

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Meeting trailer at 131 Pleasant St.
Nantucket, MA 02554 &
Via Zoom
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi, Peter Brace, Dave Fronzuto, Ginger Andrews, Scott Anderson

Members Absent: Stephen Payor

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

5:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 6-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Oct. 4, 2022

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 the Natural Resources Department (NRD) recently hired an administrator for the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Riley reported that last week, she got commercial scalloper Bruce Beebe to take her out onto Nantucket Harbor to do some test dredges to gauge scallop populations between Fulling Mill Road and Abrams Point. Ms. Riley said that ratio of seed to adult scallops was higher, however, she found the seed too small for much of it to be caught by the dredges. She added that she'll be talking with commercial scallopers as they come in from fishing on opening day, Nov. 1, to learn from them how much seed they saw in their dredges in this area. Ms. Riley also dredged up some seed from Hussey Shoal, which was seed moved from the huge seed cache in Madaket in the spring. Ms. Riley noted that this seed was an additional 10 millimeters larger than the seed in Madaket.

Ms. Riley reported that the recreational scallop fishery monitoring volunteers reported that around 25 people are still scalloping in Madaket and that it was taking recreational scallopers 60-90 minutes to get their bushels.

Ms. Riley reported that there are 11 restaurants still participating in the NRD's Shuck It for Nantucket oyster shell recycling program. She said that Assistant Town Biologist Leah Cabral had placed oyster spat bags in Shimmo Creek, Fourth Bend and Quaise. Ms. Riley said that Ms. Cabral donated 2,000 oysters to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's (NCF) oyster reef project in Polpis Harbor west.

Ms. Riley reported that the sand mats placed in Sesachacha Pond placed in this pond to kill widgeon grass were recently removed.

Ms. Riley reported that she is currently monitoring for harmful algal blooms in Sesachacha and Tom Nevers ponds. She added that the NRD would open Sesachacha Pond to the ocean on Oct. 5 and open Hummock Pond on Oct. 6. She further added that she and her staff will be monitoring pond levels daily and taking water quality samples a week after opening each pond.

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley for pond level data post-opening for this year and for 2021.

Ms. Riley said she would get this information to Mr. Lowell.

Ms. Andrews asked for the size of the seed in the large cache in Madaket Harbor. Ms. Riley replied that the seed was 45 millimeters in March. The seed moved from this area to Hussey Shoal was around 65 millimeters, Ms. Riley said.

Mr. Anderson asked why scallop shells seem to be brittle. Ms. Riley agreed and said this could be a sign of the sediment in the harbor transitioning to more silty from the historically hard sandy bottom.

Mr. Lowell asked what the makeup of scallops is in Madaket; if there were nubs, seed and adults, and were all three easily discernible. Ms. Riley said there were enough readily identifiable adult scallops in Madaket Harbor that commercial scallopers shouldn't have to be taking seed by accident. In Nantucket Harbor, Ms. Riley said there seemed to be more nub scallops and that there aren't as many classic adult scallops, so there could be problems with scallopers taking seed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Green crabs – Scott Anderson's ideas

Mr. Anderson said he didn't have anything new to report.

Mr. Bossi said he too was looking into the green crabs issue.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts

No discussion.

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

No discussion.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley said that staff from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) returned to Nantucket last week to re-sample water in front of the hatchery. She added that she hopes to be on the boat when the DMF samples in the harbor again to ensure that samples are taken from the correct sites in Nantucket Harbor.

NEW BUSINESS

Nantucket Shellfish Association update

Mr. Lowell reported that the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA)'s Scallopers Ball grossed \$138,210, had expenses of \$39,914 and gleaned a profit of \$98,295, a record for the NSA's main fundraiser. Mr. Lowell added that the NSA funded the proactive scallop seed management program that moved 1,000 bushels of scallop seed from the large cache in Madaket Harbor to safer locations in both harbors.

Mr. Lowell reported that the proposed sticker to go on dumpsters warning against dumping of toxic waste into dumpsters sticker is going to be funded and produced by the NSA.

Harbors Action Plan update committee HSAB appointment

The HSAB voted unanimously, 6-0, to appoint Dave Fronzuto as its representative on the Nantucket Harbors Action Plan Update Committee.

Mr. Brace asked Ms. Riley if the meetings would be hybrid. Ms. Riley replied that the meetings would most likely be hybrid meetings.

Mr. Fronzuto said that the harbor plan is a regulatory and guideline documents that by those virtues triggers deep reviews of permits issued for harbor-related issues.

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

Mr. Brace reported that Vincent Murphy, coastal coordinator for the NRD, would be meeting with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to learn how to craft successful grant applications in the future given that CZM did not award the Town grant money to fund a feasibility study on the downtown storm barrier recommendation.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No public questions and comments.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 6-0, at 5:56 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2P_OAN0X97o&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrIKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1

Future Meetings:

Nov. 1 and Nov. 15

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary