

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

Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2020

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

DEP Representatives: Russell Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Jeffrey Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Colleen Brust, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Jenny Tomko, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Lloyd Lomelino, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Scott Stueber, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Elizabeth Lange, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Conor Davis, Bureau of Shellfisheries
 Robert Schuster, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

Mr. Normant introduced Mr. George Mathis Jr. Mr. Mathis had been appointed and confirmed to the Atlantic Coast Shellfisheries Council by the New Jersey Senate as the Burlington County representative. Mr. Mathis stated he was waiting to receive his Oath of Office to sign. Mr. Maxwell congratulated Mr. Mathis on his appointment to the Council.

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 October 2020 \$ 8,736.50
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund \$ 2,100.00
2. Presentation of October 19, 2020 minutes for approval.

The October 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Felder.

3. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES/FT	LOCATION	MAP #
Thomas C. Lucas	400	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Terrie A. Lucas	401	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Stephen T. O'Connor	402	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Thomas Williams	403	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Joanne Galante-Williams	404	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Robert Williams	405	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Sandra Williams	406	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Luke Williams	407	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3

Gary Williams	408	A	2.00	Jenkins Sound	3
Howard Mason	1048	A	2.02	Great Sound	5

Messrs. T. Lucas, O'Connor, T. Williams, L. Williams, G. Williams and Mason and Meses. T. Lucas, J.G. Williams, and S. Williams were present at the meeting. Mr. Robert Williams was absent. Mr. Normant stated that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25 24.6, lease applicants shall attend at least one of the two meetings at which the Council reviews their applications. If the applicant fails to attend at least one of the meetings, the lease application would be denied, and the area applied for shall revert to public bottom.

4. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES/FT	LOCATION	MAP #
Amber Glenn	2513	B	1.57	Scull Bay	27
Robert G. Lee	2523	B	2.01	Scull Bay	27
Joseph McGee	2525	B	1.96	Scull Bay	27
Nicola D. McGee	2527	B	1.97	Scull Bay	27
Elyssa Glenn	2542	B	1.81	Scull Bay	27

Mr. Lee was present at the November 11, 2020 meeting. Mr. McGee and Meses. A. Glenn, McGee, and E. Glenn were present at the October 19, 2020 meeting. All applicants for decision were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mr. Felder. Mr. Normant informed the applicants they would receive a letter and explained they have 30 days to sign their lease agreements and pay lease fees. Mr. Maxwell asked if the lessees would meet with shellfisheries staff to sign their agreements. Mr. Normant stated that the applicant would have to setup an appointment within the 30-day window with the front office. They could also contact Ms. Kelly or Mr. Lomelino to schedule an appointment.

5. Old Business:

Offshore Wind

Ms. Brust informed the Council that NYSERDA was hosting the State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy. The meeting goals were to assess the state of the knowledge regarding offshore wind development's cumulative effects on populations and ecosystems, and develop a research agenda of key studies that could be conducted in the next 3-5 years to improve our understanding of cumulative biological impacts as the offshore wind industry develops in the eastern United States.

On October 14th, the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance held the Fisheries and Offshore Wind Energy: Synthesis of the Science to help describe the current state of science, existing research and monitoring programs, and data gaps and soliciting input regarding priority research questions.

Atlantic Shores had hired Adam Nowalsky as their recreational fishing coordinator.

Leasing Committee Update

Mr. Normant stated that the next leasing committee meeting would be held after Mr. Mathis was appointed to the Council. Mr. Maxwell suggested a specific date be discussed during the January 2021 Shellfisheries Council Meeting.

Mr. Gaine stated that Mr. Felder was the only council member who wasn't on one of the Leasing Committees and suggested that he sit on the Regulatory Subcommittee. Mr. Maxwell stated they would discuss the matter further at the January Council Meeting.

2021 Lease Renewals reminder

Mr. Maxwell asked about the status of the lease renewals. Mr. Normant informed the Council that renewal packets were coming in consistently from Atlantic Coast lessees. Any lease applications that were approved during the October meeting would have to sign their lease agreements and extensions by appointment. Mr. Johnson stated he was pleased how easy the process was and asked if the Marine Fisheries license would be completed the same way. Mr. Normant stated that Marine Fish license renewals were mailed out after the shellfish packets renewals and should expect to see them in the mail.

SOAR – Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration

Mr. Greenberg provided an update on the SOAR project to the Council. Project staff had reached out to interested growers and was coordinating with DEP to schedule drop-offs and conduct planting during the first week in December. Mr. Maxwell asked what the timeframe of completion for the project. Mr. Greenburg informed him that phase 1 of the project is currently underway with the soliciting, direct purchasing, and planting of product and set for completion by the end of the year. Mr. Gaine asked why the project changed from purchasing 4" oysters by the bushel to 2.5" oysters by the piece. Mr. Greenburg stated the change was due to the volume of product that would be purchased and opined it would be easier to QA/QC the smaller oysters.

CARES Fisheries Relief

Mr. Babb reminded the Council that the CARES Act Fisheries Relief Funding application is set to close on November 18th. He had not heard about an extension on the date.

AAC Aquaculture Development Plan

Mr. Normant stated that the Council had received a draft of the Aquaculture Development Plan (ADP). Mr. Johnson said he didn't receive the Plan but instead the responses to the comments on the Plan. He stated he would not feel comfortable providing comments until he was able to review the plan in its entirety. Ms. Wenczel believed the document he was referring to are the general comments of the plan and she would send him the full document to review. Mr. Johnson questioned if the Council could hold an executive session to discuss the plan. He opined that if the meeting had official minutes, they could hold an executive session. Mr. Normant and Mr. Babb stated that they did not believe that the ADP could not be discussed by Council in executive session as it would be outside the guidelines of holding an executive session but would confirm with DEP legal staff. Mr. Maxwell proposed that Council reassess the topic during the January meeting.

Rutgers Spatial Planning Project

Mr. Maxwell asked for an update on the Spatial Planning Project and stated he was unsure where the stakeholder groups were in the process. Mr. Babb informed him there was an advisory group and technical group that were contributing to the project. The technical group was working on a base layer of data to present to the advisory group for comment, but the projects timeline had been impacted by COVID-19. Mr. Normant added that both stakeholder groups were scheduled to meet later in November.

NJDEP Seafood Map

Ms. Tomko informed the Council of the Seafood Story Map project. The project aims to promote seafood business within NJ to the public through a map document. She asked that if the Council knew any businesses that have not been featured to have them reach out to her.

6. New Business:

2021 Marine Water Monitoring Permits

Mr. Maxwell asked when the 2021 Aquaculture Permits had to be submitted. Mr. Schuster informed him that next year's permits should be submitted before a grower intends to use their lease. It would benefit the applicant to begin working on the permits now and submit them early in case there are issues with the documents. He added that early submission would benefit in processing all shellfish related permits and licenses due to COVID-19 and all permittees should be receiving letters in the next week informing them what is needed to obtain their permits and licenses.

Mr. Gainé suggested the language on bird deterrents within the NSSP was changed to bird mitigation because the action doesn't deter birds from landing on gear but aims to mitigate the potential impacts of roosting on gear.

2021 Council Meeting Schedule

January 11, 2021
February 8, 2021
March 15, 2021
April 19, 2021
May 17, 2021
June 21, 2021
July 19, 2021
August 16, 2021
September 20, 2021
October 18, 2021
November 15, 2021
December 20, 2021

Mr. Normant stated that the 2021 Shellfisheries Council Meeting was posted to the Division's website.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Felder.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: January 11, 2021
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Virtual