

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Ellen Mayo, Dave Fronzuto, Peter Brace, Scott Anderson, Jim Sjolund, Bobby DeCosta

Members Absent:

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Kona Hosier

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. Brace seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of May 20, 2025

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fronzuto seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0 to approve the minutes with Ms. Mayo abstaining.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Election of officers

Mr. Lowell welcomed Ms. Mayo to the HSAB. The HSAB voted 7-0 to appoint Mr. Lowell as chairman, Mr. Anderson as vice chairman and Mr. Brace as secretary.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report. Mr. Fronzuto reported that Ms. Lucey's proposed dinghy dock regulations is currently being held up by her superiors.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that she and her hatchery staff did their spring harbor bottom dive survey May 13-16, adding that she is now compiling the data including the large number of scallops still in the water.

Ms. Riley reported that she is continuing her public outreach efforts, lately with fourth graders and then today, all of the Maria Mitchell staff and their 2025 interns visited the hatchery.

Ms. Riley reported that her 2025 hatchery interns arrived last week.

Ms. Riley reported that she and her staff moved her first oyster spawn of singles and those setting on shells out into the harbor system. She reported that she had a scallop spawn recently with another coming up on June 12.

Ms. Riley reported that she's been working on the eelgrass management plan and will have a draft out for review on June 6. She added that she's creating a website specifically for viewing this draft plan and for taking comments on it for the next two weeks. She said can send out the draft plan to whomever requests it. A public input forum will follow and Ms. Riley anticipates getting this plan finalized on July 1.

Mr. Fronzuto asked that Ms. Riley send all of the HSAB members a copy and asked who the contractor is. She replied the Urban Harbors Institute. He also asked if Emily Molden, executive director of the Nantucket Land & Water Council (NLWC) was

involved. Ms. Riley confirmed that she was along with all of her hatchery staff.

Mr. Lowell asked about the debris removal off of Monomoy and if that work negatively disturbed the harbor bottom by stirring up silt. Ms. Riley said the disturbance was very likely short and minimal as compared to ferry boat and recreational boat traffic in the harbor

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendments to Town shellfish regulations: Harbor conch fishing clarification on harbors – Continued review and discussion

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley if the Natural Resources Department (NRD) had resolved the issue Nantucket Harbor being open to conch fishing in odd numbered years. Ms. Riley said she edited the shellfish regulations to reflect this requested change. She added that this change will happen immediately so conch fisherman Dan Pronk can fish Nantucket Harbor this summer.

Mr. DeCosta joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Ms. Riley reported that the earliest a public hearing at a Select Board meeting could be held for all of the proposed amendments to the Town's shellfish regulations is sometime in July.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

HSAB response to public concerns about enforcement of fertilizer regulations – Discussion

In response to questions he fielded at a recent Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) about fertilizer use enforcement, Mr. Lowell said enforcement is challenging. The HSAB discussed the

possibility of generating short-term enforcement solutions. Ms. Riley indicated that NRD director Jeff Carlson really needed to be part of this conversation. Mr. Anderson proposed controlling all toxic chemicals and work harder on public education. Mr. Fronzuto agreed. He added that efforts to that effect were made in the updating of the harbors action plan. Mr. Sjolund said he recently proposed a “best practices boat cleaning kit” to the NSA.

NEW BUSINESS

Navigational buoy removal discussion in preparation for HSAB letter to U.S. Coast Guard – Discussion and comments

Mr. Lowell proposed to have the HSAB send a letter to the USCG in opposition to this proposal. Mr. Fronzuto agreed. Mr. Fronzuto said the USCG feels boaters can rely on GPS despite being required by the Coast Guard to have paper navigational charts on board with the navigational buoys slated for removal marked on these charts. Mr. Sjolund noted several of the key buoys that the USCG wants to remove. Mr. Anderson said this a budgetary issue to cut spending by the USCG. Mr. Fronzuto said he would send Ms. Lucey’s letter to the USCG to the USCG. Mr. Lowell said the letter should be written soon so it can be sent out by the deadline for comments on June 13. The HSAB discussed how vital the buoys are to vessel navigation. Mr. Lowell shared the buoys he knew of that were proposed to be removed. The HSAB directed Mr. Brace to write the letter and send it. Mr. Fronzuto said he would send Ms. Lucey’s letter and a direct email address to send the letter to the USCG to Mr. Brace.

Mr. Anderson wrote up a suggested letter that Mr. Brace could work from and said he would give it to Mr. Brace to help him create this letter. Mr. Anderson made a motion to have Mr. Brace write the letter to the USCG based on his draft. Mr. Sjolund seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 7-0 to approve Mr. Brace writing and sending the letter.

Madaket ditch dredging to enhance and improve herring runs – Discussion

Mr. Fronzuto said he sent the intent of this to the Urban Harbors Institute for inclusion in the update of the Nantucket and Madaket Harbors Action Plan. Mr. Fronzuto reported that the final vote on the draft update plan will happen on July 16 with a public input session on July 17.

Mr. Sjolund asked when the last survey was done of the herring run in Madaket Ditch with a focus on depths. Mr. Fronzuto said 1985. Ms. Riley said she had a report from the 1800s on the Madaket Ditch that she could send to Mr. Sjolund. The HSAB discussed how clogged the ditch is with sand and other debris. Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley if the NRD could open Long Pond to the ocean in the near future. Ms. Riley said it would be up to the NRD and the Linda Loring Nature Foundation. Mr. Fronzuto said the Army Corps of Engineers permit does allow the opening of this pond, but it would be very challenging because of the shape of the entire pond and how a very wide opening would need to be dug at the ocean end of the pond. Mr. DeCosta said one of two areas are really filled with sand includes the Hither Creek side of the culvert under North Cambridge Street and the north side of the culvert under Madaket Road at First Bridge. Mr. DeCosta said the Town should work with Linda Loring and the Fishers Landing Association on creating a public boat launch area at First Bridge.

Recreational shellfish permit button – Preference in preserving the original design – Discussion

The HSAB rehashed this issue for a bit. Mr. Fronzuto said the HSAB should keep working on getting this issue resolved.

Conflict of interest and ethics issues for HSAB members – Discussion

Mr. Anderson commented on and explained the related documents he sent out to the HSAB prior to the meeting. He recommended that Town Counsel attend a future meeting to explain the legality

of these issues to the HSAB. Mr. Lowell agreed to work on getting Town Counsel to attend a future HSAB meeting. The rest of the HSAB agreed this is the right approach.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No public questions or comments.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Mr. Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sjolund seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOFFgz6TCVg&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

June 17 and July 1

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary