

NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL		Delaware Bay Section
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>		

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	April 1, 2014		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State/Fed Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox, Field Researcher
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Gary Wolf, USFDA	
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Calliope Alexander, Dept of Health	
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted March 10, 2014 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 Febuary totaled \$6,037.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$300.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$250.00
Nets	\$2,745.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$50.00
AC Crab Dredge	\$200.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$92.00
DB Crab Dredge	\$500.00	Tonging Tags	\$800.00
Application Fees	\$172.00	Menhaden	\$928.00

Oyster Resource Development Account:

<i>Mar 31, 2014</i>		
Unexpended	\$705,864.29	Budget authority less expenditures (<i>total spendable dollars currently in account</i>)
Expended	\$46,026.84	Total amount spent against the appropriation (<i>spent from account during FY'14</i>)
Pre-encumbered	\$0.00	Total outstanding requisitions processed against the appropriation (<i>Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts - since cancelled</i>)
Encumbered	\$281,475.66	Total outstanding purchase orders processed against the appropriation (<i>Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)</i>)
Uncommitted	\$424,388.63	Amount available for pre-encumbrance, encumbrance, or expenditure (<i>Current free-balance that is not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.</i>)

Lease Ground Transactions

Decision Approved

Section	Lease	Acres	Lessee
ADZ 4	#3 Offshore	1.5	E. Gaine

Boat Transfers for Councils information

Boat and license from T. McNulty/Lady Pearl Fisheries to R. Robbins/Robbins & Robbins Inc. 3/18/14
 #71 Lady Pearl
 #51 Skimmer, substitute for NJ3800HF
 #96 Sun Pal, Substitute for Miss Emily
 #58 Negotiator, Substitute for David Robbins

1. Old Business

Vibrio – Calliope Alexander

Calliope Alexander of NJ Department of Health gave a power point presentation. Ms. Alexander recently attended the national meeting for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Council in Texas along with Steve Fleetwood representing the oyster industry, and Bruce Friedman representing NJDEP. Ms. Alexander covered some highlights from the meeting. The focus was the changes in the definition of an outbreak in terms of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp). The slideshow also covered the inclusion of clams in the outbreak proposal, a review of some outbreaks and cases among the Atlantic coast states, the necessity of creating a reference library of Vp strains to focus on the pathogenic strains, and the creation of a national education program that is underway to update people on Vp/Vv information.

Ms. Alexander provided highlights from the national meeting about the change in definition of an outbreak in a shellfishery, but first she briefly reviewed the 3 taskforces involved.

Taskforces:

1. Involved state agencies (DEP) that created area classifications and performed lab methods. The states wanted to have more labs certified by the FDA to do serial typing of the different strains.
2. Involved the state (Dept. of Health/Calliope) – They were to monitor shipping, handling, time, and temperature. This involved the Vibrio Management Committee.
3. Procedural to the whole organization. How and where things were to be proposed and adopted. Included committees to deal with these proposals.

Definition of Outbreak:

Clams have been included in the ordinance, and were to be included wherever oysters or shell stocks were mentioned. The addition of clams to the outbreak definition was in case there were to be a *Vibrio* outbreak in clams. Temperance studies were also suggested for the states to better understand how clams should be handled after harvest to influence *Vibrio* management.

Ms. Alexander provided a copy of the proposal. The proposal required a 5 year “look back” from the adoption date. States must review the past 5 years for an outbreak of Vp and Vv. If a shellfishery had an outbreak within the past 5 years, an action plan for *Vibrio* must exist for both oysters and clams. New Jersey only had 3 cases in the oyster industry last year. If these cases did not occur, NJ would have been *Vibrio* free over the past 5 years and would not require a Vp/Vv plan.

The changes that define an outbreak are as follows:

- Cause: When risk <1 illness/100,000 servings; or 2-4 cases within 30 days from an implicated area which no 2 cases are from the same day.
Effect: Authority determines extent of implicated area and makes attempts to comply with *Vibrio* plan.
- Cause: Risk >1 illness/100,000 servings; or 4-10 cases within 30 days from an area which no 2-4 cases are from the same day.
Effect: Authority determines extent of implicated area and closes the implicated portions of the harvest areas, then notifies the FDA and receiving States the dealer that sold implicated shellfish.
- Cause: Cases exceed 10 illnesses within 30 days from an implicated area; or 4 cases are from a single harvest date.
Effect: Authority determines extent of implicated area, closes implicated portions of the harvest area, initiates voluntary industry recall unless determined recall not required, and issues a consumer advisory for all shellfish or implicated species.

A reference library of the strains of Vp and Vv needed to be made. This would have shown what pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains are in which waters. The states wanted more labs certified to do serial typing to accomplish this. It would have been more beneficial for the pathogenic strains to be catalogued and quantified by themselves.

Ms. Alexander reviewed different cases of outbreaks along the Atlantic coast states.

Ms. Alexander stated that a national education program was in development for the oyster and clam industries so the industries were updated on Vp/Vv. It was also a concept for the program to require a harvesting license.

Shellfish Classification – Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

Mr. Wesighan handed out 2 maps. One map showed shellfish growing area DB1 – South Section: Maurice River area to be downgraded to Prohibited shellfish classification. Area DB1 – North Section: Jacobs Creek – Dunks Point area was downgraded to Seasonally Approved shellfish classification from November to April. This was determined from high amounts of fecal matter being found in the water samples taken. One speculation is the bird population in the area causing the high levels. Anthropogenic causes have not been found thus far.

Area Management Guidance – Council

A motion was made by the Council for Shell Rock to open in correspondence with the first day of *Vibrio* (first full week of June, most likely June 2). The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Babb received a call from a meeting at 5:00 P.M. this evening with the quota decision. The commissioner was very involved in the decision, and supported the Council’s recommendations for this season. Mr. Babb stated that the Commissioner wanted him to reach out to Haskins Lab to see if there was any ability to put extra attention in sampling the medium mortality beds specifically. Mr. Babb said he would talk with Dave Bushek to discuss options. Mr. Babb was also told to relay that the Commissioner strongly supports the SARC process the way it was set up, and hoped it is not an annual event where we went beyond the SARC recommendations.

Mr. Babb stated the quota was to be the 100th percentile for medium mortality market beds, the 60th percentile for Shell Rock with a transplant, and 75th percentile for high mortality beds. The starting quota was set to 57,562 bushels before the transplants would occur. He then stated that if the transplant went well, then the industry could have expected around

15,000 additional bushels. Councilman Hollinger made the motion to accept this year's quota. The motion was seconded and approved.

2. New Business

Aquaculture Development Zone 1 East Point

Craig Tomlin stated that the previous unused ADZ 1 East Point would be converted to leasable grounds. Mr. Tomlin then stated that the Bureau would be accepting applications for leasing this are.

Mr. Babb discussed an oyster license consolidation rule that was to be launched over the 4 weeks that followed the meeting. He introduced Jenny Tomko from Nacote Creek Research Station. He then stated that she was to be working on the consolidation rule. Mr. Babb also discussed that a leasing committee was to be developed with the Council. He noted that this committee was to be made to develop and codify enforceable leasing rules. The committee should consist of 3 to 4 people with at least 1 Council representative included.

Adjourn	@ 7:30 PM		
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on:		<u>OR</u>	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory
May 6, 2014			