

MINUTES

Shellfish Conservation Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 5, 2014 at the Public Safety Building 9am

Present: Cecil Doughty, Gary Ross, Chip Corson, Bob Earnest, Jessie Russo; Gerry Balzano (shellfish warden)

1. Call meeting to order
2. Bob's Report from Healthy Casco Bay presentations
 - a. Quahog Bay view: from the head of the bay, two years running; in the first year, eel grass as far as you could see; in the second year, bare mud (same time of year). Result of green crab damage.
 - b. Population green crabs: tonnage vs count. Scientific data indicate that the tonnage of green crabs is way down this summer – likely a result of last winter's occasional severe cold. But: the total number of green crabs remains stable. Many are juvenile – this was a high recruitment year. Conclusion: if we don't have similar severe temps this coming winter, then we'll likely be awash in green crabs in the next few years.
3. Conservation discussion
 - a. Spat strong this year on Chebeague (per local observation) and per Pete Thayer, DMR - across his entire territory
 - b. Should we run a mini survey this fall to get a better feel? We could determine / refine the extent of spat presence on a visual basis; a few members of the committee, plus Gerry B. Resolved: yes, we should do this.
 - i. Thursday 4pm at the Hook.
 - ii. Friday 4:45 at the Cricks (Cecil and Jess from Waldo; Gary, Bob, and Chip from Gary's place)
4. The Committee plans a full survey next spring to determine possible closures, etc. We now know where all the required gear is located.
5. License allocation discussion
 - a. 2014 license number recommendations by SCC were based on recent historical numbers of licenses, and were not deliberately not expanded for 2014, as the SCC concluded that the resource is under threat; our recommendation to the Selectboard was approved and implemented.
 - b. The SCC believes that the threats to the resource continues.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend!

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- c. We understand that the day licenses sold out this year, but we feel that's not a reason to increase the numbers
- d. For 2015, the questions are:
 - i. Keep the same numbers?
 - ii. Increase the numbers?
 - iii. Reduce the numbers?
- e. Resolved: let's get thru the walks next week, and let's get Pete's insight, and hopefully a visit. Then meet again to finalize numbers.
- f. That meeting is scheduled for 11/2/2014.
- 6. Shellfish Warden Report was submitted and reviewed.
- 7. Schedule next meeting
 - a. 11/2, plus two walks mentioned above;
 - b. And, a meeting with Pete to be scheduled (Jessie t/a date, etc)
- 8. Other business
 - a. None at this time
- 9. Adjourn meeting
 - a. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Earnest

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