

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Dave Bossi, Peter Brace, Scott Anderson. Jim Sjolund, Bobby DeCosta

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: John Gardner

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Bossi seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Jan. 7, 2025

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the Jan. 7, 2025 minutes. Mr. Bossi made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

Draft minutes of July 16, 2024

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the July 16, 2024 minutes. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sjolund seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 4-0, with Mr. Bossi and Mr. DeCosta abstaining, to approve the minutes

Draft minutes of Oct. 1, 2024

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the Oct. 1, 2024 minutes. Mr. Bossi made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the minutes.

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 she and her staff are working on an eelgrass management plan to be funded 100 percent by the Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC).

Ms. Riley reported that she's received daily catch reports from 12-15 commercial bay scallopers for November and December. Based on this data, she estimated that around 5,000 bushels were harvested during this time period "on the high end" and 3,600 on the low end". She said she's working on a way for fishermen to do daily catch reports to her and the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) simultaneously.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her hatchery staff have started up the hatchery's propagation efforts for the 2025 including ribbed mussels for coastal resilience projects in addition to oysters.

Ms. Riley asked if scallopers are seeing the black spots in the meat of the scallops. Mr. DeCosta said he's been seeing very few of this new parasite seen in bay scallops mostly down in Peconic Bay on the northeast end of Long Island. Mr. Lowell said he saw a few in scallops he pushraked for in the fall. Mr. Logan reported seeing these spots in the meats of the scallops he's harvested in

November, December and January. Mr. Logan and Mr. DeCosta said they would continue to document the spots as they see them and collect the affected scallops for the rest of the season for Ms. Riley. Mr. DeCosta asked if Ms. Riley tracked water temperatures during the winter. The HSAB discussed observed weather conditions during the current season and their impacts on the commercial bay scalloping including fishing days missed and green crabs.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Advisory to Select Board on Vineyard Wind and wind turbines in general – Discussion

Mr. Bossi requested a space between each paragraph. Mr. Brace said he would make this change. Mr. Bossi added that this format presents better and is easier to read. The HSAB engaged in further discussion on reformatting the letter and the implications of Town Administration telling the HSAB how to write its letter and what content can be in them. The HSAB decided to put CC destinations at the bottom of this letter. Mr. DeCosta made a motion that the HSAB put the CC's at the bottom of this letter, put spaces between all paragraphs and send the revised letter back to Town Administration for its final approval. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 to approve the motion. Ms. Riley joined the meeting at approximately 5:22 p.m.

Submerged boat wreckage/hazard off Monomoy – Discussion

No report.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments to Town shellfish regulations – Continued review and discussion

Ms. Riley walked the HSAB through the latest revisions to the Town's shellfish regulations. She highlighted the language changes and additions in the regulations as she moved through the draft. She asked that she be allowed to move through the draft pointing out all of the revisions while noting HSAB members' issues and concerns with specific changes. She added that the group would then go back and review each issue one at a time. The members of the HSAB noted many sections in the regulations that warranted follow up discussions. In going through the revisions, the HSAB members helped Ms. Riley make various wording and word changes.

Ms. Riley expressed her thoughts on the dredge regulations. She explained that until the modified dredges that scallopers are using now can be studied, no changes will go into the regulations. The HSAB discussed the qualities of the dredges being used by scallopers.

Ms. Riley and the HSAB agreed to discuss her hot topics at the Feb. 4, 2025 HSAB meeting.

Shellfish warden notifications to commercial bay scallopers regarding red flag days and other vital communications - Discussion

Mr. Lowell said the shellfish warden needs to be in attendance when this issue is discussed.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Lowell requested that the HSAB add season extension to the Feb. 4 meeting. Mr. DeCosta requested adding a discussion of

increasing the bushel limit to seven boxes to the Feb. 4 agenda. Mr. DeCosta requested that an app be created for scallopers to enter their daily catch reports, check air temperature for the harbor and recreational scalloping catch reports

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeCosta seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 6-0 at 6:48 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTOP562Lzdk&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Feb. 4 and Feb. 18

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary