

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 02/04/2020 TIME: 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COMMUNITY ROOM

Commission Members:

Attendance: A for absent, P for present

Attendance	Name	Town	Term
P	Harold Hibbard III	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2020
P	Kevin Oliver	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2021
		North Yarmouth	June 30, 2022
P	Judy Colby-George	Yarmouth	December 31, 2020
P	Dillon Hough	Yarmouth	December 31, 2019
P	Ben Tupper	Yarmouth	December 31, 2020

Staff Members:

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

Guests/Diggers : none

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 November, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended

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

Agenda topics

1. DISCUSSION	Warden's Report	
Warden is away for this meeting.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. DISCUSSION	Survey Results - Trends	
<p>See attached graphs. We didn't discuss this document during the meeting. We did discuss the pros and cons of</p> <p>Judy and Ben will work on a survey plan.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Develop a map and plan for surveys over the next 5 years	Judy & Ben	3/3/20

3. DISCUSSION	Vote on recommendations for Licensing & Conservation Points, Ordinance Language	
<p>Following recommendations from Ben & Kevin on proposed points, it was decided to add our local municipal meetings for 0.33 pt/meeting</p> <p>There was a longer discussion about adding points for having a State License. Since the program we have been working on was about conservation, we decided that it would be a good idea to add a secondary point collection system for professionalism. It was decided that it was important to give people who have been digging and learning from other professionals the ability to benefit from that work. After discussing it, the committee decided that you could achieve up to 5 points for each of the 5 previous years to when a license becomes available in which you have a held a state license. Ben will work on the language for this and these points will be added to the conservation points.</p> <p>Richard asked a few questions about the conservation points which included wondering if there was another town with a similar point system for someone applying for a new license. West Bath has a similar program. There are probably others but we haven't read all the other towns ordinances.</p> <p>Another questions was how would be points be recorded and it was determined that the Shellfish Warden would record the points and he will report them in his monthly report. The points will also be reported to the town clerk.</p> <p>See the attached document for the proposed point schedule.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Write up state license points	Ben	2/5/2020
Council Meeting to discuss system	Anyone available	2/6/20
Vote on final language next meeting		

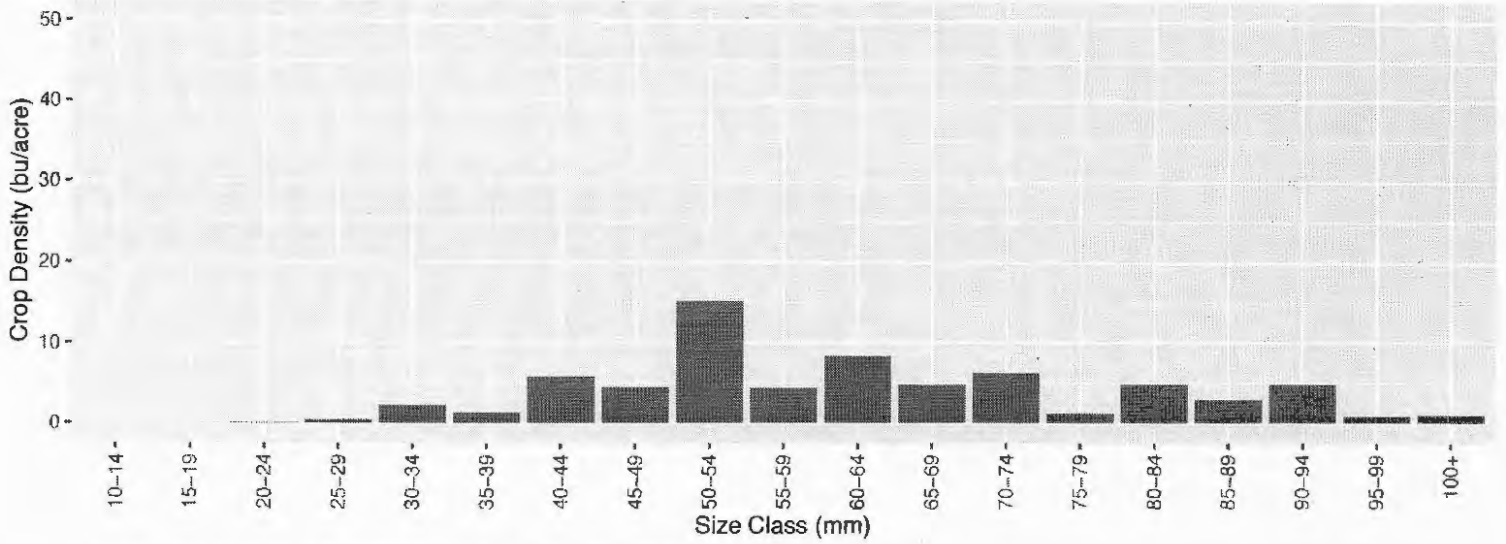
4. DISCUSSION	Survey Dates	
<p>Survey Dates for 2020: Date (Low tide, tide level) Saturday, May 16 (1:43, 1.1) – Survey Cousins River, meet at Town Landing at 10:45 Sunday, May 31 (12:43, 0.0) – Survey Cousins River, meet at Town Landing at 9:45 Saturday, Sept 26 (1:40, 1.3) – Survey Lanes Island, meet at Town Landing at 10:45</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
5. DISCUSSION	Grant	
<p>Judy has not heard from them yet, but expects to in the next few days. She will report back at the next meeting.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Check with Broad Reach about reassigning funds	Judy	2/15/20
6. DISCUSSION	Regional Shellfish Meetings	
<p>Reginal shellfish meeting was well attended. Kevin, Ben, and Judy were present. There were about 30 people. Discussions were held about various topics including multi species management, data collection and distribution, educating town council members, conservation projects and monitoring protocols. Each of the topics had good representation and interesting outcomes.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	New Business	

SPECIAL NOTES	
Kevin handed out a survey which he would like to include with the renewal of licenses to gather some general data. It is attached to these minutes and will be discussed at the next meeting.	

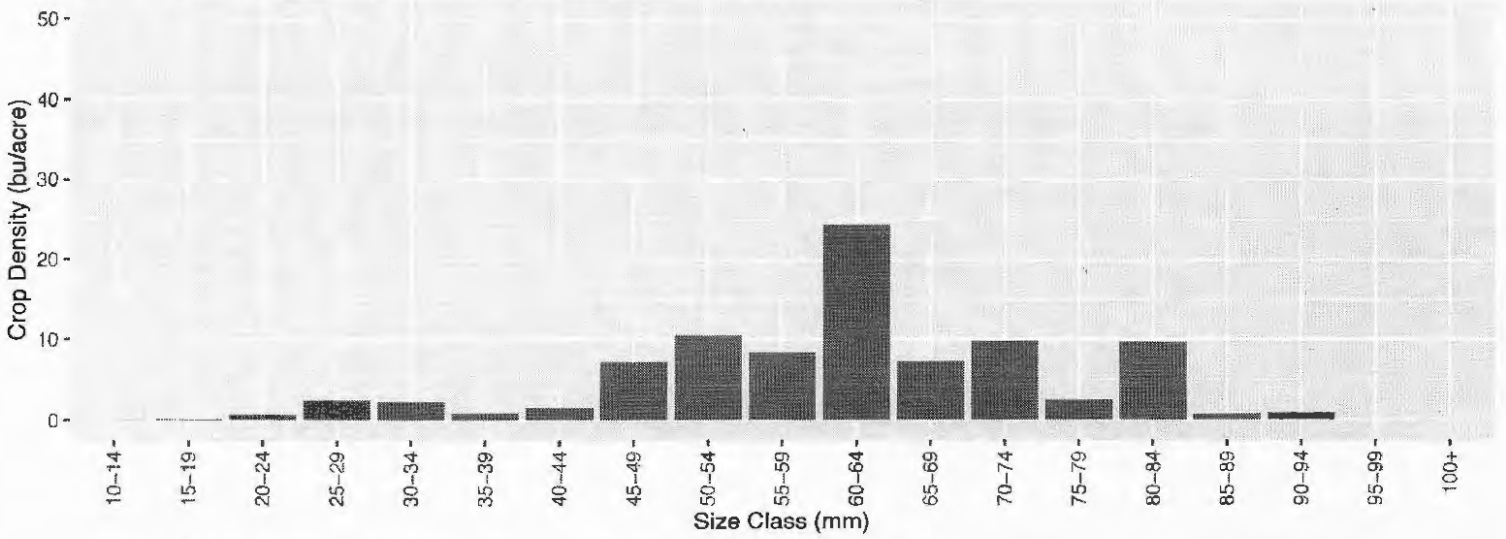
NEXT MEETING DATE	March 9, 2020
AGENDA:	Agenda for Next Meeting: 1. Review Minutes 2. Warden's Report 3. Licensing Point System 4. License # Recommendation 5. License Renewal Survey Questions 6. Grant Report 7. New Business 8. Set Agenda

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TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:45 pm

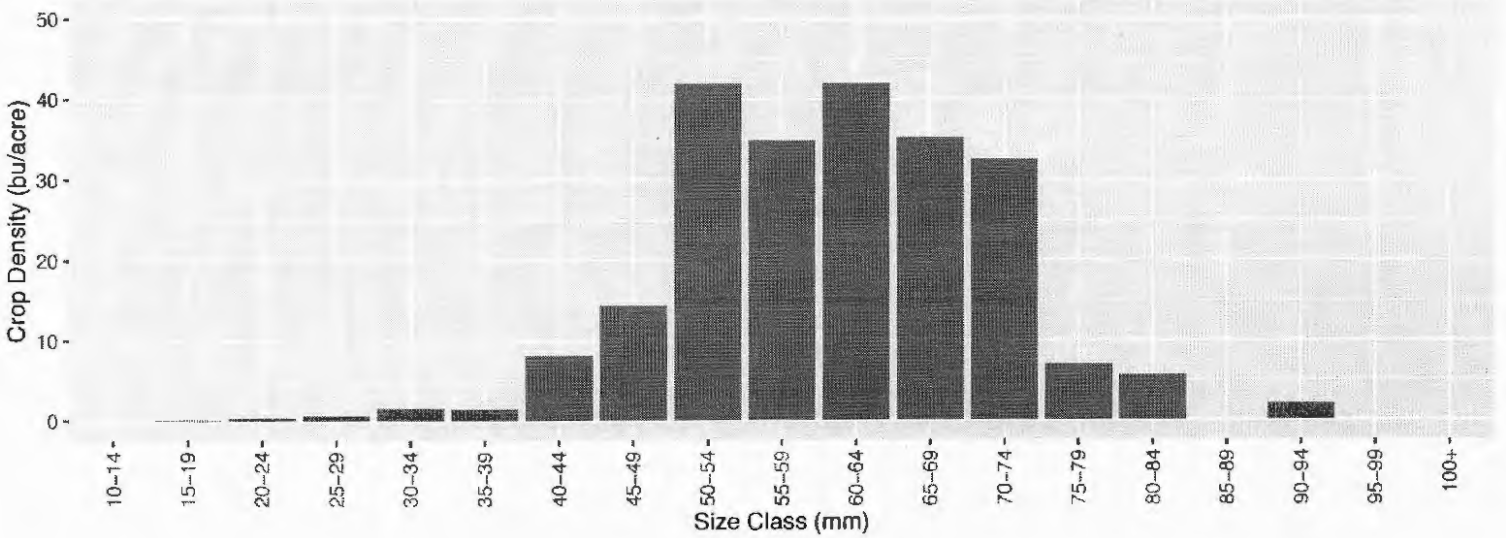
Lanes-2016-Apr abundance = 69 (bu/acre) >50mm = 54 (bu/acre)



Lanes-2016-Apr abundance = 89 (bu/acre) >50mm = 74 (bu/acre)



Lanes-2016-Apr abundance = 228 (bu/acre) >50mm = 201 (bu/acre)



From proposed ordinance as drafted by Nat, note that there is language in two sections...

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/invasive species control, enhancement projects, environmental monitoring and remediation, public education or similar programs or efforts, all subject to the prior approval and designation by the Commission.

Commercial Applicants Conservation Points Program:

The Shellfish Conservation Commission, with the consent of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, may vote to establish and administer a Conservation Points Program for any person who is not a current Resident or Non-Resident Commercial Shellfish license holder for the Town of Yarmouth.

The Commission shall invite any interested person to participate in approved Shellfish Conservation work projects and the Commission shall establish a point value for active participation in such work projects. Upon completion of the work projects, all active participants shall be awarded Points for completion.

The Commission shall establish a system of tracking cumulative point totals by individual participants and may to delegate such tracking responsibility to the Shellfish Warden, and a report to the Town Clerk of all individuals with cumulative points shall be provided to the Town Clerk whenever there is an opportunity to issue a new Commercial license. The Town Clerk shall rely on said report whenever issuing a new Commercial License (whether Resident Commercial or Non-Resident Commercial) in accordance with Article III. A. 3.

When first establishing a Conservation Points program, the Shellfish Conservation Commission shall establish a minimum number of cumulative points required to be accumulated prior to issuance of licenses. Points shall be awarded reasonably and fairly with a determination of Conservation Point values to be made prior to the scheduling of Conservation Work projects. Points shall be provided equally to all active participants and with consistent Point Value assignments for projects of equivalent effort and skill requirements. The Commission shall provide for public notice and opportunity for any interested person to participate in the Conservation Work Program and to accumulate Conservation Points in an equal basis.

Commercial Applicants Conservation Points Program: draft approved activities

Any interested person may propose to the Commission other activities that adhere to the intention of the Conservation Points Program in advance of that activity. The Commission may approve such activities and will publish the details following regular procedures outlined in Town ordinances.

Record of attendance is required before points can be awarded. Some activities may be minuted which may serve the purpose, but others may require a check in with a Commission appointed individual (Warden, DMR employee, etc.)

Examples of approvable activities are included in the table below.

Activities	Examples	Points
Full Tide Survey	Soft shell survey	6
Qualified Meeting	State Shellfish Advisory	1
All Day Qualified Meeting	Fisherman's Forum	2
Municipal Shellfish		0.33/mtg.

Commercial Applicants Conservation Points Program: minimum point threshold

Before vacant license can be awarded using the conservation point system, there must be one or more applicants who have accumulated a minimum of 15 points. In the event that no applicant has earned the minimum number of points the license(s) will be awarded by lottery as described in the ordinance.

Annual Resource Survey

In an effort to better track resource usage please fill out the following survey. Thank you for your help.

Please provide information about your shellfish harvesting for the previous year by putting a check mark next to the resource you harvested and how many times you harvested that resource.

___ Softshell Clams How many times did you harvest? _____

___ Quahogs How many times did you harvest? _____

___ Razor Clams How many times did you harvest? _____

___ Scallops How many times did you harvest? _____

___ Muscles How many times did you harvest? _____

___ Oysters How many times did you harvest? _____

The Yarmouth/North Yarmouth Shellfish Conservation Commission thanks you for your participation.

Shellfish meetings are held monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm, ask the town hall or check the town website for more information.