

## SHELLFISH MEETING

April 3, 2014

Meeting called to order by Abden Simmons, Chair, at 5:01pm.

**Present:** Abden Simmons, Glen Melvin, April Simmons, Chuck Reed, Gerry McPhee, Bay Creamer, Clint Collamore,

**Others Present:** Bill Bragg(Town Warden), Hanna Annis (Area Biologist), Liz Petruska(MVLT), Melissa Smith(DMR - Marine Resource Scientist), Adam St.Gelais (DMR - Scientist I), Linda-Jean Briggs(Town Mgr)

I Approve minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve by Clint, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerry, 6-0.

II Shellfish Warden report (Bill Bragg): No new news to report. Bill did state there seems to be very little seed around. Clint made mention Stahls Bar has a little.

III Report from Area Biologist (Hanna Annis): Hanna share information from a recent workshop put together by DMR, along with Brian, Chad, and others. They opened the workshop with the history of the green crab. Chad (Freeport) talked about municipal leasing of clam flats using fencing and netting. Using netting when reseed. They're finding it requires lots of manpower to accomplish. Others talked about easy conversion using lobster/shrimp traps to catch green crabs. The workshop ended with Q&A.

Hanna spoke about some possible changes the State is considering to relax the catch of green crab. These may include reducing the permit fee, the catch of green crab incorporated into a current lobster license, to name a few. She did however state that because the population of green crabs are so massive, until the green crab is marketable, we are limited as to what we can do.

IV DMR (Department of Marine Resources): Melissa stated after considering the extra sampling data brought up in our last Shellfish meeting they recalculated and the "East" side of the upper river in and around WQ station 47.3 will NOT close at this time. However she also stated there are

warning signs that next year may be a different story if nothing is done about it. Adam reported WQ stations 47.3 and 40.0 are serious problem areas. Testing and data suggests our issues are not “rain event” problems. It’s more likely to be pollution being introduced from above these test stations. Both Adam and Melissa agree something is happening “in town” and not due to rainfall. Possibly between the bridge and town landing but at this time do not know exactly where the root problem starts. Glen asked to start documenting the size of the tides when taking samples going forward.

A couple suggestions on how to find where the problems are coming from were thrown out on the table to consider:

1) Drogue Study – Placing oranges in the water and tracking/documenting water flow/currents around WQ station 47.3. The committee is hoping the MVLT would help in this study.

2) The use of K9. A company in Portland has trained dogs to aid in finding sources of pollution, human waste, etc. Hanna reported several towns have either used this method already or are considering it, including Frenchman’s Bay. Hanna will look into the cost and report back to us at our next meeting on 5/1/2014.

The following will reopen in the near future: Inside Sampson’s Cove “Thomas’s Hill” (WQ station 49), Inside Long Cove “Flanders” (WQ station 50), and Dutch Neck landing area (WQ station 36). Now that WQ station 49 is clean, Glen asked if we can “redraw” the closure line from below WQ station 49 to above it, up to WQ station 48? DMR will look into this.

Liz is looking into a grant opportunity to help mitigate the green crabs. There could be funding available for three years at 25K yr. to help do this. This funding would help pay someone to “fish” the green crab. A brief discussion took place on how to dispose after the catch. Hot dip to kill the crab, dump back into the ocean, use for compost, to name a few suggestions. Liz sent a letter of intent for the grant and should find out in May. She also met with Sen. Chris Johnson to help get this issue to the State level. Suggested the town of Waldoboro draft a letter stating our concerns with the green crab.

Linda-Jean Briggs, our new Town Mgr. introduced herself to the Shellfish committee and others present.

**V** Conservation Measures 2014: Abden asked if the member want to wave reseeding due to the lack of natural seed and look to other conservation measures. Motion to approve by Gerry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clint, 7-0

Several other means of conservation was discussed including crab trapping, shoreline clean up, and the “peck” donation on Waldoboro Day. Motion by Gerry for at least shoreline clean up(4hrs) and the peck donation(2hrs), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bay, 7-0

**VI** Other Business:

Possibility of reducing the number of licenses issued. Next meeting to look into “left-over” licenses in the last few years and note trends.

**VII** Motion to adjourn: by Clint, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bay, 7-0

Abden Simmons

Glen Melvin

Chuck Reed

Clint Collamore

Wayne Harvey II

Bay Creamer

Gerry McPhee

April Simmons

Wayne Harvey I