

Town of Chebeague Island
Shellfish Conservation Commission Meeting

Friday, April 19, 2017 @ 9:00AM

at the Public Safety Building/Town Office

Minutes

1. Called meeting to order at 9am.
2. Review what we learned at the annual survey:
 - a. **At the cove at the Hook: there were a few market size oysters, and a small amount of small seed, but only in a band about 20' wide, reaching down from about 2' from high tide.**
 - b. **At the Little Chebeague Bar there were a few markets and tons of seed about 1". However, all of the clams are in an area that is an ever changing section of the bar; no way to preserve or predict, given how often that part of the bar moves around.**
 - c. **At Division Point the results were similar; a band running along the shore in spots, about 20' wide, spotty, some markets, small amounts of small seed.**
 - d. **Similar observations at the Cricks (although not from the annual survey)**
3. Discuss / propose actions as a result of survey:
 - a. **Open any closed areas? We recommend opening the Cricks and the cove at the Hook; closing the areas does not seem to be increasing the stocks (which implies that it's not digging that is reducing stock / killing spat, etc; it seems to be environmental or biological, which we'll continue to investigate)**
 - b. **Close any new areas? If we can get this concept approved by the State and by the Corp of Engineers, we would like to close only those areas that are under the crab exclusion nets; currently deployed at the Cricks, but to be moved this summer to perhaps a range of areas. The goal would be to try protecting clams in spots where we've found them. This could help us learn whether it's predation or environmental factors that are reducing our clam stocks.**
 - c. **Extend any closures? No, except as in b. above. Possible locations for 2 – 4 nets per spot: Sunset Cove; Waldo Point.**
4. Discuss / propose any daily take limit changes. A suggestion has been made that we change the commercial take limit from 1 bushel per tide to ½ bushel per tide. This would require a change to the Ordinance.
5. Change to Ordinance: should we recommend such a change to the Selectboard, to then be voted on at Town Meeting? **We decided not to recommend any changes in the daily take limits, as it would not change things; there just aren't that many clams there to take.**
6. Chip stepping down; have asked Marjorie to start advertising for a new member; suggestions? **A few names were discussed; they will be encouraged to apply. We need someone who has an interest in the resource and who can help with conservation projects and surveys.**
7. Public comment?
8. **Adjourned at 9:50am.**