

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 05/03/2022 TIME: 6:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COMMUNITY ROOM

Commission Members:

Attendance: A for absent, P for present

Attendance	Name	Town	Term
A	Stephen Demelle	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2023
P	Kevin Oliver	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2024
P	Len Kaminow	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2024
P	Judy Colby-George	Yarmouth	December 31, 2023
P	Brandy Adams	Yarmouth	December 31, 2022
P	Ben Tupper	Yarmouth	December 31, 2023

Staff Members:

Attendance	Name	Title/Role
P	Will Owen	Shellfish Warden
A	Randy Bates	Town Council Liaison
A	Ari Leach	Dept. of Marine Resources

Guests/Diggers : Andrew Feeney

Minutes –

Votes/Quorum: All final votes of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present and voting provided a quorum is present. A quorum shall be deemed present if a minimum of four (4) members are present. A CHAPTER 305 10 quorum shall be required for the transaction of all business except that a smaller number can adjourn to another time.

Reviewed Minutes for April 5, 2022

Vote taken, 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.

1. DISCUSSION	Warden’s Report
<p>Will provided his report which is attached here. A few corrections were made to the conservations points during the meeting and those are reflected in the attached report.</p> <p>It was pointed out that there is an inconsistency in the ordinance, where the Commercial Licensing Incentive Program logs points the commercial diggers Conservation Time Voluntary Work Program logs hours. The commission recommends that the ordinance be changed under B. Shellfish Conservation Commission’s responsibilities paragraph Conservation Time Voluntary Work Program be modified to change hours to points:</p>	

The Shellfish Commission recommends to the Town Council that the Shellfish Ordinance be revised in the following manner:

Conservation Time Voluntary Work Program – The Shellfish Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the Shellfish Warden and the Department of Marine Resources may offer periodic conservation management work program opportunities which may include, but not limited to such activities as participation in resource surveys, brushing, seeding, pollution detection and abatement efforts, predator species control or similar programs or efforts, all subject to the prior approval and designation by the Commission. Current Resident and Non-Resident Commercial license holders who actively participate in such Conservation Time Voluntary Work Programs established and administered by the Commission, may submit his or her Conservation Points to the Shellfish Warden and may receive a credit of \$25.00/point against the subsequent year license renewal, if renewed, up to a maximum of \$300.00 per calendar year: If an individual obtains the appropriate conservation time, but is unable to obtain a commercial license due to the provisions of Article III.A.2.b, above, his/her conservation time credit will rollover to the next year(s) or until he/she is offered a commercial license. The Commission shall provide a minimum of ten CHAPTER 305 12 (10) business days of actual or constructive notice before each Conservation Time Voluntary Work Program event; and all current Commercial license holders shall have equal opportunity to participate in the Conservation Time Voluntary Work Program with or without eligibility for license renewal fee credits. The Shellfish Warden shall maintain a record of points and report same annually to the Town Clerk on or before the first Wednesday in March so that credits may be applied to the license renewal fee, when applicable.

This ordinance change will be added to the ordinance change proposed in Old Business and voted on at the June meeting.

Will showed the committee copies of Joe’s photos and explained that he went through Joe’s phone and copied the metadata into the file name of each photo.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. DISCUSSION	Survey Discussion
<p>The results for the Lane’s Island survey are attached here.</p> <p>The next survey is Saturday, May 7. Meet at the Sandy Point Beach Lot at 7:30 am.</p>	

The committee had a detailed discussion about the methodology of surveys and the density calculation that is commonly used by DMR and other communities. While the calculation is included in the attached survey results, members of the committee are concerned that the density calculation overestimates the density of stock found in the flats. There is no question that the data has been collected correctly and the formula applied correctly, but the real question is whether the density calculation is useful and accurate.

The committee is going to continue to investigate questions related to the method used for collecting survey data, the formula variables, and other aspects of calculation the stock of our flats. Several organizations in the state are currently reviewing the formula and we will continue to stay in touch with those researchers and assist in any way we can.

The goal of the committee is to have a methodology that can be repeated and compared from year to year and provide us with useful outputs. The committee wants to understand the fluctuations of stocks overall in town and within specific flats in the town.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Continue to look into research on the survey methodologies for shellfish being developed	All members	

3. DISCUSSION	Grant Report	
Nothing to report.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
4. DISCUSSION	Spat Survey	
<p>Kevin has volunteered to build the spat boxes. Will ordered the mesh needed for half of the boxes.</p> <p>We are planning to deploy boxes as a set, one with mesh one without. We will place a set at the mid tide and low tide near the Old Town Landing and in the area around the Eben Hill Pump Station.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Order mesh	Will	June 7
Build Boxes	Kevin	June 7

5. DISCUSSION	Shellfish Portal	
Moved to next month		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS
<p>Ordinance Changes</p> <p>At the last meeting it was brought up that our ordinance does not make an exception for those helping with surveys and licensing requirement. There was a proposal to revise the ordinance.</p> <p>Motion to be Considered at the next meeting:</p> <p>The Shellfish Commission recommends to the Town Council that the Shellfish Ordinance be revised in the following manner:</p> <p>A. LICENSES</p> <p>A Municipal Shellfish Digging License is required, except for Depuration Harvesting authorized by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Title 12, M.R.S.A., Section 685. It is unlawful for any person to dig or take shellfish from the shores and flats of this Municipality without having a current license issued by this Municipality as provided by this Ordinance. Resident and non-Resident children under the age of sixteen (16) shall not be required to obtain a recreational license but shall otherwise be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.</p> <p>A Commercial Digger must also have a valid State of Maine Commercial Shellfish license issued by the Department of Marine Resources.</p> <p>1. <u>Notwithstanding the above stated licensing requirements, for specific conservation or research activities sanctioned by the commission, both licensed and unlicensed volunteers and agents authorized by the Town of Yarmouth are allowed to dig, count, sort or study shellfish growing areas and their environs, and otherwise perform such authorized conservation or research activities but they may not take any shellfish without a license.</u></p> <p>Judy also checked with Nat about parking and the conservation activities. Nat will make sure that people can park for free during surveys and other conservation activities. Also, he will check that the conservation points appendix is listed in the ordinance as an attachment rather than ordinance language. Then we can send it along so it is available, but the council does not need to vote on it.</p>

Resident License Survey Information

Judy checked with Jenn Doten to see if she has the license type information for each respondent. That information was not collected, but we will add type of license to the survey.

NEW BUSINESS	none

Next Meeting Date: June 7, 2021

Meeting will be held at the **Community Room in the Town Hall at 6:30 pm.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Agenda items	Proposed time	Time for discussion
1. Review minutes	6:30	5
2. Warden's report	6:35	5
3. Survey results	6:40	10
4. Ordinance change recommendation	6:50	5
5. Spat survey plan	6:55	5
6. Grant report	7:00	10
7. Casco bay regional shellfish meeting	7:10	10
8. Intertidal Data Portal demonstration	7:20	30
9. Old business	7:50	5
10. New business	7:55	5
11. Adjourn meeting		

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED 8:30 pm



Town of Yarmouth
 Marine Patrol
 200 Main Street
 Yarmouth, ME 04096
 (207) 846-3333 Telephone (207) 846-2433 Fax

May 3rd, 2022, Shellfish Committee Report

Checks range from January 4th, 2022, to May 3rd, 2022.
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Day Locations Checked	327
Night Locations Checked	13
Contacts Made	0
Worm Diggers	0

Incentive Program Points 2022	M: Meeting	S: Survey
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Names	M 1-4-22	M 2-1-22	M 3-1-22	M 4-5-22	S 4-10-22
Brandy Adams	1	1	1	1	6
Stephen Demelle		1	1	1	6
Emily Farr					6
Len Kaminow	1	1		1	6
Jessica Joyce					6
Andrew Feeney	1				6
Ben Tupper	1	1	1	1	6
Judy Colby-George	1	1	1	1	

Commercial Harvesters Conservation Time	M: Meeting	S: Survey
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	M 1-4-22	M 2-1-22	M 3-1-22	M 4-5-22	S 4-10-22
Kevin Oliver	1	1	1	1	6

2022-04-10 Northwest Lanes Island, Yarmouth

Notes

Brandy Adams, Kevin Oliver, Stephen Demelle, Emily Farr (Manomet), Len Kaminow, Jessica Joyce (Tidal Bay Consulting), Andrew Feeney and Ben Tupper surveyed the north end (Freeport side) of Lane's Island. Weather was clear and temperatures comfortable with low tide (+1.5') at 1:05pm. We worked for just over 5h and completed 99 sample locations (~3 minutes per location).

We sampled along the shore at 50' intervals, and at 25' intervals away from the shore. At the high water locations we found sand and sandy mud often with a hard pan of clay a short distance below the surface. At low water locations we found watery mud which limited our ability to sample. Often we sampled only two or three locations perpendicular the shore.

We observed many holes indicative of active clam activity throughout our sample location. We found no softshell spat and some small quahogs. Milky ribbon worms were present.

Summary

Softshell Survey data: 2022-04-10, Yarmouth, Lanes Island, north end (Freeport side)

N plots: 99, Plot intervals: 50' x 25', Area: 2.8 acres

Abundance: 50.8 bushels per acre

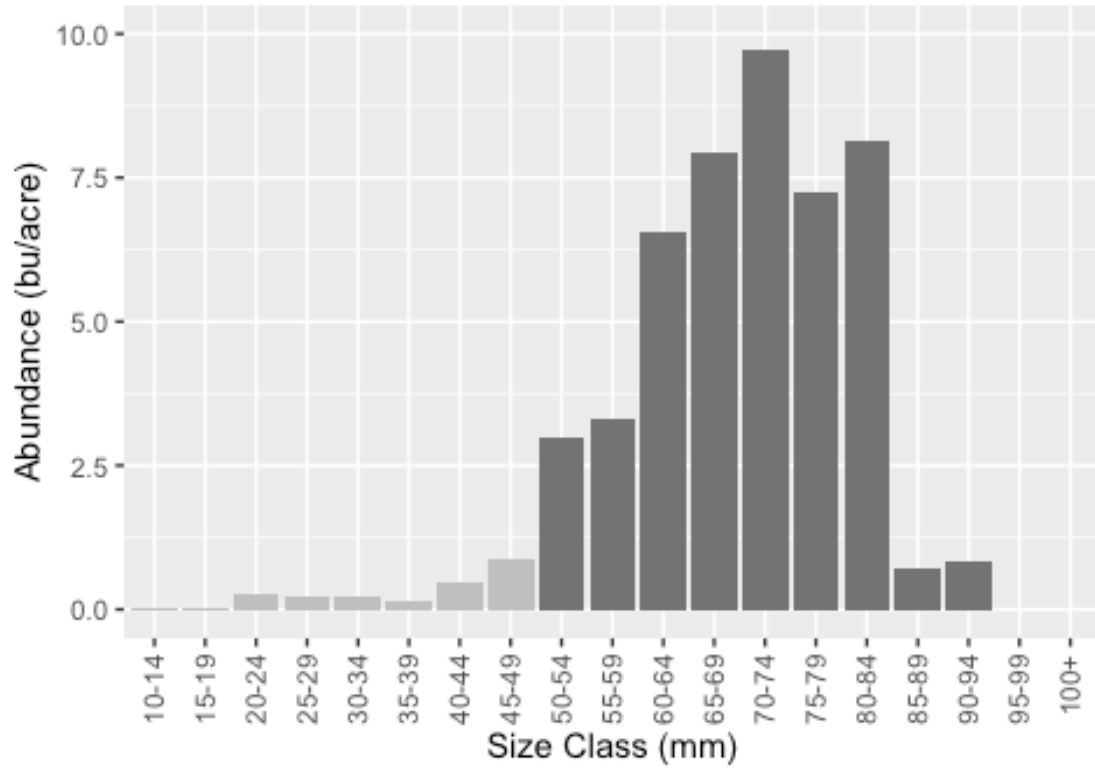
Legally sized abundance (> 50mm), 47.4 bushels per acre

Along Coordinates: [-70.12355, 43.79361], [-70.13106, 43.79182]

Abundance Distribution

2022-04-10: Lanes Island, north end (Freeport side)

Area: 2.3 acres, Abund: 49.7 bu/acre, Abund legal: 47.4 bu/acre



Sample Locations



Purpose: Establish a multi-year monitoring system for shellfish recruitment

Summary: Deploy recruitment boxes (Beal boxes) at strategically located but small number of sites. Each spring before spawning deploy clean boxes, retrieve in the fall and count/size all recruits for the managed species.

The boxes: Boxes approximate the size and construction as in Beal et al 2018 deployed in pairs. Boxes constructed with *interior* dimension of 24" long x 12" wide x 4" tall. One box covered top and bottom with predator exclusion screening (likely 1/8" galvanized hardware cloth of pet screening), the second left unscreened. Each box anchored to the mudflat to prevent movement. The boxes should be placed with approximately 3' of space between them. Some thought should go into the value of placing boxes at low, mid and high tide areas.



The sites: Selection of sites should include consideration of foot and vessel traffic as well as ease of access. Suggestions include the upper cousins (above Rt 1 bridge), White's Cove/ParkertPoint, Broad Cove and between Little John and Cousins. These areas see relatively light traffic but are proximate to currently harvested areas.

Counting: In fall the covered box is retrieved and the contents carefully washed with every shellfish 'recruited' cataloged for size, species and abundance. The top 1-2" of the mud from the 'open' box should also be sieved with any 'recruits' accounted for. Boxes cleaned and are redeployed in early spring.

References:

Brian F. Beal, Chad R. Coffin, Sara F. Randall, Clint A. Goodenow Jr., Kyle E. Pepperman, Bennett W. Ellis, Cody B. Jourdet and George C. Protopopescu, 2018. *Spatial Variability in Recruitment of an Infaunal Bivalve: Experimental Effects of Predator Exclusion on the Softshell Clam (*Mya arenaria* L.) along Three Tidal Estuaries in Southern Maine, USA* Journal of Shellfish Research, 37(1):1-27.