

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ATLANTIC COAST SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement
Port Republic, NJ
October 20, 2014

ROLL CALL: Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)
Vice Chairman: John Maxwell (Atlantic County)
Councilman: Walter Hughes (Monmouth County)
Councilman: *Vacant* (Burlington County)
Councilman: *Vacant* (Cape May County)

DEP Representatives: Russell Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Jenny Tomko, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Mr. Babb read the State's compliance with the Sunshine Law and announced that the meeting would be recorded. Notice was filed with the Secretary of State Office and newspapers designated by the Department.

1. Total Revenue for July 2014: \$2,722.05
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$992.00

Total Revenue for August 2014: \$663.00
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$150.00

Total Revenue for September 2014: \$881.65
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$350.00
2. Presentation of July 21, 2014 minutes for approval

The minutes of the July 21, 2014 meeting were presented for consideration and approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes, which was seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

3. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Douglas E. Price	1029	A	2.08	Great Sound	5D
Michael E. Bryant	1099	A	2.06	Great Sound	5D
Michael Pawlowski	398	B	2.81	GB_Big Creek	10D
Maureen McCarthy	1434	B	2.00	Middle Island_LEHB	6.1
Donald F. Burke	14	D	2.00	Swan Point	1

Mr. Babb provided the Council with copies of the lease applications. Mr. Burke was present. Messrs. Price, Bryant and Pawlowski and Mrs. M. McCarthy were not present and must attend the next meeting.

Mr. Maxwell inquired on the finding of the lease site proposed by Mrs. McCarthy, lot 1434, in Middle Island. Mr. Babb informed the Council that the Bureau's biological findings for lot 1434 were; fifteen year classes, moderate density of hard clams, and SAV on that site. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau was also investigating locations adjacent to Middle Island for potential aquaculture leases.

Pursuant to leasing regulations, N.J.A.C.7:25-24.6, applicants must attend one of two meetings at which the Council reviews their applications. A decision on the lease applications would be rendered at the next meeting.

4. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Paul Felder	1021	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
Robert A. Williams	1023	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
Joanne Galante-Williams	1024	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
Caroline M. Williams	1025	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
John A. Nitche	1135	B	1.90	Mordecai Island_LEHB	13.1
Thomas J. Conover	2569	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27
Ray S. Bonar	2578	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27

Messrs. P. Felder and R. Williams were present at this meeting. Messrs. Conover, and Bonar and Mmes. Williams and Galante-Williams were present at the prior meeting.

The lease applications were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Babb stated that the applicants had 30 days to sign their lease agreements.

5. Old Business:

Surf Clam Advisory Committee - Surf Clam Stock and Quota

The Bureau held a Surf Clam Advisory Committee meeting in September 2014. The Bureau's 2014 NJ Surf Clam Inventory stock estimate was 325,000 US standard bushels (214,000 industry bushels). The committee recommended a conservative NJ surf clam quota of 14,592 industry bushels, which equates to eight cages or 256 bushels per license, to serve more as a place hold in the fishery. This was the same quota that the committee recommended for 2013/2014. The Surf Clam Advisory Committee's recommended surf clam quota for 2014/2015 was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes and a second by Mr. Maxwell.

Sea Dog Island SAV Survey Findings

The Bureau was proposing an Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) in the vicinity of Sea Dog Island (Barnegat Bay) for structural shellfish aquaculture. Mr. Babb stated that this area has the potential for twelve to fourteen one acre plots. Mr. Babb discussed that the Bureau had conducted the SAV survey, but has not conducted a shellfish survey. Mr. Johnson stated that this area is impacted by ice in the winter and on a NW wind. He stated that the area was better suited for structural shellfish aquaculture. Mr. Babb stated that the next step was to decide if this area should be approached as an ADZ or for individual leases issued as per the leasing regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:25-24)

Mr. Babb discussed the Bureau's concerns about user group conflicts with this proposed area. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau would like to reach out to the two nearby municipalities' administrators (Harvey Cedars, Barnegat Light) and their township council representatives in November, 2014. Mr. Johnson stated that he would be interested in attending the meeting and asked the Bureau to keep the Council informed on this matter.

Shellfish Aquaculture Working Group (SAWG) Workshop Summary

Mr. Babb stated that the SAWG held a Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Workshop on October 8, 2014. Over one hundred participants attended (industry, press, NGOs, government, legislative & state agencies). This meeting included presentations from participating state and federal agencies on their respective roles pertaining to shellfish aquaculture. There was an "open house session" in which attendees had an opportunity to speak with representatives from the various agencies. This was followed by a wrap-up session where outstanding issues and recent successes were noted.

Mr. Flimlin conveyed that the workshop was productive and provided participants an opportunity to discuss topics with various agencies. He discussed that there appeared to be a lot more movement than there was a few years ago. Mr. Babb conveyed that it was beneficial that the individual agencies had the opportunity to answer questions and hear suggestions from the participants. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau will share the group summaries on the Division website and with the participants who attended the workshop. Mr. Babb

stated that he encourages the SAWG members to meet 2 or 3 times a year and to attend the Aquaculture Advisory Council meetings.

Fisheries Disaster Direct Assistance Grants

The Bureau conducted a detailed shellfish industry damage assessment (based on survey results from industry) that resulted from Super Storm Sandy. There was a total of \$3.6 million in losses for shellfish and aquaculture and with a total of \$ 272 million reported overall for the various marine related fishing industries.

The Department of Environmental Protection has made more than \$2 million in grants available to certain fishing-related businesses that were affected by Superstorm Sandy. Owners of bait-and-tackle shops, commercial dealers, commercial fisherman, for-hire party and charter boat operators, marinas and those involved in shell-fishing and aquaculture had an opportunity to apply to the DEP for grants of up to \$10,000 each to help offset some of the costs of the storm on their operations. The funds were being provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as part of a federal fishery disaster declaration for states impacted by Sandy.

Atlantic Coast Shellfish Leasing Committee (ACLC) – Schedule

Mr. Babb previously requested that Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay Shellfisheries Councils reconvene their respective Leasing Committees. The standing ACLC members would be notified by mail regarding the reconvening of the ACLC and asked to contact the Bureau to inform them on whether or not they would continue to serve. The Bureau will contact the Council members to arrange the next ACLC meeting date. Mr. Flimlin inquired if a Monmouth County representative should attend the ACLC meetings. The ACLC meetings will be held at the Nacote Creek Enforcement Office. The ACLC meetings would also be advertised with the Secretary of the State, on the Division website and with the Bureau of Shellfish email listserve. Committee recommendations would be made on a consensus basis and meetings would be open to the public.

6. New Business:

Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone

Mr. Flimlin informed the Council that commercial fisherman have been reported clamming in the Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone. According to Mr. Flimlin, the Conservation Zone, being determined as a closed area, has not deterred commercial fisherman from harvesting in this area. Mr. Flimlin stated the need for the Bureau of Marine Enforcement to patrol this area.

Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Exposition

Mr. Flimlin stated that the Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Exposition and the Milford Aquaculture Seminar will be held on January 14-16, 2015 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Hughes.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: November 17, 2014
TIME: 7 PM
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office
360 New York Rd. Rte. 9
Port Republic, NJ 08241