

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
DELAWARE BAY SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory
Bivalve, NJ
Tuesday, May 1, 2018
6:00 PM

Council Attendees: Chairman: Warren Hollinger (Cumberland County)
 Vice Chairman: Steven Fleetwood (Cumberland County)
 Councilman: Richard Malinowski (Salem County)
 Councilman: Vacant (Cumberland County)
 Councilman: Vacant (Cape May/Salem County)

State/Fed Reps. Attendees: Craig Tomlin, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Robert Schuster, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring
 Paul Wesighan, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

Haskin Lab Attendees: David Bushek, Director

General Public

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted January 17, 2018 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 2018 totaled \$37,361.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$1,300.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$250.00
Nets	\$2,469.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$20.00
Application Fees	\$150.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$1,276.00.00
Oyster Tags	\$30,470.00	Dealer License	\$100.00
DB & AC Dredge	\$500.00	Menhaden	\$826.00

Revenue collected for April 2018 totaled \$33,950.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$2,300.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$250.00
Nets	\$3,364.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$70.00
Application Fees	\$228.00	AC & DB Crab Dredge	\$900.00
Oyster Tags	\$25,990.00	Menhaden	\$726.00
Dredge Boat Renewal	\$122.00		

Oyster Resource Development Account (082):

Unexpended	\$758,175.06	Budget authority less expenditures (<i>total spendable dollars currently in account</i>)
------------	--------------	--

Lease Ground Transactions:

Applications for Council's Consideration:

None

Applications for Council's Decision:

Bivalve Packing applied for the following grounds not renewed by previous lessee.

LOT #	SEC.	ACRE	RATE	FEE
312	C	18	\$0.50	\$9.00
319	D	40	\$0.50	\$20.00
81	E	12	\$0.50	\$6.00
224	E	12	\$0.50	\$6.00
284	E	12	\$0.50	\$6.00
285	E	12	\$0.50	\$6.00
TOTAL		106		\$53.00

Councilman Hollinger motioned to approve the lease grounds. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business

1. Direct Market Update

Councilman Hollinger began the discussion of old business with an update on the Direct Market Program. Mr. Tomlin reported that approximately 15,000 bushels had been harvested from the High Mortality beds, which had a starting quota of 20,878 bushels. Furthermore, approximately 1,000 bushels had been harvested from the Shell Rock Bed, which had a starting quota of 31,507.

2. Intermediate Transplant Program Update

Councilman Hollinger moved the meeting onto a discussion of the Intermediate Transplant Program. Mr. Tomlin informed the council that transplant efforts have started and that four boats are participating in the program this year. Mr. Tomlin informed the Council that there were three days left to complete the intermediate transplant program. He then explained to the Council what the ratio of market oysters to small oysters to cultch was on each of the up-bay beds, and the possible closures if certain beds were used. With this information, the Council advised Mr. Tomlin

to do another day of transplant from Sea Breeze to a High Mortality bed, and then to remove oysters from a bed further up bay and plant them on another High Mortality bed for the remaining two days.

3. Tongers Committee Update

Councilman Hollinger moved the meeting onto a discussion of the Tongers Committee. Councilman Hollinger read aloud a letter that had been sent to individuals who have participated in the tongers fishery in the past two years and can currently hold a commercial shellfish license. The letter reads as follows:

The Delaware Bay Section of the New Jersey Shellfisheries Council (Council) plans on reconvening an Oyster Tongers Committee (OTC). The OTC will be charged with making recommendations that may have effects on the oyster tonging fishery. These recommendations will be presented to the Council and the NJ Bureau of shellfisheries. The Council and the NJ Bureau of Shellfisheries will consider these recommendations to enact management activities.

You have received this letter because you have been an active member of the tongers fishery within the last two years and can currently hold a commercial shellfish license.

If you have an interest in attending these meetings as an OTC member, please contact NJ Bureau of Shellfisheries. Please call (856)785-0730 or visit us at 1672 E. Buckshutem Rd. Millville, NJ 08332.

Mr. Tomlin reported that the letter was sent out to nearly thirty people, and that nine individuals expressed an interest in being part of the OTC. He also reported that last year \$2,100.00 worth of tonging tags were sold, and that there was a little more than \$30,000.00 (updated from \$10,000.00 after review of funds) in the tongers fund. The first meeting of the OTC would be scheduled in July, at which time a plan would be made to best use the money in the tongers fund.

New Business

1. Tidelands Resource Council of New Jersey Nominee (*Non-agenda item*)

Councilman Hollinger opened the discussion of new business by informing the other members that John Maxwell of the Atlantic Coast Section of the New Jersey Shellfish Council sent a letter to the Governor's Office recommending that Edward W. Gaine be appointed to the Tideland Resource Council of New Jersey. Councilman Hollinger recommended that the Delaware Bay Section of the New Jersey Shellfish Council also send a letter recommending that Edward W. Gaine be appointed to the Tideland Resource Council of New Jersey.

2. New Marine Fisheries Administration Assistant Director (*Non-agenda item*)

Mr. Tomlin briefed the Council that Joseph Cimino was appointed as the new Marine Fisheries Administration Assistant Director, and of Joseph Cimino's experience with interstate fisheries issues.

3. A Letter to the Council Concerning Wind Farm Energy (*Non-agenda item*)

Mr. Tomlin informed the Council that a letter from the Marine Fisheries Administration had been sent to the Council and their constituents, informing them of the meeting that had been held concerning wind farms.

4. 2018 Vibrio Control Plan Update (*Non-agenda item*)

The Council asked Mr. Schuster for an update concerning the *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Control Plan. Mr. Schuster reported to the Council that there were no time or temperature changes to the plan this year. Furthermore, there was only one addition to the plan that pertains more to aquaculture activities on the Atlantic Coast than the Delaware Bay. The addition to the plan was for aquaculturalist to inform the Department of Health where the landing of harvest would be made.

Mr. Schuster also publicized a new diagnostic technique being used by hospitals for gastrointestinal diseases. The test allows for rapid detection of a wide array of gastrointestinal diseases from one sample but does not give an exact diagnosis. Therefore, Vibrio bacterium may be detected, yet it would not necessarily be Vp. Furthermore, if a hospital were to detect a Vibrio related infection, they may treat the patient without confirming that Vp was present with a culture test. This would make it more difficult to determine if a closure would be needed.

Mr. Schuster further reported that two states, Washington and Massachusetts, were participating in a trial period for shellfish equivalency standards; comparing the standards for meat between European Union (EU) standards and the standards put forth by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program's Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish (NSSP Guide). The NSSP Guide's standards were based on water classifications, whereas the EU's standards were based on the presents of E. coli. He said that at that time, the Food and Drug Administration was taking comments on this possible change of standards.

5. Middle Thorofare Suspension (*Non-agenda item*)

Mr. Schuster told the Council that harvest in Middle Thorofare, Cape May County has been suspended due to water conditions. The area will move to conditionally approved in November.

6. Fishing Community Resilience Workshop (*Non-agenda item*)

Dr. Bushek informed the Council that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' Greater Atlantic Regional Office (GARFO) and Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) will host a workshop at The Grand Hotel in Cape May on June 4, 2018. According to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's website, "The workshop convenes mayors, community leaders, researchers, state and federal agency representatives, and members

of the fishing industry. The workshop will strengthen community resilience and improve our understanding of the challenges facing the fishing industry and communities due to changing environmental, regulatory, and economic conditions.”

7. Dredging Money Island (*Non-agenda item*)

Councilman Hollinger shared that he and Councilman Fleetwood had been discussing the dredging of Money Island inlet with David Vance. Councilman Hollinger further stated that the Department of Transportation (DOT) was willing to look at the project, but the DOT was not willing to apply for the permits to do the work. Therefore, Councilman Hollinger would be reaching out to Stockton University to see if they would be willing to assist in applying for the permits. Councilman Hollinger then asked Mr. Tomlin if money from the cultch account could be used to pay for an engineer. Mr. Tomlin stated he would find out what options were available.

8. Red Knot Update (*Non-agenda Item*)

There were no new policy changes concerning Red Knot Birds to report.

9. Hiring of additional Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA) staff (*Non-agenda Item*)

Councilman Fleetwood asked for an update from Mr. Tomlin on the hiring of additional MFA staff. Mr. Tomlin stated that, currently, there was no money assigned for hiring additional staff in the State’s 2019 fiscal budget.

Councilman Hollinger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The NJ Shellfisheries Council, Delaware Bay Section meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on **August 7, 2018 at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory at 6:00PM.**