



Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2015
7:00 PM

A SPECIAL meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Stonington Human Services Meeting Room, 166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379 (next to Stonington High School). Voting members present were Mr. John Swenarton, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Steve Brown; Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

1) Call to order Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

2) Review and approval of the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of November 5, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Swenarton to approve the November 5, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented, with Mr. Banister and Ms. Getchis abstaining, the motion was approved.

3) Correspondence - A letter dated December 3, 2015 from David H. Carey, Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory to Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission, re: evaluating the Mystic River hydrographic dye dilution study undertaken from May 18-22, 2015.

4) Business-

- a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas- Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island-**
All conditional beds remained open the entire month until they were closed on November 20 due to 1.01 inches of rain. Water samples taken on November 22 and on November 29 had excellent results in all areas.
- b) **Report on the oyster growth in Area A and south of Area B.** Oyster were placed on October 31, 2014 and evaluated on November 29, 2015- survival and growth (2"-2.5" increase) was good at both sites.
- c) **Report on the December 4, 2015 shellfish survey near Enders Island.** Good results from several of the five stations – Mr. Markow plans on using this area in the future for shellfishing.
- d) **Update on the Lower Mystic Harbor Conditional Shellfishing Area - Dec. 9 meeting-** The area will be smaller than originally thought and will not be a viable area for commercial shellfishing operations. There will be an increase in the prohibited area north of Mason's Island which covers all the area which Mr. Jim Markow has a licensing agreement with the SSC.
- e) **Update on the Connecticut Shellfish Initiative - Nov. 16th meeting** – At the Nov 16th meeting, the steering committee established priorities for CSI. The steering committee will review the results and compile a framework for these priorities. A public survey will then go out at the end of February and results are expected sometime in June.
- f) **Equipment- discuss possibility of purchasing a new shellfish boat** –Mr. Banister and Mr. Raffo will research a new boat.
- g) **Enforcement-** boat is still in the water due to the warm weather- patrols are still occurring by the warden
- h) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration-** no news to report

- i) **Review of Pending Aquaculture Applications-** Mr. Garret Timmons completed application was sent off to ACOE and DEEP branches.
- j) **Commercial shellfishing report-** no news to report

5) **Adjournment-** With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Banister, and seconded by Mr. Raffo and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen Brown, Secretary