

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, April 1, 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,

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Bobby DeCosta

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lowell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the agenda. The HSAB approved the agenda, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of March 4, 2025. The HSAB approved the minutes 5-0

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A moment of silence for Diane Coombs

Mr. Lowell asked for moment of silence for Diane Coombs who had recently passed.

Elected or appointed board – Update

Mr. Lowell reported that the Town Council Study Committee agreed with the HSAB's unanimous recommendation to keep the

HSAB an elected board when and if the Town transitions to a town council form of government.

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 on March 19, she and her staff participated in the Harbor Health Collaborative with the Maria Mitchell Association (MMA), a program on how the MMA and the Natural Resources Department (NRD) would be working together on water quality issues in 2025.

Ms. Riley reported that representatives from the state's Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) were on Nantucket gathering data to aid in their decision to grant an extension to the 2024/2025 commercial and recreational scallop season.

Ms. Riley reported that on March 24, there was a three-day eelgrass management plan conference at the Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC).

Ms. Riley reported that the hatchery's spawning activities are on schedule starting with ribbed mussels. She added that she's hired her three seasonal employees and found them housing.

Ms. Riley reported that the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) is holding its inaugural end-of-the-scallop season event, Scallopalooza, at Cisco Brewers on April 12, 12-3 p.m.

Mr. Anderson asked where in the harbor Mr. Sjolund took the DMF staff members. Mr. Sjolund said he dredged scallops with them on board in Third and Fourth bends. Ms. Riley reported that the DMF staff examined some of the scallops at the hatchery that were caught that day. They also took around a half of a bushel back to their offices in New Bedford, MA.

Mr. Lowell asked for an update on the “Dalmatian” scallops. Ms. Riley reported that she seeing less of them from scallopers. Mr. Brace asked how many scallop boats went out on this first day of the season extension. Mr. Sjolund estimated seven in town and possibly two in Madaket Harbor. At this point, Mr. Lowell went back to the start of the agenda to ensure that the actions the HSAB took during the first four to five minutes of the meeting were recorded since he confirmed that those attending the meeting via Zoom hadn’t heard or seen that part of the meeting. He reiterated that the meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m., that the agenda and the minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Lowell also noted the moment of silence held for Diane Coombs and that the Town Council Study Committee agreed with the HSAB’s unanimous recommendation to keep the HSAB an elected board when and if the Town transitions to a town council form of government.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Amendments to Town shellfish regulations – Continued review and discussion

Ms. Riley said she and NRD director Jeff Carlson are committed to wrapping up this process at the April 15, 2025 meeting.

Creation of an app for Nantucket weather reports and for reporting daily shellfish catch totals, commercial and recreational, to state and local biologists – Discussion

Ms. Riley didn't have an update for the HSAB on this item.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Extension of recreational scallop season to April 11, 2025 – Discussion

Mr. Anderson said there needs to be a way to get the word out the recreational scallopers if harbor temperatures go above 50 degrees, the point at which eelgrass plants start flowering and growing.

Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee update

Mr. Brace updated the HSAB on the activities of the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC). He reported that the CRAC is engaged in a public education campaign to boost the awareness on the CRAC and Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP).

Mr. Brace two coastal resilience project being worked on by the Town at Francis Street Beach and along Easy Street.

Mr. Brace reported that the CRAC is working on getting all downtown waterfront property owners to report to the CRAC on their coastal resilience plans for their properties.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Sjolund said he wanted an item on a future meeting on verifying that scallops should be exempt from shellfish bed closures because only the adductor muscle of the scallop is eaten.

Mr. Lowell said Sean Fitzgibbon would like to give an update to the HSAB on his progress in getting a new piece of harbor bottom to grow oysters on.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:56 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgvWqV5ES2E&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

April 15 and May 6

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary