

Town of Chebeague Island
Shellfish Conservation Commission Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2016 @ 8:45AM
at the Public Safety Building/Town Office

Minutes

1. Called meeting to order at 8:50am.
2. Discuss possible changes/additions to conservation closures.
 - a. Gary recommends that Johnson Cove be closed; the big ones are pretty much dug up and gone; there is, though, lots of spat; any attempts at digging are just going to tear up the spat, and not produce any clams.
 - b. Cecil observed that the top of the Bar is also a lot of spat and not much harvest size; but, that's probably a good place to keep open.
 - c. The Hook (from the Cove to Belesca's) is currently closed; but, we'll learn more about that area during our survey this spring.
 - d. Gary made a motion: that we draw a line from Waldo Point to Jenks and then close everything up towards the shore as a conservation closure; and, that we reserve the right to place nets in that area to enhance spat retention. Cecil seconded. Discussion: Carol told us that it's not just green crabs, but also acid soil that prevents settlement, and that we include this in our net site selection. Unanimous that we take this forward. Bob will take this to Selectboard.
3. Planning for spat net implementation.
 - a. Lots of discussion about the Manomet opportunity as a civic planting project; lots of support to apply. Chip moves that we apply for the grant and see if we get it. Ernie seconded. No further discussion; approved unanimous. Bob to call Manomet on Monday.
 - b. When to set our 4 nets?
 - i. Carol can test for pH as part of site selection (assume in the Cricks)
 - ii. Avoid going too early re: ice.
 - iii. Resolved: let's focus on seed retention, as opposed to trying to gather this year's spat.
 - iv. Ernie moved that we go for 7am 4/10 for setting the 4 nets. Cecil seconded; unanimous.
4. 6am 7am 4/22 and 4/23 survey. Indian Isl Cove 4/22; 4/23 end of Fenderson.
5. Ernie recommends that we consider leasing – by the town or Chebeaguers – as we learn from our 4 nets, and, from the 25 nets (if we get that). Cecil offered that we get the Town to consider how we could preserve areas from future leases. But, Ernie pointed out that the only way you could do this is to have the Town apply for leases, and then that they be worked. Consensus: let's keep investigating and discussing these ideas.
6. Discussed Jeff Putnam's LPA application off the Cricks; no objections, Bob and Genaro will sign off.
7. Public comment / other topics. None at this time.
8. Gary made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Cecil; unanimous.