Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2023
6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. Also in attendance was Warden Rob Russell. There is a quorum present.

1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.

3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of August 3rd, 2023. The Chair offered a clarifying sentence to the section regarding the press release about vibrio vulnificus from the State Board of Health. There were no other corrections or additions, and a motion was made and seconded (Banister / Swenarton) to accept the minutes as amended. Voted 5 – 0.

4) Correspondence

a) In the monthly meeting packet, the Chair included an e-mail from David Provencher asking for a Commission review of his client, Charles Griffin, who was in attendance, application for repairing an existing dock on his property.

b) Also included was an e-mail from Will MacKay looking for the Commission review and approval of plans to allow new parties to use part of his licensed area.

c) The Chair shared with the Commission e-mails and correspondence from the Wequetequock Cove Clean Water Coalition.

d) The Chair shared with the Commission an e-mail from Lukas Houle, of the Environment Committee of the CT General Assembly. There is a working group studying eel grass -aquaculture interactions and the restoration of eel grass on the CT shoreline. The Chair invited Commissioner Banister to join and participate in the group if he is able.

5) Business

a) The Chair shared with the Commission the August water sample results and commented that all areas were sampled this month the results were very good. In the meeting packet was a copy of the notice from the State DA / BA on August 30th closing approved areas in Groton and a portion of the approved area in Stonington due to an unknown source of sewage contamination. The Chair asked Steve Plant to explain and comment on the situation. It has caused a disruption in the ability to depurate stock for a few of the commercial growers and they asked the Commission about sharing existing licensed depuration grounds. The Chair shared with the Commission an interesting find, that they discovered during a shellfish demonstration class that was held on August 12th, that was organized by Commissioner Raffo. At the time, Commissioner Raffo thought it might be duck clam. Later it was identified as a blood ark clam.

b) With the approach of the Fall scallop season, the Chair proposed that this year's season begin on the