Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission
152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2018
6:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Peter Moore, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary, Mr. Donald Murphy; Chairman.

1) <u>Call to order</u> - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. A **motion** to move agenda item 5a to the next order of business (Swenarton/Raffo) was approved unanimously.

5) <u>Business</u>

    a) <u>Discuss an application by Tom Cooke, LionMind Ventures, for a kelp farm in State of Connecticut waters northeast of Eel Grass Ground in Fishers Island Sound</u> – Mr. Cooke presented an overview of his project application. SSC has no comment. Mr. Murphy will complete and submit the CT structures permit pre-application form (Attachment D).

2) <u>Comments from the public</u> – None.

3) <u>Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on August 2, 2018</u> - A **motion** to approve the August 2, 2018 minutes as presented (Banister/Getchis) carried unanimously with Mr. Raffo abstaining.

4) <u>Correspondence</u>

    a) An email dated August 6, 2018 from Hugh McGee, Mystic Middle School, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: MMS Outdoors Club shellfishing demonstration.

    b) An email dated August 29, 2018 from Donald Murphy, SSC to Jeff Chandler, CT DEEP Emergency Response Unit Re: SSC participation in Oil Spill Drill.

    c) An email dated September 5, 2018 from Vincent Pacileo, Town of Stonington to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: modified FOI request to SSC and others.

5) <u>Business</u>

    b) <u>Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas – Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B)</u> – Conditional Areas A and Outer Quiambaug were closed for the first time this summer following a 1.47" rain event on August 4. Both areas were reopened on August 12. Water testing results from August 8 and 14 samples were very good.

    c) <u>Discuss a request by Mystic Middle School's Outdoor Club to conduct a shellfishing demonstration</u> – The demonstration has been scheduled for September 27 at 3:30 pm.

    d) <u>Set opening date, permit fees, and regulations for the 2018-2019 scallop season in Stonington waters</u> – The Shellfish Warden reported the presence of scallops in Area A but has not done an extensive survey. A **motion** to open the scallop season at sunrise October 6, 2018 and close at sunset March 31, 2019 with the same regulations and fees as in 2017-2018 (Raffo/Swenarton) was approved unanimously.

    e) <u>Review the draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission's guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington's waters</u> – Draft modifications to the SSC guidance for applications prepared by Mr. Banister was reviewed. Mr. Banister, Mr. Raffo, and Mr. Moore will work on incorporated suggested edits.

f) Discuss the process for issuing commercial wild harvest (public) permits – Mr. Murphy provided a sample of the SSC Application for a Permit to Harvest Shellfish From Town of Stonington Waters, a copy of the section of the SSC dealing with commercial harvest of wild shellfish and an Application for Shellstock Shipper II License from the CT Aquaculture Bureau for SSC review and discussion at a future meeting.

g) Review of finances; collections, bills, remuneration – Shellfish Warden weekly time reports and invoices for minor expenditures were reviewed.

h) Commercial shellfishing reports –Garrett Timmons reported success using snorkeling for managing his oyster stock. Will Mackay reported good oyster growth. Mr. Banister suggested having this agenda item earlier in the meetings to give attendees the opportunity to leave earlier after giving their reports.

7) New Business – None.

8) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Banister/Moore) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectively submitted,

John Swenarton, Secretary