

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

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement  
Port Republic, NJ  
September 16, 2019

Present were: Chairman: John J. Maxwell (Atlantic County)  
 Vice Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)  
 Councilman: Vacant (Monmouth County)  
 Councilman: Vacant (Cape May County)  
 Councilman: Vacant (Burlington County)

DEP Representatives: Russell Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
 Joseph Cimino, Marine Fisheries Administration  
 Brett Nicklow, Marine Enforcement

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 2019 \$ 9,622.09  
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund \$ 702.00  
  
 Total Revenue for August 2019 \$ 994.65  
 Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund \$ 242.00

2. Presentation of July 15, 2019 minutes for approval.

The July 15, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

3. Applications for Transfer

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
Aimee Sprague	Blood Point Oyster	398	B	2.17	G.B. Cape Horn	10

Without discussion the application for transfer was approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

4. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Chuck Gehman	229	A	2.00	Ludlam Bay	1
Thomas Glenn	1105	A	2.21	Great Sound	5

Messrs. C. Gehman and T. Glenn were present at the meeting. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25 24.6, lease applicants shall attend at least one of the two meetings at which the Council reviews their applications. If the applicant fails to attend at least one of the meetings, the area applied for shall revert to public bottom.

5. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Sea Haven, LLC Ross Gilfillan	619	B	2.00	Jeremy/Gaunt Pt.	6
Eric Parker	1002	A	1.98	Great Sound	5A
Amanda Ferguson	231	A	2.08	Ludlam Bay	1
Morgan Delany	233	A	2.00	Ludlam Bay	1
Gretchen Maxwell	70.1	B	1.65	G.B.-Graveling Pt	1
Bridgitte Bliss	70	B	1.64	G.B.-Graveling Pt	1
***Edward M. Dwyer	411.1	B	2.00	G.B.-Big Creek	10

Messrs. Gilfillan, Parker and Meses. Ferguson, Maxwell, and Bliss were present at the July 15, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Delany was present at this meeting. All applications for decision were approved on a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Babb informed the applicants they have 30 days to sign their lease agreements and pay the lease fees.

\*\*\*Note: Mr. Edward M. Dwyer's application for lot 412.1 in Great Bay-Big Creek had been previously approved at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. After approval, the US Army Corps of Engineers had raised navigation concerns in using floating oyster gear on that lease. To alleviate this issue, Mr. Dwyer's was moved from lot 412.1 to the adjacent lot 411.1. Mr. Dwyer was also present at this meeting.

6. Old Business:

Offshore Wind Update

Mr. Cimino gave a brief update on the status of offshore wind projects in New Jersey. He informed the Council that there was no new information to specific cable routes but would update the Council as new information becomes available.

7. New Business:

NJDOT Herbicide Spraying

Mr. Johnson stated that NJDOT has been spraying herbicide throughout Ocean County and the overspray was going directly into the watershed. He proposed that Council sends a letter raising their concerns with the herbicide spray runoff and its impacts on shellfish resources.

2019-2020 NJ Surf Clam Harvest Quota

The Bureau of Shellfisheries completed its annual surf clam inventory in June 2019. The 2019 standing stock estimate was 30,800 standard bushels (20,328 industry bushels). In August, the Bureau discussed the quota with the Surf Clam Advisory Committee (Committee). The Committee recommended a minimal quota for the 2019-2020 season to be set at 1,824 industry bushels, which was less than 10% the estimated standing stock as per N.J.A.C. 7:25-12. Harvest has been non-existent for well over a decade. It was anticipated that there would be no harvest of the quota during the 2019-2020 season. The minimal quota was set to the industry's place hold in the fishery if stocks were to improve in the future. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the committee's recommendation for the surf clam quota and was seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

## Milford Aquaculture Seminar

Mr. Avery informed the Council that the Milford Aquaculture Seminar will be held January 13-15th, 2020 in Shelton, Connecticut.

## Leases availability GEHB

Mr. Gormley asked if there were any shellfish leases available in Great Egg Harbor Bay. He suggested that if nothing was available, he had an interest in proposing a new lease area. Mr. Maxwell informed him that there was a procedure for proposing a new lease area and he could submit a proposal for discussion at the next Leasing Committee meeting in January 2020.

## Lease Renewals

Mr. Babb informed the Council that lease renewals would begin on October 15, 2019.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

## 8. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: November 18, 2019  
TIME: 7 PM  
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office  
360 New York Rd. Rte. Port Republic, NJ 08241