

<p align="center">NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL</p>		<p align="center">Delaware Bay Section</p>
<p align="center"><i>Meeting Minutes</i></p>		

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	July 9, 2013		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Russell Babb, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co. Absent	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted June 7, 2013 with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, and Daily Journal pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

Revenue collected for May totaled \$46,128.00:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$2,100.00	Oyster Tags	\$39,490.00
Net License	\$3,506.00	Commercial Shellfish License	\$250.00
AC Crab Dredge License	\$200.00	Recreational Shellfish License	\$160.00
Application Fees	\$216.00	Juvenile Shellfish License	\$6.00
DB Crab Dredge License	\$100.00	Dealer License	\$100.00

Revenue collected for June totaled \$33,466.00:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	\$700.00	Oyster Tags	\$30,832.00
Net License	\$996.00	Commercial Shellfish License	\$400.00
Application Fees	\$146.00	Recreational Shellfish License	\$220.00
Dredge Boat License	\$154.00	Juvenile Shellfish License	\$18.00

Oyster Resource Development Account

<i>January 8, 2013</i>		
Unexpended	\$524,344.78	Total dollars currently in account
Expended	\$131,233.31	Spent from account during FY'13
Pre-encumbered	\$ 0	Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts (cancelled)
Encumbered	\$192,266.69	Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)
Uncommitted	\$332,078.09	Current free-balance (not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.)

Shellfish Leased Ground Transactions- (Transfer from Gerald Hoffman to Barry Wright)

For Councils Information

Name	Lot #	Section	Acres
Gerald Hoffman	D	117	22

1. Old Business:

Direct Market Harvest Update

Mr. Tomlin gave a Direct Market harvest update to the Council where he stated that the high mortality beds had a harvest of over 5,000 bushels out of the 27,000 bushel quota, Medium mortality beds had a harvest of 17,000 bushels out of the 34,000 bushel quota and Shell Rock had a harvest of 19,250 bushels out of the 24,000 bushels quota. He stated that the catch per unit effort was about the same as last couple years, which were around 70 bushels per day. He added that Shell Rock would be closing as of Wednesday and a letter was sent to notify the industry. Mr. Hearon added that enforcement had asked him to add the 6 o'clock start time on the answering machine so that all harvesters were reminded of the legal start times.

2. New Business:

Consolidation Committee Recommendations

Mr. Hollinger stated that the Consolidation Committee reconvened. He noted that at the meeting the committee came up with a new plan which involved going from a 3 to 1 vessel consolidation to a 6 to 1 vessel consolidation. Mr. Hollinger also stated that the committee recommended removing the part of the proposed rule. The part they wanted to remove was, that a transferred vessel that had to be within ownership for two years and harvest 50% of their quota before eligible for consolidation. He then stated that there would be no other alterations to the proposed rule.

Mr. Hearon asked the Council to make a motion to accept the change made by the Consolidation Committee. **A motion was made and all were in favor.**

Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring – 2013 Vibrio Sampling Plan – Mike Curtis

Mr. Freidman explained to the Council that he received news from Maryland Health Department and Gary Wolf of the USFDA about two illnesses that were reported in Ocean City, Maryland. He stated that one illness had been confirmed to be from Delaware Bay, harvested from Shell Rock according to the harvest tags. He noted that the second illness had not been confirmed, due to the restaurant receiving multiple oysters from different states. Mr. Freidman continued, that an illness from Wisconsin was attributed to the Shell Rock seedbed. He mentioned that the harvest dates were 6/4 for the illness in Wisconsin, 6/7 for the illness in Ocean City Maryland, and between 6/20-6/22 for the unconfirmed Maryland illness. He stated that before they move forward with considering this an outbreak, he would work with the FDA to confirm all the

illnesses. Mr. Freidman said that all of the boats have been following the rules of keeping their oysters chilled and returning to the dock on time, and that the industry is doing a great job trying to comply with the rules. He stated that they've been collecting samples by shadowing the industry harvest on Shell Rock. Mr. Freidman said that they have samples from the same time period that the illnesses occurred. Mr. Freidman stated that the data shows that at harvest the Vibrio level is very low, after 5 hours of unrefrigerated the Vibrio levels remains low, and after 7 hours (VP plan) the Vibrio levels are still low. He stated that the industry has a good defense and was doing everything that they have been asked to do. He also noted that NJ BMWM does not believe the illnesses are specifically attributed to something in the water or the times they were landed. Mr. Mike Curtis from Marine Water Monitoring presented the Council with slide show. He then explained to the Council what the NJ BMWM is involved in which included: monitoring classified State shellfish growing waters through the national shellfish sanitation program, classify waters based on bacteriology, administer the corporate coastal monitoring program, partner with county health departments, pollution source identification, and they have a state certified lab where they do nutrient chemical marine toxic plankton studies.

He went on to note that of most importance to the Council the BMWM also does VP sampling with particular interest in the direct plating procedure. Mr. Curtis explained that the FDA considers 10,000 count on Vp as being at danger level but to error on the side of caution they use a count of 5,000 or greater to be considered dangerous. He presented the Council with slides, explaining that VP is a naturally occurring bacteria in the seafood throughout the United States. He explained that the Center for disease control suggests Vibrio illness at 78.80 yearly and 65% of those illnesses are food related.

Mr. Curtis noted that all of these counts from last years samplings were below the FDA's 5,000 count threshold. He stated that these samples came from , Rutgers Cape Shore Facility, Bennie Sands, New Beds, and two locations in Great Bay. Then he gave a summary of the protocol for sampling as follows.

Sub-tidal one-day collection every two weeks from May through August

-12 to 15 oysters collected, placed them on ice, transported back to lab, shuck and test

Inner-tidal one-day collection every two weeks from May through August

-12 to 15 oysters collected, placed them on ice, transported back to lab, shuck and test

Protocol for inner-tidal 4-day collection was for one week per month from June to August.

Mr. Curtis explained that for 2013 as stated by Mr. Freidman the BMW will try to mimic the fishery to a greater degree. He stated samples will come from, Atlantic Capes Fisheries and the Direct Market Beds. Then he gave a summary of the protocol for sampling as follows.

Sub-tidal one-day collection three weeks per month from June through August

-1st 15 oysters collected, placed immediately on ice, transported back to lab, shuck and test

-2nd 15 oysters collected, shaded for 5 hours, transported back to lab, shuck and test

-3rd 15 oysters collected, shaded for 7 hours, transported back to lab, shuck and test

-4th 15 oysters collected, shaded for 7 hours, transported back to lab, overnight refrigerated, shuck and test

Inner-tidal 4-day collection was for one week per month from June to August

-1st day 15 oysters collected, placed immediately on ice, transported back to lab, shuck and test

-2nd day 15 oysters collected 24 hours after they've been sorted and cleaned, they went through a cooling process over night, placed immediately on ice, transported back to lab, shuck and test

-3rd day 15 oysters collected 24 hours after they've been placed back in water from the process on day 2

-4th day 15 oysters collected 48 hours after they've been placed back in water from the process on day 2

Mr. Shuster noted that for every sample they take and test they will also be sending a sample to the FDA's lab for more testing. Mr. Curtis also noted that the FDA will look at back ground Vp levels during the intertidal harvest. Mr. Freidman stated there may be a shock which may cause the Vp levels to rise in the oyster due to product going from a cooler at 50 degrees, then putting them back into water at 80 degrees. He stated that there may be some modification of Best Management Practices after the study is complete. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Curtis continued with his slide presentation. He showed the Council varying ways to look at the Vp problem. He stated that many groups are working on the Vp problem. Mr. Freidman stated that he would like to start to move away from the risk management modeling put together by the FDA and would like to work towards using real data points to create a Vp plan.

Further discussion ensued on theories of cooling and re-warming product using preliminary data.

Dermo Report

Mr. Bushek stated that there has been a recent decline in salinity on the bay. He then noted that the recent mortality levels on Cohansey and Shellrock are higher than expected. He advised the Council that he will continue to monitor and inform them of any new findings.

Bureau of Prioritization Effort

Mr. Babb informed the Council that the Bureau of Marine Fisheries was asked to do an internal review of all of their projects and every staff member was asked to portion their time spent on each project. He stated that a master list included all of the current projects, the staffing time involved in each project and if the project goals were being meet. He informed the council that the Bureau of Shellfisheries will be working on a similar list. Mr. Babb stated that through this exercise the Bureau may have to prioritize and cut projects based on this master list.

Shellplanting

Mr. Hearon explained that water temperatures have been low so he has held off planting shell thus far. He then noted that the barges will be loaded as of tomorrow to plant shell on the next day. Mr. Hearon also stated that the Athos projects is now underway and will be completed Monday or Tuesday.

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Mr. Myers explained that the Aquaculture Advisory Council meeting would be held on Friday July 19th, with the guest speaker Sarah Mathew Duncan, Deputy Director for recovery effort in the EDA. He stated that she would be talking about New Jerseys Stronger program, associated with hurricane Sandy.

Next meeting scheduled for the second Tuesday of September, which would be the 10th.

Adjourn	@ 6 PM		
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on:	TBD September 10, 2013	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory	