

October 4, 2007

Minutes: Shellfish Commission

Attending: Claire Ross, Cecil Amos Doughty, Gary Ross, Bob Earnest; Skip Dyer; absent David Miller, Marianne Brenton; special guest Don Card, Maine State Marine Resources Regional Biologist

1. Don: spring is fine for our next survey. Most towns like to do the fall survey so they can re-seed in the spring. Suggests that we do it early in the spring to avoid the start of digging, to preserve the integrity of the findings. Cecil explained that most of our diggers are also lobster catchers and that spring is, therefore, the best season in terms of work schedule.
2. Boxes: Cecil asked if they are available; they are no longer available. Foot square x 3.5 inches tall; 1/8" screen; stick on gauge is available at Staples; Don prefers that we use the metric scale. 100' is the usual distance; in a smaller setting, use 50' so that you get a reasonable number of plots (4 or 5 min) per area.
3. Reseeding:
 - a. Don has seen a real mix of results – sometimes it seems to work, other times not. You can broadcast, or if green crabs are a problem you might use a net to hold them down; or rough up the area first to help them take hold.
 - b. Don also suggested that using seeding to widen an existing band can be a successful strategy.
 - c. Fencing can also help; it might be that it keeps the clams from migrating, or, it might be that it kept out the green crabs. Don says most folks aren't using fences any longer; too costly. Netting seems to be a better approach.
4. Survey results are used to help guide the Town's decisions regarding how many licenses. The State doesn't make the decision; they advise.
5. Licenses:
 - a. If we sell 5 or fewer resident commercial licenses, then we don't have to sell any non-resident commercial licenses. If we go above 5, then we have to have 1 non-resident; above 10, it goes to 10%.
 - b. For recreational: if you sell one recreational resident, then you have to sell one non-resident; then it goes to 10% non-resident.
 - c. Cumberland commercial license applicants for Chebeague waters, and vice versa: it sounds as though the details of how these licenses will work, whether they are resident or non-resident, etc remains to be determined (at least, to the knowledge of those in this meeting). **Claire** to ask Leon what he remembers about the details of this arrangement.
6. Conservation area: these are not required by law. It does help in valuation. Don suggests the approach he saw on Vinalhaven: they divided the shore into thirds, and closed a third each year on a regular rotation. That way everyone knows what to expect.
7. Shellfish Committee needs to decide how many licenses to sell; call to Don Card at least 1 month before we begin selling licenses.
 - a. Don suggests an **open licensing** approach for the recreational licenses. This avoids the problem of having too few for residents, but too many for non-residents.
 - i. For every 10 resident, you make one non-resident available
 - ii. If you have a large number of non-resident requests at the first day, you can make a list

- iii. In this instance, resident can mean “pays taxes”, or whatever we decide. See the ordinance for definition.
 - iv. We might also consider day licenses as part of this new approach.
8. New meeting schedule:
- a. Because of conflicts with Coastal Waters the following schedule applies:
 - i. Next meeting is two weeks from tonight (October 18) at the Parish Hall 7:15pm
 - ii. After that, we'll go to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays until further notice; **Bob** to check with Joannie on this new schedule.
 - b. Next meeting: focus on the license and fee structure.
 - c. **Bob** will work with Karen to get minutes and meeting notices onto website; **Bob** will get meeting schedule posted at the Store and Library.