

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

Meeting Name	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
Meeting Date	Tuesday, August 4, 2015		
Meeting Time	6:00 PM		
Venue	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
Attendees	General Public		

Council	State/Fed Representatives	Haskin Research Lab
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Russ Babb, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox, Field Researcher*
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Andrew Hassall, DFW Shellfisheries	Lisa Calvo, Aquaculture Prog. Coord.
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

*Not present

Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Notice of this meeting was posted July 10, 2015 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 June totaled \$48,871.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$ 1,200.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$ 450.00
Nets	\$ 1,565.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$ 310.00
Application Fees	\$ 164.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$ 8.00
AC Dredge	\$ 100.00	Non-Resident Shellfish	\$ 60.00
DB Dredge	\$ 200.00	Lease Fees	\$ 12.00
Dredge Boat Renewal	\$ 10.00	Menhaden	\$ 52.00
Oyster Tags	\$44,740 .00		

Revenue collected for July totaled \$23,910.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$ 1,200.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$ 150 .00
Nets	\$ 728.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$ 220.00
Application Fees	\$ 88.00	Juvenile Shellfish	\$ 6.00
Oyster Tags	\$21,300.00	Non-Resident Shellfish	\$ 20.00
DB Dredge	\$ 100.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$ 98.00

Oyster Resource Development Account:

July 27, 2015		
Unexpended	\$476,912.04	Budget authority less expenditures (<i>total spendable dollars currently in account</i>)
Expended	\$213,963.59	Total amount spent against the appropriation (<i>spent from account during FY'15</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	\$191,150.41	Total outstanding purchase orders processed against the appropriation (<i>Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)</i>)
Uncommitted	\$285,761.63	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:

For Council's Information

Donald McDaniel transferred the leases below to Donald Carter 6/4/15

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	
A	107	72	
A	213	24	
B	10	55	
B	250	95	
C	543	70	
D	429	56	
D	514	36	
E	79	12	TOTAL ACREAGE: 420

Virginia Hinson transferred the leases below to Robert Johnson 7/30/15

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	
C	124	24	
C	415	11	
C	458	15	
C	520	28	
C	619	9	
D	60	13	
D	507	9	TOTAL ACREAGE: 109

For Council's Consideration

Marc Zitter applied for the following leases:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
A	155	100
C	653	100

Mark Zitter was present for the meeting.

Oyster Dredge Boat Transactions:

For Council's Information

- The vessel Alicia Linn and Oyster Dredge Boat License #72 (minimum GRT) was transferred from Warren Hollinger to Harbor House Seafood, LLC
- The vessel Alicia Linn NJ670484(minimum GRT) was substituted with NJ6202GX (minimum GRT) on Oyster Dredge Boat License #72
- The vessel Blue Claw and Oyster Dredge Boat License #38 (13GRT) was transferred from Fred Nesbitt to A1 Top of the Line Oyster Company LLC

Old Business:

- Direct Market Harvest update

Craig Tomlin informed that the total quota on the High Mortality seed beds had been caught, which was 26,982 bushels (bu.). The total harvest was around 52,000 bu., of which approximately 26,000 bu. came from Shell Rock. The total allowable catch for Shell Rock was 28,123 bu. Mr. Tomlin added that the catch per unit effort (CPUE) for the current season was 95 bu. /day. On Shell Rock, the CPUE was about 105 bu. /day, which had also occurred during the shortened harvest hours for the Vp plan.

New Business:

- Shell Rock Closure

Last day of harvest will be Wednesday August 12, 2015

- Dermo Update

David Bushek reported on the Dermo levels in Delaware Bay. The sampling occurred on July 20, 2015, and showed the Dermo levels were following the typical pattern by increasing during the summer. The water temperature was around 80°F, which was in the spawning temperature range for oysters. About 50% of the sampled oysters were in some phase of the spawning cycle. The time of year was a little late for spawn, and it should have been expected to see a set soon. No sets had been reported so far. Mr. Bushek continued saying the Dermo levels were down for this time of year from the cold spring water temperatures, and the fresh water influx from the beginning of the year. The Dermo levels had also shown the typical pattern with the highest levels in the lower bay, and the lowest levels in the upper bay. Dermo prevalence was low for the time of year. Those infected have expected levels of Dermo in them, but overall there were fewer oysters found with infection. Prevalence of Dermo was down on Cohansey. Nantuxent was not included in the data because it was an Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) monitoring project, not Dermo monitoring. Mr. Bushek said the Dermo on Nantuxent usually behaves like New Beds and Bennies.

Councilman Hollinger asked if anything had been seen in regards to the ACE channel dredging project. Mr. Bushek responded by stating that no problems had been observed from the dredging, such as excess silting. The project had completed most of the upper rivers, and was working its way down. Russ Babb added that if the ACE was done rock removal by Fort Mifflin, they would move to just south of Salem and work down Delaware Bay. Councilman Bailey asked if Mr. Bushek could find out what percent of a kickback Maryland and Virginia were receiving for oyster enhancement from the dredging projects, as well as the provisions that accompany them. Mr. Bushek said he would look into it. Further discussion ensued.

- Delaware Bay Artificial Reef

Councilman Hollinger asked Mr. Babb if there was any progress on the proposed artificial reef in Delaware Bay. Mr. Babb informed that it was presented to the Marine Fisheries Council, but he did not know where it stood in the process. He would look into its progress.

- Direct Market Quota Increase Inquiry

Oystermen in the general public agreed they were seeing an abundance of oysters, and were heading to the docks early because the catch had been so good. They asked the Council to find out if there was a way to increase the year's quota to take advantage of the high abundance of oysters they were seeing. The general response was that they were not able to increase the quota because the year's quota was set at the Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) in the beginning of the year, and there was no mechanism that allowed the Council to increase the quota. The Council said they would be able to ask the Commissioner if it were possible to increase the quota, but could not promise an increased quota. A very lengthy discussion ensued.

- Quota Reallocation Inquiry

Councilman Fleetwood asked Mr. Babb if the quotas that were not being harvested would be available to be caught by other oystermen. Mr. Babb informed that it was still being resolved by lawyers, so he could not give a definite answer. He was lead to believe the lawyers were considering reallocating the quotas.

- Delaware Bay Seed Monitor Program Update

Ned Gaine requested from Mr. Bushek if Rutgers could monitor Dermo by the aquaculture leases. Mr. Bushek said they could, and was to discuss logistics after the meeting.

Councilman Hollinger motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Councilman Malinowski seconded.

Adjourn	@ 7:30 PM	
The next meeting of the Council will be tentatively held on: September 1, 2015	<u>OR</u>	In the library of the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory