

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, May 6, 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, Dave Fronzuto

Members Absent: Bobby DeCosta

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley, Jeff Carlson, JC Johnsen

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. Bossi seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of April 15, 2025

Mr. Brace did not have the minutes done in time for the meeting.

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 hatchery staff did their first oyster spawn of the season on April 24. She added that they're going to be doing oyster singles this year and spat on shell.

Ms. Riley reported she and her hatchery staff would be starting their spring bay scallop harbors surveys on May 12. She added that the spring survey creates a good baseline for the fall surveys because of how water quality changes in the harbors as they fill up with boats and other season pollution variables intensify.

Ms. Riley reported that the following week, the fourth grade at the intermediate school will tour the hatchery as part of their STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum. Following this tour, Ms. Riley said seasonal interns arrive and then the hatchery starts its bay scallop spawns.

Ms. Riley reported that she already has a first draft of the eelgrass management plan ready for review.

Ms. Riley reported that this week, Congressman Moakley was unable to secure state shellfish funding this year, a total of \$50,000. She added that she is working with other town biologists in the Cape & Islands to try to get this request inserted into the next senate budget bill. She asked that the HSAB write a letter in support of her effort to secure this annual grant. Mr. Anderson made a motion to Have Mr. Brace write such a letter on behalf of the HSAB. Mr. Bossi seconded that motion. The HSAB voted 5-0 to have Mr. Brace write this letter.

Ms. Riley reported that the NRD held a meeting recently with all the oyster growers at which several of the aquaculture leases with the Town were renewed.

Mr. Lowell asked what the temperature of the water in the harbor was. Ms. Riley said it was 55 degrees.

Mr. Lowell reported that Martha's Vineyard extended its commercial bay scallop season through the end of April.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendments to Town shellfish regulations – Continued review and discussion

Ms. Riley said that Town counsel is currently reviewing the proposed revisions of the Town's shellfish regulations.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

NEW BUSINESS

Taking of bay scallops in shellfish-closure areas – Discussion

Ms. Riley said she heard that if you're going to fish in this area, you're not allowed to fish in another part of the harbor that day. She asked if there were a lot of scallopers keeping a lot of the clams they catch as bycatch. Mr. Sjolund indicated that there were not. Mr. Fronzuto said he hadn't heard of commercial scallopers taking bycatch in this area. The HSAB agreed that bycatch from this area can't be kept because of the clams potentially being impaired with pollution.

Mr. Lowell asked how Ms. Riley could form this discussion into an amendment to the shellfish regulations. Ms. Riley said she would work on this.

Introduction to discussion on bay scallop marketing – Discussion

Mr. Lowell reported that he had asked bay scallop buyer Ken Brasfield to attend a future HSAB meeting to update it on how the bay scallop market is working right now. The HSAB agreed that Mr. Brasfield's bay scallop market knowledge would definitely

enlighten the board. Mr. Lowell said he would try to get Mr. Brasfield to attend the May 20, 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

No comments or questions.

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Sjolund asked that there be an update on the proposed dinghy regulations at the Town Pier and that harbormaster Sheila Lucey attend that meeting. Mr. Fronzuto said he would send Ms. Lucey most up to date proposed dinghy regulations.

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 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL0H33GgqAY&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

May 20 and June 3

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary

