

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Community Room, 4 Fairgrounds Road**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi, Dave Fronzuto, Ginger Andrews, Peter Brace, Dan Pronk, Tom Szydlowski

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier, Tim Mooney

CALL TO ORDER

5:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 7-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Nov. 2, 2021

Unanimously approved, 7-0

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that there were about 10 to 12 boats going out for scallops, some coming back with double limits and people working in Second Bend. She reported that she and her staff are going to be monitoring the large cache of bay scallop seed recently discovered in Madaket Harbor and working on a plan to manage it. Ms. Riley reported that the Request for Proposals for revising the harbor plan for Nantucket's harbors is due to be put out in December.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff are doing a lot of maintenance on the hatchery and getting going on algae production for the 2022 season.

Ms. Riley, commenting on an eelgrass report that Mr. Fronzuto sent her, said that she is communicating with the hatchery on Martha's Vineyard and the Nantucket Land Council on strategies for eelgrass production and planting in 2022.

Mr. Fronzuto volunteered to be the HSAB representative on the committee to be formed to revise the harbors plan.

Ms. Andrews asked how coconut fiber would be used to help grow the beach grass. Ms. Riley said the hatchery on Martha's Vineyard is just experimenting with coconut fiber a planting medium right now.

Mr. Mooney asked if soil samples of healthy eelgrass beds have been compared with failing eelgrass beds. Ms. Riley suggested that Dr. Sarah Oktay might have this information.

Mr. Lowell asked whether Ms. Riley might be moving some of the seed stash from Madaket to other harbor locations. Ms. Riley said there 20-25 scallop seed per square meter, an amount that doubles as you get closer to Smith's Point from the main boating channel off of Eel Point. She said she worried about the scallops running out of food and possibly being silted over with sediment in this area.

Mr. Brace asked if the currents between Nantucket and Tuckernuck might wash these scallops out of Madaket Harbor. He also asked if the long and thick eelgrass growing in Madaket would transplant well in Nantucket Harbor. Ms. Riley said it

would. Ms. Riley said she wasn't worried that the seed might be in danger of washing out to ocean or Nantucket Sound.

Mr. Fronzuto recalled 120 scallop boats were scalloping in Madaket Harbor in the 1975 season.

Mr. Mooney recalled that 10-12 years ago, Madaket was similarly blanketed with seed, but the resulting adults had very small meats apparently because there were too many scallops and not enough algae to feed on.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Excessive sand in scallops/Dredging plan – Possible guest speaker

Ms. Andrews reported that one of the presenters at the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative's conference on Nov. 5, was interested in this type of dredging project. Mr. Brace suggested watching the video of conference to learn this person's name.

Mr. Lowell said he invited Mr. Mooney to this meeting to have him report to the board on what he's seen on the bottom of Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Lowell also spoke with Phil Osley, who felt that curtailing the use of lawn fertilizer would help Nantucket Harbor a lot. Mr. Lowell also spoke with JC Johnson, the Town's shellfish warden, who said the Town outfall pipe system shouldn't flow directly into the harbor but be connected to the Town's sewer collection system.

Ms. Andrews said reminded the HSAB of the I/I work (infiltration/inflow) on the Town sewer system in which smoke was pumped into the system to find all the broken and leaking pipes. She also reported that the Nantucket Islands Land Bank is currently working on a plan to re-establish the flow of water from its Lily Pond property down into the harbor and have the

vegetation on this property act as a filter of the water flowing into the harbor.

Mr. Mooney reported that there's a lot of green crabs and conchs that eat scallops. He added that he's seen large area of scallops smothered by shifting sediments or dead eelgrass in the harbor. He reported that in the deeper parts of the harbor, there's knee-deep mud. Mr. Mooney reported seeing some seed scallops on the harbor bottom, but not in any large quantity. He suggested closures of certain parts of the harbor to protect struggling eelgrass beds from too much scallop dredging.

Mr. Pronk clarified the location of the large seed area in Madaket Harbor and said he didn't think closing the area was necessary because there weren't enough adults there to make it worth dredging through the area.

Mr. Brace asked if it would be prudent to move this seed now. Mr Pronk didn't seem to think it would help. Ms. Riley said thinning out this large area of seed would help to give them some breathing and growing room, but she agreed that moving the seed during the colder weather is not a good idea.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

Ms. Riley confirmed that shellfish hatchery technician Joe Minella, acting as a private citizen, is sponsoring an article for Town Meeting 2022 ban the use of fertilizer.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley reported that the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) opened Nantucket Harbor from the Horse Shed to Hulbert Avenue for the taking of all shellfish. She added that the DMF plans to close this area on May 1, 2022. Ms. Riley said she is working on a proposal with all the pertinent information needed to show the DMF that Nantucket keeps its harbor clean. Mr. Fronzuto

said a strong case needs to be made that Nantucket does keep its pollution in check.

Mr. Brace recommended that Ms. Riley needed to remind the DMF that Nantucket is was declared a federal no-discharge zone in 1993 and that the Town is meeting or registering below the state's mandated total maximum daily load (TMDL) for Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Fronzuto agreed. Mr. Brace also reminded the meeting that with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers, Nantucket rebuilt its jetties, thereby increasing tidal flow in and out of the harbor by three quarters of a knot. Mr. Fronzuto strongly agreed. Mr. Pronk noted that dredging of the main channel connected to that project also contributed to increased strength of tidal flow.

Water quality testing update and boat holding tank dye tablet distribution

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

Mr. Brace reported that the final draft Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) has been released and that CRAC will be presenting the CRP to the Select Board at its Dec. 1 meeting.

HSAB-sponsored Town Meeting article – Discussion

Mr. Lowell explained his ideas behind writing a Town Meeting article or a recommendation to the Select Board on improving the Town's stormwater collection and filtering system. He sought comments from the rest of the HSAB.

Mr. Szydlowski agreed with Mr. Lowell's idea but stressed that the board needed to delineated an area in distance from the harbor. Mr. Lowell suggested that more individual properties should contain and filter out their own discharge.

Mr. Fronzuto said there are 52 outfall pipes discharging into the harbor. He recommended that he would send a request to Natural

Resources Department director Jeff Carlson to get him to give the HSAB a presentation on the outfall pipe system so the HSAB can work on this issue. He added the outfall pipes are very well mapped.

Mr. Bossi asked if the HSAB could get this map.

Mr. Fronzuto asked for an update on the dumpster sticker from Mr. Lowell. Mr. Lowell said it seems that the Nantucket Shellfish Association has put this project on hold.

Mr. Lowell suggested mapping out where all the runoff is coming from.

Ms. Andrews said the watersheds from which much of this runoff comes from is enormous and covers a lot of downtown.

Mr. Mooney said his son who works at the Surfside Wastewater Treatment Plant has a good sense of the stormwater system and might be able to help the HSAB with this issue.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 7-0, at 6:27 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fHIzYUIIpQ&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Dec. 7 and Dec. 21

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

