

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ATLANTIC COAST SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL MEETING

Virtual Meeting
May 18, 2020

Present were: Chairman: John J. Maxwell (Atlantic County)
 Vice Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)
 Councilman: Vacant (Monmouth County)
 Councilman: Vacant (Cape May County)
 Councilman: Vacant (Burlington County)

DEP Representatives: Joseph Cimino, Marine Fisheries Administration
 Russell Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Jeffrey Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Colleen Brust, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Lloyd Lomelino, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Scott Stueber, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Megan Kelly, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Robert Schuster, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

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 January 2020:		\$ 3,751.00
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund:		\$ 1,990.00
Total Revenue for February 2020:		\$ 1,651.00
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund:		\$ 642.00
Total Revenue for March 2020		\$ 1,088.00
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund		\$ 550.00
Total Revenue for April 2020		\$ 697.50
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund		\$ 550.00

2. Presentation of January 13, 2020 minutes for approval.

The January 13, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

3. Applications for Transfer

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES/FT	LOCATION	MAP #
Katie LoPinto	Jordan LoPinto	803	B	2.00	Rose Cove	7
Johnathan Wade	John Daffin	303	A	2.00	Stites Sound	6
Johnathan Wade	John Daffin	306	A	2.00	Stites Sound	6
Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	306	B	5.82	GB/Cape Horn	10

Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	307	B	3.65	GB/Cape Horn	10
Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	327	B	1.90	GB/Cape Horn	10
Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	328	B	1.11	GB/Cape Horn	10
Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	329	B	3.72	GB/Cape Horn	10
Richard Beckley Jr & Richard Beckley Sr	Brian Kowalski	330	B	3.70	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	341	B	3.85	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	342	B	4.69	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	343	B	7.13	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	363	B	1.84	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	365	B	5.77	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	365.1	B	5.77	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	366	B	1.87	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	367	B	1.85	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	368	B	2.32	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	369	B	2.47	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	370	B	2.63	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	374	B	2.00	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	375	B	3.44	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	376	B	3.84	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	377	B	1.15	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	378	B	3.71	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	379	B	3.14	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	380	B	1.67	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	381	B	3.28	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	386	B	13.26	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	388	B	9.30	GB/Cape Horn	10

John Maxwell	Michael Ahearn	390	B	9.83	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	99	B	18.20	GB/Graveling Pt	1
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	150	B	204.55	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	151	B	293.72	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	152	B	723.90	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	153	B	480.60	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	154	B	225.60	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	178	B	300.00	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	190	B	196.50	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	220	B	566.40	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	246	B	6.62	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	248	B	4.85	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	266	B	445.0	Mullica River	1A
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	2450	B	10.23	Great Bay	24
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	339	B	4.84	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	392	B	7.49	GB/Cape Horn	10
John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	393	B	6.12	GB/Cape Horn	10

Graveling Point- John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	26	B	2.77	GB/Graveling Point	1
Graveling Point- John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	27	B	4.35	GB/Graveling Point	1
Graveling Point- John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	34	B	1.92	GB/Graveling Point	1
Graveling Point- John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	79	B	1.60	GB/Graveling Point	1
Graveling Point- John Maxwell	Great Bay Oyster-Thomas McAnney	98	B	6.62	GB/Graveling Point	1

**Please note that lot 349, Section B, Great Bay, Graveling Point was mistakenly listed as a transfer from John Maxwell to Michael Ahearn. The lease was transferred on September 18, 2017 from John Maxwell to Little Egg Harbor Oyster, LLC, Theodore Gerike.

Applications for transfer from Mr. Katie LoPinto to Jordan LoPinto, Johnathan Wade to John Daffin and Richard Beckely Jr. & Richard Beckely Sr. to Brian Kowalski were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mr. Maxwell. Applications for transfer from John Maxwell to Michael Ahearn, John Maxwell to Great Bay Oyster LLC, Thomas McAnney and Graveling Point Oysters LLC, John Maxwell to Great Bay Oyster LLC, Thomas McAnney were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Maxwell abstained from the motion.

4. Old Business:

Leasing Committee Update

Ms. Kelly gave a brief update on the main topics of discussion from the Leasing Committee meeting on March 4, 2020. Minutes of the meeting were available on the Division's website. A list of issues was developed and prioritized by the Committee to be addressed in 2020.

Mr. Matt Gregg was appointed to the Leasing Committee on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Gregg proposed an expansion on the Waretown leases to meet his needs for a deepwater overwintering lease. Mr. Normant informed him that his proposal would be discussed at the next Leasing Committee Meeting.

5. New Business:

2020 Vibrio Management Plan

Mr. Schuster gave an overview of the 2020 Vibrio Management Plan. There were no substantial changes compared to the 2019 plan. He stated that the minimal number of issues that were encountered last year were most likely due to post harvest handling.

COVID_19 Shellfish Industry Relief Discussion

Ms. Wenczel informed the Council that there were some relief funds and loans available for small businesses due to COVID-19 related hardships. These include paycheck protection programs, Economic Injury Disaster Loan, and tax credits to assist in maintaining payroll.

Mr. Cimino stated additional monies would be available through NOAA via the CARES Act for the seafood industry that would be distributed among all coastal states. New Jersey ranked ninth in total funding available. The funds would be distributed through the regional fisheries management councils based on each state's commercial fisheries related industries. Each state must develop a spending plan. New Jersey's plan would be developed by the Marine Fisheries Administration (MFA).

Mr. Maxwell inquired if the funds would get allocated by sectors. Mr. Cimino stated that the allocation of funds would be developed by the MFA based on the NMFS's formula using the most readily available data. He stated that the spending plan was actively being developed by MFA staff. All funds must be spent by September 2021.

Mr. Gainé asked what data sources would be used to assess aquaculture. Mr. Cimino believed the data would be pulled from NOAA's Fisheries of the United States Annual Report.

Executive Order 13921

Mr. Babb informed Council that a Presidential Executive Order "Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth" was issued to help promote domestic seafood production. Specifically, there were sections requiring improvements and streamlining for commercial aquaculture. He stated he would send the link out to Council for review.

Aquaculture Development Plan

Mr. Gainé stated the Aquaculture Development Plan was now available and it would be beneficial to have the Council review and comment on the plan. Mr. Maxwell requested that a copy be sent to Council for review.

Lease Applications, Transfers, and Business Operations

Mr. Babb stated that the Nacote Creek office would not be processing lease applications, transfers, or biological surveys until staff were able to work out of the field station. Further, Mr. Normant and Cimino stated they have not heard any updates and were without a timeline for when normal business operations will resume at the Nacote Creek office.

Hearing no other new business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

6. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE:	June 15, 2020
TIME:	6:00 PM
LOCATION	TBD