

# Minutes for HSAB 7-16-2024 Meeting

## Harbor Shellfish Advisory Board

**Call to Order:** Andy Lowell called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM on July 16, 2024.

**Attendees:** Board members: Andy Lowell, Dave Fronzuto, Bob DeCosta and Scott Anderson. Others in attendance: Tara Riley, Simon Edwards and Adam Dread.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve was made by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. DeCosta. The Agenda was approved unanimously, 4 in favor, none opposed and no one abstaining.

**Approval of Minutes:** No minutes to approve at this meeting.

**Marine Department Report:** No report.

**Natural Resources Report:** Tara Riley from Natural Resources provided an update. The hatchery is on a pause to do general maintenance. Spawning is on a halt. There have been no releases in the Harbor. NRD has set 3

spat lines. There is lots of seed in the eel grass. NRD in conjunction with GHYC just had a kid's program for the past two weeks working on coastal issues. NRD is doing public tours of the hatchery on Tuesdays and has capacity for up to 20 individuals. NRD has also been doing water quality testing in the harbor. Water temperature was up to 78 degrees. Bob DeCosta noted that 3 miles off the island the water temperature is 58 to 64 degrees. Per Tata Riley, the 78 degree temperature does not hinder scallop growth but the issue relates to an increase in bacteria. Mr. DeCosta asked if there have been any dive surveys. Ms. Riley noted a full dive survey was done in the end of May. There will be another full dive survey near the end of September. The scallop seed look good. A lot of 3 year old scallop have been seen. The seed that was moved is also doing well.

## **Old Business:**

**Continued review of shellfish regulations:** Ms. Riley is still working on updates. Ms. Riley will be meeting with Jeff Carlson to work on a time line for the needed changes prior to the open of this year's scallop season. Mr. DeCosta asked how many commercial scalloping licenses have been sold? Ms. Riley did not have that figure. There have been a few individual no longer

scalloping. In order to encourage more younger fisherman, there was discussion on reducing the 40 days number of being an apprentice. Mr. DeCosta felt the 40 day figure was too high. The fishery has changed and the number of fisherman has decreased. J.C. wants notice each time an apprentice is out with a licensed fisherman. There was a detailed discussion on what might be a more appropriate number of days for an apprentice. The figure ranged from 20 to 30 days. 25 days seem like a figure the HSAB members were leaning toward. There was a discussion on there is a difference, for an apprentice of being a culler, versus setting up the dredge rigging. Mr. Fronzuto thought the time could be 20 days is the licensed scallop fisherman, signed off on the apprentice. Ms. Riley will provide the HSAB members with an updated version of the regulations.

**Revised HSAB letter to Nantucket Land Bank on commercial use of Petrel Landing:** Mr. Bossi was not present at the meeting. Mr. Anderson said he did see a signed version of the letter in an attachment, but was not sure if it was actually sent to the Land Bank. Mr. Lowell and Mr. DeCosta feel it is important the Land Bank understands the HSAB support for commercial use. Mr. Fronzuto feels the HSAB letter will help steer the Land Bank and the discussion is never lost.

**Aquaculture lease:** Mr. Lowell kept this on the agenda just in case Sean Fitzgibbon needed more time to move his equipment. Ms. Riley said this appears to be moving in a positive direction. Sean Fitzgibbon is looking for other shallow water sites. Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Riley if there was a map or description on all the oyster farm leases and who was assigned to them. Mr. Carlson has a map with the coordinates.

Health of the Harbors:

Pollutants and microplastics: Mr. Anderson started to discussion with the Vineyard Winds blade failure. Mr. Anderson is still researching plastic and microplastics. The wind mill blade is fiberglass and is a plastic. Mr. Lowell raised concerns over the shards of fiberglass. Mr. DeCosta is going to the Select Board meeting tomorrow and will raise his concerns. Mr. DeCosta fishes in the area and has seen debris from 6 inches to a couple of feet. The foam material is greenish in color and the fiberglass is a greenish / gray and hard to see in the water. Mr. DeCosta described the blade that looked it exploded. There was a discussion on Mr. DeCosta going to speak to the Select Board. Bob said he would speak as an individual fisherman and boater. After more discussion Mr. Anderson made a motion to have Mr. DeCosta speak

on behalf of HSAB that we has questions related to the time it took to notify Vineyard Wind to notify Nantucket of the problem blade. Mr. DeCosta seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of having Mr. DeCosta let the Select Board know, that HSAB is following the situation.

#### New Business:

Blue crab trapping: Adam Dread spoke on looking for the HSAB' support on Blue Crab trapping. Mr. Dread noted that is 2021 the Massachusetts fishery on setting aside the moratorium on Blue crabbing related to the Diamondback Terrapin. The Terrapin is a fresh water turtle. Mr. Dread is looking to request a special exception to the trapping moratorium. Mr. Dread has also talked with the Nantucket Shell Fish Association, for their support. Mr. Dread is looking for Blue crab trapping in Nantucket and Martha Vineyard. Mr. Dread said the is a device that can be put on the trap that would not allow a terrapin to get trapped. Mr. Lowell requested that Mr. Dread provide the HSAB with a list to people he has spoken with any other supporting materials. This material should be sent to Mr. Brace. Mr. Fronzuto suggested we scrub up on Blue Crabb regulations and have a future discussion.

**Public questions and comments: None**

**Recap and items for next meeting:** Reminder of our next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. DeCosta and second by Mr. Anderson. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.