 30, 2012:**

May 1, 2012		
<b>Unexpended</b>	\$437,386.24	Total dollars currently in account
<b>Expended</b>	\$43,387.00	Spent from account during FY11
<b>Pre-encumbered</b>	0.00	Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts (cancelled)
<b>Encumbered</b>	\$282,388.60	Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)
<b>Uncommitted</b>	\$154,997.64	Current free-balance (not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.)

## Shellfish Leased Ground Transactions

### *Applications for New Grounds*

Decision:

Name	Lot #	Section	Acres
L. Bishop*	12	ADZ4	1.5
Point Pleasant	9	ADZ4	1.5
F/V Enterprise	10	ADZ4	1.5

\*Satisfied attendance requirement

Mr. Bailey made a motion to accept all three leases. Mr. Hollinger seconded the motion.

Name: James Layton\*

Section	Lot	Acres
A	32	100

\*Satisfied attendance requirement

## Oyster Vessel Transactions

For Council's information, Wayne Robinson transferred the oyster dredge vessel *Devon & Derek* and oyster dredge license #47 to Steve Fleetwood, Bi-Valve Packing.

### 1. Old Business

#### *ADZs Lease Agreements – Request to Extend Deadline (May 7<sup>th</sup>)*

Mr. Babb updated the Council that all leases have now been approved. There are at least four applicants who are still waiting on insurance, with one of the applicants requesting a sixty-day extension, which council had provided as of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were five other lease applications that should have been complete, pending lease ground approval and insurance verification. Mr. Babb clarified that the status "still interested" pertains to applicants that have feelers out to insurance companies but the council would be unable to know if the applicants had heard back from the insurance companies. Applicants whose statuses indicate that they are waiting to hear back from insurance company suggest that they have actual processes in motion with the insurance carrier. Mr. Babb reminded the council of the notice that was sent out after the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, which stated there would be a sixty-day extension, moving the deadline up to May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Malinowski made a motion to extend the deadline thirty days. Mr. Hollinger seconded it.

#### *2012 Vibrio parahaemolyticus Management Plan*

Ms. Alexander from the New Jersey Department of Health announced that she had the VP plan for seasonal handling of the oysters for the season starting June 7<sup>th</sup>. She explained that the protocols that were established three years ago are still in tact and there were only a few changes to the VP plan. One change was to the inner tidal handling and harvest in the month of August. The plan states that harvest has to be in refrigeration by 2 pm throughout the normal VP season, however, from August 1<sup>st</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> the time will be reduced by 30 minutes in order to meet FDA approval. Ms. Alexander congratulated the Council on maintaining good controls for the past three years, and said that if New Jersey remains outbreak free for the next five years then hopefully it will get out of the "VP club". She explained another national change will be that all harvesters will have to own a laser thermometer and shoot the product off landing as well as at receiving. Records of these temperatures are to be kept on the boat. This new policy is meant to help identify the source of possible disease so as to protect the integrity of the growing area by separating out temperature abuse. Ms. Alexander clarified for the Council that as of May 19<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with

the national model, harvesters will have to institute trip tickets to indicate when they started harvesting, or when the animals were first exposed to low tide. Ms. Alexander said she would provide a simple template for temperature records and trip tickets that will be open for modification to ensure practicality. It will be up to the dealers to verify and maintain the harvest records. For application of this rule, harvesting will be defined as oysters going to market. These additional guidelines only have to be followed during the VP season because New Jersey's average monthly temperature is under 80° f. Ms. Alexander also discussed the new national code, stating that harvesters and dealers will not be able to transport shellfish in a container or conveyance, which would be a truck that warms up above the ambient air temperature on the trip to the dealers. If the product is temperature abused, according to the national code, the abuser will have to get a continuous monitoring device on that conveyor. First-receiving dealers who travel more than an hour to an establishment are required to have a refrigerated truck, however, all dealers are encouraged to upgrade their refrigeration when economically possible, even when travel time is less than one hour. Her last talking point was that dealers will have to document that each load of shellfish comes to an internal temperature of fifty degrees within a certain time frame before they are allowed to send their product out. Ms. Alexander encouraged the Council that this is mostly all an adoption of what New Jersey is already doing.

Bob Shooster of the Bureau of Marine Water monitoring addressed the FDA's contribution to the VP plan by creating a risk assessment plan for both sub tidal and inner tidal harvest. It is the compliance with this model that required the state to reduce its hours in the month of August by thirty minutes. The plan was created after analyzing the air and water temperatures from Ship John over a five-year period. The inner tidal harvest model was the most difficult because the model was designed for the west coast, making it too conservative to apply to the east coast. Mr. Shooster said the FDA will make a new model for the eastern seaboard, but for now New Jersey will be modeled off of South Carolina's inner tidal harvest model, which allows a four hour harvest time, beginning from when they're first exposed until refrigeration. Ms. Alexander explained the importance of the order of operation within this time period to ensure a speedy process. She advised that market sized oysters need to be sorted out first then the temperatures need to be taken as soon as oysters are exposed by the fallen tide. She asked for an emphasis on getting the oysters to refrigeration as soon as possible. A lengthy discussion ensues regarding the lapse in time between temperature readings. Ms. Alexander stresses the importance of maintaining a heightened awareness of oyster handling by reminding the council that an outbreak can be as little as two cases occurring at completely separate times in a season.

*Reminder - Financial Disclosure Filing Approaching - May 15<sup>th</sup>*

- *Direct Market Season Update - R. Babb*
- *Intermediate Transplant Program Update / Quota Increase*

No tape was available for this segment.

## **2. New Business**

*Economic Development Opportunity - E. Powell*

Mr. Powell purposed to the Council an opportunity to become part of the economic development plan so as to be able to receive funds for the fishing industry. He pointed out that the current economic development plan for the three southern counties has no mention of fisheries or even agriculture. The fishing industry meets all the criteria that will make it a competitive contender to be added to the economic strategy, and Mr. Powell encouraged the council to take action to ensure that the fishing industry is not ignored. He proposed that an application go out as soon as possible in order to secure a spot before funds run out.

*Gandy' Beach Oyster Restoration & Enhancement / Project PORTS*

Lisa Calvo spoke to the Council about Project Promoting Oyster Restoration Throughout Schools (PORTS) as an outreach program for the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory. She explained that the program takes real life science and restoration work into local schools. In a typical year there will be nine or ten schools involved. Programs involve oyster dissections, hand tongs, oyster tongs, education about oyster history and culture, and the environment and ecology of the area. The culminating piece each year is with the students participating in the restoration of an oyster habitat. In 2007 the Council afforded this project an area, named the Gandy's Beach Oyster Restoration Enhancement Area, which was a parcel of ten acres set aside for yearly oyster restoration programs. In the past five years the program has been working with three acres of this area and has put approximately 26 million spat through 6,500 shell bags placed by students. A total of nineteen schools have been involved, with 7,000 students. Project PORTS is looking to expand the acreage they've been given in order to encourage more funding for their program. Lisa summarized that this program has taken barren land and turned it into a plot filled with oysters with 45 to 81 oysters per square meter. Her request would be for another two acres so that they could plant the center portion of the two acres and lay down 5,000 bushels of shell and then another 1,500 shell bags and spat.

Mr. Babb stated that the State of New Jersey is very supportive of the program; they're just looking to see if the Council is as well. He explained that the ten acres were originally set-aside with additional groups with similar interests in mind, with a goal of avoiding a "shot-gun blast" all over the bay. This area was designated because of its mainly sandy bottom with a sporadic oyster population. Mr. Hollinger made a motion to grant two more acres to the program with the amendment that metrics from the fall sampling are incorporated into the stock assessment. Mr. Malinowski seconded the motion.

***Hope Creek Enhancement Pilot Study - R. Babb***

Mr. Babb explained that the partnership for the Delaware estuary, which was the outreach arm and strong partner in one of the bi-state oyster programs, had some extra funds they wanted to put towards a worthy project. One of the options was to do a pilot project where oysters are caught in the lower bay, similar to the replanting program, and taken to the farthest up bay area that took the hardest hit from hurricane Irene and tropical storm Lee. The funding was approximately \$55,000.00 total, \$30,000.00 of which came from the department of the Delaware estuary directly, and the additional \$25,000.00 came from the nature conservancy. The pilot shell plant project shall be implemented with no further restrictions or conditions. The partnership only asks that there be a five year closure, which given prevailing growth rates has never been an issue. Dr. Powell explained that it is not beneficial to directly plant shell up bay because the growth rate is too uncertain from year to year, and is often a waste of money. The alternative is to put shell down bay in a replant program, with the unknown factor being if the little spat can stand that salinity change from transplant to up bay. This project presents the opportunity to directly evaluate if the survival rate. Mr. Hollinger made a motion to accept the Hope Creek Enhancement Project and Mr. Bailey seconded it.

***Conservation Officer Introduction***

Tom Swift, the new conservation officer introduced himself, explaining he'd be working Cumberland and Cape May County all summer. Adjournment was inaudible.

Adjourn	@	PM	
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on:		June 5	in the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory

***Please note:***

"Shellfish leases must be renewed (in person) by December 31 each year. Bureau offices will begin accepting lease renewals beginning October 15 of each year."