



Special Meeting  
June 11, 2020  
6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date online via WebEx. This meeting was recorded. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Dan Barrett (alternate), Mr. Donald Murphy, Chair, and Mr. Peter Moore, Acting Secretary. Mr. John Swenarton was not present at the beginning of the meeting so Mr. Barrett assumed his role as a voting member of the Commission for the evening. Mr. Swenarton joined the meeting later.

- 1) Call to order- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.
- 2) Public Comment – There was no public comment.
- 3) Review and approval of the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2020 – A **motion** (Raffo/Bannister) to approve the minutes after minor edits was approved 5-0.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) A letter of June 6, 2020 from Docko, Inc., forwarding an application by Gennaro Modugno to construct a dock and boat lift on the east shore of Latimer Pt. Docko and the Commission agreed that the application will be considered at the SSC July meeting.
  - b) State of Connecticut DA/BA Town Recreational Relay License dated May 21, 2020 to the SSC to transplant 10,000 clams from Westport and Norwalk into our local recreational shellfish grounds.
  - c) Email dated June 8, 2020 from Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Co. (Will MacKay) expressing interest in submitting an application to conduct aquaculture near Elihu Island.
- 5) Business
  - a) Water Quality Testing -- The shell fishing grounds were open 23 out of 30 days in the month of March. April saw 12 open days and 18 closed days. May was open 23 days out of 31. Areas were open approximately 50% of the time during this 3-month period.
  - b) Discuss the possibility of opening Area B to recreational shell fishing year-round -- The intention is to open Area B this summer to recreational shell fishing. In previous

years the area had to be closed when there were 10 or more boats in the mooring area. This threshold has been increased to 20. The CT DA/BA wants to monitor boat number in the area and to make sure there is no party boat activity and boats are spaced far apart. They suggested we take panorama photos of the boats moored over time and post them to the SSC Instagram account as documented proof of boat activity.

Lou Allyn, Vice Chair of the Mystic Harbor Commission, joined the meeting to inform the SSC that Mason's Island Yacht Club will monitor their guest moorings and provide information to them regarding the pump out boat.

c) Closure of Lower Mystic Harbor (LMH) Conditional Area on May 13, 2020 – Good performance of the area in 2019-2020. By 10 May there were nearly 20 boats moored in LMH. The area was declared closed on May 13, 2020.

d) Update on the June 2020 bloom of Pseudo-nitzschia – Pseudo-nitzschia is a marine planktonic diatom containing some species capable of producing the neurotoxin domoic acid which causes shell fish poisoning. High counts of it were found at the bell buoy south of the Stonington Outer Breakwater. As a result, the commercial area of Outer Stonington Harbor was closed as a precaution.

e) Schedule Public Hearing for Stonington Aquafarms, LLC – The SSC decided to cancel its next meeting July 2, 2020 and call a Special Meeting for July 1, 2020 at which time a public hearing will be heard for the application by Stonington Aquafarms, LLC to conduct aquaculture between Andrews and Dodge Islands. This meeting will be held online via WebEx in accordance of the laws of open meetings for the State of Connecticut.

f) Commercial Shell fishing Reports – Will MacKay is building a crane for his boat.

g) A **motion** (Raffo/Barrett) was made to allocate \$1920 for the purchase of 10,000 clams to transfer to the Stonington Shellfish Recreational grounds.

h) The year with the COVID19 issue, Don's Dock closed its shop March 24 and did not sell clam permits. As a result, Donald Murphy and Peter Moore met with Danielle Chesebrough and the Town Clerk, Cynthia Ladwig. After a productive meeting, the Town Hall decided to start selling seasonal permits. Further, on June 1, Don's Dock's reopened its retail operation and will now be selling permits again. Going forward, permits will be sold at the town hall and at Greenhaven Marine and Don's Dock. The SSC and the Town will be working towards the solution of selling permit online like the fishing permits are sold currently for the State of Connecticut.

i) Review of the new recreational Shell fishing Map – The Commission reviewed the new recreational shell fishing map. It has been posted on the Commission's website, Twitter, and Instagram. Copies will be printed for distribution to those who purchase permits.

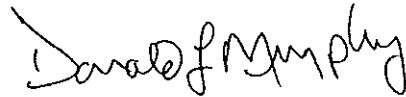
j) Discussion of Public Outreach Initiatives – The content of the Commission’s web site has been updated. The Commission now has a Twitter account and an Instagram Account. Information about the clamming permits, etc. has been posted on the Stonington Community Forum on Facebook.

k) Review of Collections and Bills – Approximately \$700 has been collected by the Commission from recreational and commercial permit sales.

- Pay raise for Shellfish Warden from 15\$ to 18\$ an hour has gone into effect.
- A **motion** (Bannister/Barrett) was made and passed 5-0 to allocate 238\$ for printing Shell Fish Permits for 2020.
- A **motion** (Bannister/Barrett) was made and passed 5-0 to allocate \$400.01 to Don’s Dock for dock fees.

6) Adjournment – A motion (Bannister/Raffo) was made to adjourn this meeting by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald Murphy  
Chairman