

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

Virtual Meeting, Web and Conference Call  
Tuesday January 12, 2021  
2:00 PM

Present Were:

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

State/Fed Reps: Russ Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Craig Tomlin, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Andrew Hassall, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Conor Davis, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Colleen Brust, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Jeff Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Haskin Lab: David Bushek, Director  
Jason Morson, Marine Fisheries Scientist  
Lisa Calvo, Aquaculture Marine Scientist

General Public

*Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act*

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, a notice of this meeting was posted January 6, 2021 with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ

Mr. Tomlin welcomed everyone to the meeting and conducted roll call. He then read the above compliance and reviewed meeting etiquette for the virtual meeting and those calling in by phone. He also reminded everyone that this meeting will be recorded.

1. General

1.1. Approval of Minutes: July 28, 2020 and October 22, 2020

Councilman Hollinger commented that page seven of the July minutes that Jeff Van Drew's title should be changed from Senator to Congressman. Mr. Tomlin noted that would be changed. **Councilman Fleetwood motioned to approve the revised July minutes and the October minutes. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

1.2. Oyster Resource Development Account Total unexpended/uncommitted \$559,029.96

1.3. Delaware Bay Office revenue collected for November \$13,646.74

1.4. Delaware Bay Office revenue collected for December \$41,245.00

1.5. Thank you letter to Carolyn Shaw

Councilman Hollinger reviewed the account information under items 1.2 - 1.4. He then referred to a letter that was sent to Carolyn Shaw. Mr. Tomlin informed the Council that the letter was sent to Ms. Shaw and copied to her supervisor, and he displayed the letter for the Council to read. The letter thanked Ms. Shaw for being instrumental in restoring the funds that were placed in reserve from the Oyster Resource Development Account.

## 2. Old Business

### 2.1. Annual Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Councilman Hollinger opened up the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman. **Councilman Fleetwood motioned to elect Councilman Hollinger as Chairman. Councilman Sheppard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Councilman Hollinger opened up the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. **Councilman Hollinger motioned to elect Councilman Fleetwood as Vice Chairman. Councilmen Malinowski and Sheppard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### 2.2. Direct Market Update

Mr. Hassall stated that the total reported 2020 harvest was approximately 96,490 bushels of oysters of the 97,103 bushel quota. The season was open from April 6<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> and had an overall catch per unit effort of 125.8 bushels per boat per day. He explained that based on the 2020 call in reports, approximately nine percent of the 2020 harvest was planted onto shellfish leases instead of being sold directly to market due to the impacts the pandemic had on the worldwide seafood market. The plantings were highest in April at 43% and decreased through July. Councilman Hollinger asked if 79 of the 80 licenses participated, to which Mr. Hassall and Mr. Tomlin replied that all 80 licenses participated to some extent during the 2020 season.

Mr. Tomlin informed the Council at their request of the general effect the pandemic had on the oyster dredge fishery. He reported that he had estimated between 1.1 and 1.5 million dollars ex-vessel was lost due to the pandemic. He said he had the details broken down, and some of the loss was due to the 9% of the harvest being planted onto leased grounds that were not sold directly to market. He added that the majority of the potential loss was due to not conducting the Intermediate Transplant Program (ITP). The loss from the ITP included the contracted vessels that were not able to be paid to conduct the project, and additional bushels that would have potentially been added to the total quota from an increased exploitation rate as well as additional bushels moved during the transplant.

Councilman Hollinger asked if this information would apply towards the CARES Act. Mr. Tomlin said this information was a projection of what the industry as a whole could have potentially made and was more of a tool to refer back to in the future. Since this information was a projection, Mr. Tomlin said it was not appropriate to use for the CARES Act which reviews what individuals made in 2020 compared to the past. *Further discussion ensued.*

Mr. Babb reported that round two of the fisheries disaster assistance to states was in House Resolution 133, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. The Act included an additional \$300 million in new funding for the CARES Act for assistance for fisheries participants. The bill also included additional money for the states but also included the Great Lakes fisheries and earmarked \$30 million for the tribal fishery participants. He noted that the language was repeated from the first round of the CARES Act for applicants to report a minimum of 35% revenue loss in 2020 compared to previous years. All states were petitioning NOAA to get more leeway in how they could administer the state programs. Mr. Babb explained that any additional funds from round one of the CARES Act were put aside to deal with any challenges or anyone that was denied and was still under the appeal process. Once all applications from round one were completed, the additional money was to be rolled over into the round two funds.

Councilman Hollinger asked if the Bureau saw any way to use this data to benefit each individual since each individual license had a loss by not conducting the ITP. Mr. Babb said he did not see the data being used as a collective. He said it would still be based on the individual person,

their tax ID number, social security number, and their records as individual applicants and that the potential loss from not conducting the ITP would be reflected in comparing 2020 against previous years since the ITP was conducted in the past. Mr. Babb said that the fishery would be looking at opportunity loss and that he would look into the issue further. *Further discussion ensued.*

### 2.3. Tonging Industry Update

Mr. Tomlin reported that the oyster tonging industry was also impacted from the coronavirus and had their markets shut down even though it was a small industry. He said that the industry did not start back up until the end of December 2020 when people started buying tags again. He reported there were three people actively tonging and did not know if they were able to sell their harvest.

### 2.4. Red Knot Stakeholder Committee Update

Councilman Hollinger reported a Committee meeting held January 6 which discussed a change to Conservation Measure (CM) 13. This CM did not allow installation of new gear during the red knot season of April 15 – June 7. The CM restricted growers to stockpile their racks on the flats because they were not able to bring any new gear out during that time and they had to ensure they had enough racks to split their oysters into additional bags as they grew. The Committee rewrote the CM to allow new gear installation occurs only during normal daily ingress and egress without any additional trips for the sole purpose of gear installation. He noted that growers would still be able to maintain existing gear or repair damaged gear. Councilman Hollinger said the Committee had close to a two-hour meeting and all came to consensus. The CM revision was to be written up by the Committee and brought to the Agency Working Group (AWG) to review for a vote. Councilman Hollinger noted that Wendy Walsh with the USFWS asked how the proposed change would affect the number of vehicle passes in and out of the growing area. Councilman Hollinger said there was no set number of passes and it seemed the growers could go in and out as much as they wanted. The growers explained how they worked on their leases and that they would not make special trips just for transporting new gear and obtained a consensus.

Ned Gaine asked if the AWG would meet before the CMs went into effect. Mr. Babb said as long as the Committee could turn the documents around to him as soon as possible then it would improve their chances. He said the AWG could be pretty nimble and meet quickly on these changes, which seemed pretty straight forward. *Further discussion ensued.*

### 2.5. Aquaculture Development Plan (ADP)

Mr. Tomlin said he received comments for the ADP from Councilman Hollinger and Mr. Gaine, as well as a letter from the Atlantic Coast Section (ACS) of the Council which he passed on to the Delaware Bay Section (DBS) of the Council. **Councilman Fleetwood said he liked the letter from the ACS and made a motion that the DBS send a letter to either support or copy the letter from the ACS. Councilman Sheppard seconded the motion. After the following discussion, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

Councilman Hollinger said he talked to ACS Councilman Maxwell before the Marine Fisheries Council meeting, and brought up the ADP during the meeting. The ACS said they would not have an issue with the DBS using their letter. Councilman Fleetwood said he reviewed the ADP in the past and provided comments, but felt his comments were not incorporated. Councilman Hollinger said he was on the committee that helped inform the writing of the ADP and with every revision, he did not see the changes that he requested be made. He noted that he thought some of the topics were disparaging to the Council, and that the Council should send a letter with the

Council and industry's recommendations and should potentially meet with the Committee to achieve changes.

Mr. Gaine agreed with what the Council was saying, and noted that every time the industry received a version of the ADP that it seemed to be improving based off the provided comments. He said it was definitely helpful when people made comments, including the Council, and was glad the Council decided to make comments because it was moving the ADP forward and the issues the industry saw were not being completely ignored.

Councilman Hollinger said there was to be an Aquaculture Advisory Council meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. He was not sure if a complete rewrite of the ADP was needed but that something needed to change. He stated that Recommendation [33] on the ADP said there was a comprehensive spatial plan for shellfish aquaculture. He said he did not think any part of the Council was involved with the committee that developed the plan. Mr. Babb informed the Council that Rutgers was awarded funding from Sea Grant and the Bureau worked with them about 18 months or longer ago to partner with them because it was something the Bureau was considering as well. There were two committees including a technical committee which involved the data management and GIS development on how the system would work, and the project advisory group which he believed industry members to be involved. Councilman Hollinger said there was nobody from the DBS on the Committee, and Mr. Normant said Councilman Maxwell was on the Committee. Mr. Babb added that there was Delaware Bay representation on the Committee, if not from the Council. Mr. Babb clarified that the plan was not to change leasing, but a tool for the Council and Bureau to inform leasing. Mr. Babb said he would talk to his counterparts at Rutgers to involve the DBS in the project. Mr. Gaine said that Councilman Hollinger brought up a point about Recommendation [33] which was that the ADP was not talking about recommending a plan for the future, but for 2018 and was already in existence and funded. Councilman Hollinger noted that he remembered the project being discussed but did not have an invitation to be involved.

Lisa Calvo said that it was not considered a spatial planning project. She explained it was a project to develop a mapping tool to visualize the extent of aquaculture, where critical habitats were, where other biological conditions are, etc. and was not a spatial planning project. She said it was simply a mapping tool used to assist with siting a shellfish lease. Mr. Babb said it would layer all the different uses of NJ's public trust waters into a map, which could result in an area that showed red for ten different layers like a high conflict area for boating, navigation, fishing, or threatened and endangered species. He explained that all these conflicts could be present, but it did not stop the Council or Leasing Committee from pursuing a lease in an area with conflicts. The tool was just showing potential issues that may have to be contended with during the siting or permitting process, and would simply assist the current black box process that had been done for decades going back and forth with the Council and why certain areas should be avoided for leasing.

Mr. Babb asked the Council if they would like him to talk to the co-leads on the project to add a Council representative to the group. Mr. Babb said that maybe a formal update at the next Council meeting so everyone knows where things stand because some progress had been made and there was a lot of work still to be done. Councilman Hollinger said that he would like to have the update at the next meeting and see if someone from the Council can be part of that group.

## 2.6. Nantuxent Channel Dredging Project Update

Mr. Hassall reported that there were a few conference calls and site meetings held in November and December to finalize the channel design and dredging plans. Since then, Stockton University finalized the engineering plans and survey maps that were awaiting approval signatures. Stockton was expected to finalize the permit application documents once the signatures were obtained. The permit applications were expected to be submitted in January possibly late that week or early the following week. While the permit applications are being reviewed, an archaeological survey for a wreck that was within the creek was required to dredge. This survey was needed

because the proposed dredging of the shoal inside the creek fell within the buffer zone of the wreck. Councilman Hollinger asked if this would occur before or during dredging. Mr. Hassall responded that this was an extra survey added onto the existing project before dredging can occur. The details were not finalized on who would conduct the survey or how it would be paid for since it was an expensive survey. If all went as planned, the dredging may occur in the fall of 2021 via hydraulic dredging by NJDOT, with possible mechanical dredging of the shoal within the Creek. The dredge spoils were planned to be used for a potential beach nourishment project on Nantuxent Beach in coordination with NJDOT and the Blue Acres Program. Councilman Hollinger asked if the archaeological survey would be discussed at the meeting Mr. Hassall was planning for later that week. Mr. Hassall said that would be one of the main topics discussed, along with updates to project plans and the status of the permit applications so everyone was up to date. Councilman Sheppard asked what was known about the wreck, to which Mr. Hassall responded that only the location was known and it was not studied for further details such as size or type of vessel. *Further discussion ensued.*

## 2.7. SOAR Update

The SOAR project planted just over 200,000 oysters in Delaware Bay. There were eight growers that participated from the Delaware Bay, and 16 that participated from the Atlantic Coast. The project planted a total of about 612,000 oysters across two sites that were in waters classified as Restricted. The Bureau was also informed that The Nature Conservancy planned to plant oysters in the spring on the Earle Naval Base. Councilman Malinowski asked if that was in northern NJ in restricted waters. Mr. Tomlin said that it was, and that they were being planted in the Base because they would be protected against poaching.

## 2.8. Leasing Committee Meeting

Mr. Tomlin said the Bureau would like to hold a meeting since everything was pushed back from the pandemic. He felt the committee could move forward with the available platforms to hold a meeting virtually. The Committee would discuss many topics including plans to expand operations in the Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) and suggested a meeting in February 2021. Councilman Hollinger said to send a poll out for the members' availability and to schedule the meeting. Mr. Tomlin said he would do so.

Towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Gaine made asked if there was any concern with having a new Councilman by affecting the makeup of the Committee or meeting requirements of having a quorum at those meetings. He noted there were issues on the Atlantic Coast with their Committee makeup and having a new Council member. Mr. Tomlin said since there were only two Councilmen on the Committee then a quorum was not met, and it would be easier to hold the Committee meetings.

## 2.9. Meeting for Leaseholders Utilizing Dennis Creek WMA

Mr. Tomlin informed that the Bureau would like to hold a meeting with all the leaseholders and aquaculturists that utilize the Dennis Creek WMA and Conswell Road. The meeting was to cover housekeeping and good neighborly procedures. He would send an availability poll to schedule this virtual meeting for some time in February and noted that it was not just for those with and ADZ lease but anyone who may utilize the WMA to access their lease. Mr. Gaine asked when Mr. Tomlin said everyone that used Conswell Road and the WMA, if he was referring only to the shellfishermen because there were a lot of public using the area, especially birders. Mr. Tomlin confirmed that he only meant the shellfishermen that held any shellfish lease that utilized the WMA for accessing their leases. *Further discussion ensued.*

### 3. New Business

#### 3.1. 2021 Leasing of Vacant Bottom Policy

Mr. Tomlin reported that since 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau had not leased new bottom or conducted lease transfers. The Bureau came up with a way to conduct this business which involved the applicant to contact the Department staff to set up a meeting to discuss the area they would like to lease. Once a map is produced and approved by the potential lessee, an application would be prepared that the applicant can visit the office to sign outside of the office building. Since nobody would be allowed in the office, staff would set something up outside. The applicant must then attend one of the following two Council meetings, and once approved must return to the Bureau office in order to pay lease fees and sign a lease agreement. The process is different than before because everything would be done via appointment and virtually as much as possible. All lease transfers must be initiated by the current lease holder, and the lease holder must contact the office and set up an appointment with staff to visit the office and transfer the lease. At the time of the appointment, both the transferrer and transferee must be present. Councilman Hollinger asked if people had their COVID-19 vaccinations, would that allow people to go into the office. Mr. Tomlin said that was not the case because the public was not able to enter state offices due to a Department wide policy to avoid the spread of coronavirus. Mr. Normant agreed with Mr. Tomlin and said that it was not up to the individual offices to allow public entry, and that it was a DEP wide policy. The Bureau was doing a work around to try to keep business as normal as possible and allow new leases and transfers. He said the only real changes were conducting more business virtually and the final transaction outside the office without close contact. *Further discussion ensued.*

Mr. Babb asked when people could start making appointments, to which Mr. Tomlin replied that following day. Mr. Normant asked if Mr. Tomlin had emails to share with the meeting to contact the appropriate staff for leasing. Mr. Tomlin said he did and shared the contact information.

#### 3.2. 2021 Lease Renewals

Mr. Tomlin said that the Bureau had an extraordinary year on lease renewals where everyone had to send things in via mail. He said it worked out really well with only a few issues, and only had one person not renew for Delaware Bay, which was Harry Barraclough III. Mr. Tomlin explained that the Bureau was asking for time on this lease extension because his father passed in 2019 after which there was a non-renewal that was approved for a 2020 extension. The Bureau had sent the information to him via mail in 2020 to renew for 2021 and did not receive anything in return. The Bureau tried contacting him over the phone, but none of his numbers were working, and the Bureau did not know if he ever received his renewal packet. The Bureau feels that it may be the Bureau's fault the address was not correct and asked for more time to resolve the issue. Mr. Tomlin said that other than this issue, everyone that wanted to renew their leases did so for 2021. Mr. Tomlin said the Council would need to make a motion to allow more time to resolve the issue with Mr. Barraclough at their discretion, as well as to approve the 2021 lease extensions. **Councilman Sheppard made a motion to give a time extension to the Bureau to contact Harry Barraclough III to renew his lease. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the lease extensions for 2021. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Mr. Tomlin displayed the emails for people to contact the Bureau regarding shellfish leases. Mr. Gaine asked if the industry was more compliant with renewals being conducted through the

mail. Mr. Tomlin said yes, and Mr. Normant clarified that there was a lot of follow up done by the Bureau to prevent any non-renewals at the fault of the Bureau. Mr. Gaine asked if this process took a lot more time and involvement from the Bureau and that this process would not be preferred to continue. Mr. Tomlin said that it would not be preferred, and that there were a lot of issues with the renewal application such as not being completed correctly with information, dates, signatures, incorrect amounts paid, etc. Mr. Normant said that since leaseholders were leasing from the public trust that it was their responsibility to come into the office to renew their lease. He said the Bureau would rather conduct the business in person because it showed commitment from the leaseholder, but that the mailing process for 2021 was the right route to go to reduce interactions between the staff and the public. Councilman Sheppard commended the Bureau for how they handled the lease and license renewals during the pandemic.

### 3.3. Offshore Wind (OSW) Update

Since it had been some time, Colleen Brust introduced herself to the Council and those in attendance as a research scientist with the Bureau of Shellfisheries. Ms. Brust reported that at the previous week's Marine Fisheries Council meeting, Councilman Jeff Kaelin made a motion to establish a new subcommittee for OSW Energy Policy Development. That subcommittee would include Council members who would then identify advisors to the Committee, and the intent was to stay more in touch with developments in OSW.

Ms. Brust informed that NJ had an Environmental Resources Working Group (ERWG) to advise the DEP on policy and to act as ambassadors to distribute information to the rest of the commercial fishing industry. The next meeting of the ERWG was scheduled for 4:00 PM on January 13, 2021. She noted some agenda items which included a brief update on the 2020 solicitation for new OSW projects for NJ, and part of that solicitation was a requirement for a \$10,000 per Mega Watt to fund regional wildlife and fisheries studies. The DEP was looking to establish a subcommittee within the Working Group to advise how that money was to be spent. There would also be discussion of the geographic location designation for NJ, which was something the NJ surf clam industry had been requesting. The meeting would also discuss updates on individual OSW projects and NJ PACT: Protecting Against Climate Threats. NJ PACT was a consideration of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) rules so they work with the DEP's plans for protecting against climate threats. The fishery stakeholder involvement that was planned before Christmas had been cut short and would be rescheduled. Changes were anticipated for the CZM rules towards the end of the first quarter of 2021. Future working group meetings were scheduled approximately quarterly around March, June, and October with possible additional meetings for subcommittees as needed.

Ms. Brust also reported that NJ Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) brought together a group of fishery scientists and drafted monitoring guidance for OSW projects. It was an anticipated document for regulators, stakeholders, and developers could be on the same page for the expectations for monitoring fisheries. Ms. Brust reported that there was a meeting with Ocean Wind regarding their fisheries monitoring and new project manager is a fishery scientist named Greg DeCelles. She said the Bureau and Ocean Wind were on the same page for what the expectations were for fisheries monitoring. On January 28, 2021, the Rutgers University Center for Ocean Observing Leadership (RU COOL) was going to have a follow up meeting to the 2019 OSW and Mid-Atlantic Cold Pool meeting. The meeting was also specific to OSW, but they were also going to address how to identify ecological metrics and sampling strategies. Those efforts are intended to complement the monitoring guidance ROSA was working on but were planned to be more specific on how to conduct monitoring and which metrics should be used. Councilman Hollinger asked if the Department would be sending anything out pertaining to the following night's ERWG meeting. Ms. Brust said the agenda had been sent so she would make sure the information was sent out to those who did not receive it.

### 3.4. 23<sup>rd</sup> Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) 2021

Councilman Hollinger said that it did not appear that the Council selected anyone to hold a seat on the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC). The Council reviewed who had been on the SARC in recent years to decide who should hold the Council and industry seat on the SARC for 2021. Councilman Sheppard asked if the meeting was February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, which Councilman Hollinger confirmed. Dr. Bushek said his staff would need to know who would be on the SARC with enough time before the meeting so they can receive the documents for the meeting ahead of time. Mr. Tomlin suggested that the Council seat remain the same with Councilman Fleetwood for the next two SAWs, and to see if anyone else from the industry outside of the Council had interest in holding a seat on the SARC. Councilmen Hollinger and Sheppard said they would ask industry members if anyone was interested in being on the SARC. Councilman Sheppard said he would know in a few weeks if he would be able to be on the SARC in the event that they could not find industry representation outside of the Council. Councilman Fleetwood agreed that would work for him.

Mr. Gaine asked if the SAW was a public meeting because he was able to attend in the past when it was an in-person meeting. He also commented that if the SAW was public then the industry should be encouraged to listen in since there was a learning curve so they could gain interest and potentially want to be on the SARC in the future. Councilman Hollinger said that would be up to Rutgers, who was hosting the meeting, on how many people would be able to participate. Dr. Bushek said the participation would be different since it was going to be a virtual meeting. He said there would only be a limited number of people viewed on screen, and only the SARC would have the ability to mute and unmute themselves. He said the public could participate in the chat feature that was to be monitored to address any questions or comments. Dr. Bushek informed that the meeting would be held on Zoom. Mr. Gaine asked if the SAW information would be posted online. Dr. Bushek said that the information would be posted on their website, and that people that have asked to participate or regularly attend the SAW would be automatically invited. Councilman Fleetwood suggested that if anyone knew of anyone that was interested in being on the SARC to inform them that the virtual SAW would be an opportune time to start their involvement.

### 3.5. Consolidation Committee

Councilman Fleetwood asked if the Council was going to schedule another Committee meeting to get back on track. Mr. Tomlin said the Committee was holding off for the Bureau to work on the regulations. He said the Bureau would be working on the regulations and a meeting could be scheduled for February. Councilman Hollinger asked if the Bureau could send out the minutes from the previous meeting, to which Mr. Tomlin said they would.

### 3.6. General Announcements and Discussion

#### 3.6.1. COVID-19 Vaccinations

Councilman Hollinger informed everyone that NJ had a website to pre-register the vaccine. He noted that those in the food and agriculture industry were listed to be eligible for the vaccine in the next group to be vaccinated. He said that aquaculture and commercial fishing may be included in this sector that would allow people to be vaccinated.

#### 3.6.2. Crab Pot and Crab Dredge Licenses

Councilman Hollinger reported that at the Marine Fisheries Council meeting it was discussed that the crab pot and crab dredge licenses may become transferrable in 2021. He



said the regulations were drafted and reviewed by attorneys and was submitted as part of a new bill for the menhaden fishery that was submitted which was to be in the NJ Register during March. The bill then had to go through a comment period, and that before the end of the year the crab pot and crab dredge licenses should be transferrable. Mr. Babb noted that it was typically a 60-day comment period, after which there was about another 30 to 60-day period for the State to create a response document. Councilman Malinowski noted that it could then take 120 days, and Councilman Hollinger said it could be expected to be completed in July 2021.

### 3.6.3. Dredging Maurice River Channel

Councilman Sheppard stated that the Maurice River navigation channel was expected to be dredged at some point in the future to keep it navigable for large ships. He asked if there was any consideration to transplant any oyster resource residing within the dredging area. Councilman Hollinger replied that oysters were transplanted before dredging occurred last time the channel was dredged so the project would most likely do so again. Mr. Tomlin said that the Bureau had not seen any official notices that the dredging would happen, but that it was most likely going to occur. He said that was a project that would not be stopped due to oysters and that the Bureau would suggest that the oysters and shell be moved to an area that could be utilized or kept in the resource.

### 3.6.4. Seafood Source Webinar

Mr. Babb announced there would be a webinar hosted on January 27, 2021 by Seafood Source, which was an industry advocacy group. The webinar was to cover what the Biden presidency meant for the seafood industry. Mr. Babb posted the website link in the chat feature: <https://www.seafoodsource.com/webinars/what-a-biden-presidency-means-for-the-seafood-industry>.

### 3.6.5. Paycheck Protection Program

Mr. Babb informed everyone that the US Small Business Administration announced the second draw for the PPP loans for businesses. Announcement about the new round of paycheck protection for businesses. Mr. Babb posted the website link in the chat feature: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program/second-draw-ppp-loans>.

## 4. Meeting Schedule and Adjournment

Through discussion, the Council set the next Delaware Bay Section meeting. **Councilman Malinowski made a motion to make the next meeting at 2PM on March 2, 2021. Councilman Sheppard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.** Then next meeting will be held:

Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
2:00 PM  
Held virtually via GoToMeeting

**Councilman Malinowski motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Fleetwood seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

The Council adjourned at 3:32 PM.