

6. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Edward Gaine	401.1	B	2.85	Great Bay-Big Creek	10
Douglas E. Price	1029	A	2.08	Great Sound	5
Crystal Bryant	1099	A	2.06	Great Sound	5

Messrs. Gaine and Price were present at the last meeting. Ms. Bryant was not present at this meeting nor was she present at the last meeting in January. As per the leasing regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:75-24.6, Ms. Bryant's applications was cancelled. The lease applications for Messrs. Gaine and Price were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Normant stated that the applicants have 30 days to sign their lease agreements.

7. Research Leases

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
NJDF&W-I&E	1R	C	2.00	BB-Sedge	
NJDF&W-I&E	2R	C	1.38	BB-Waretown	
Rutgers Cooperative Ext	3R	C	0.46	BB-Seaside	

Mr. Normant stated that the Bureau would like to formalize lease agreements for the above research leases in Barnegat Bay. These three research leases in Barnegat Bay were previously approved by Council, but there was no formal lease agreement. Ms. Karen Byrne from NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife-I&E program would be responsible for both Barnegat Bay-Sedge Island research lease 1R and Barnegat Bay-Waretown, research lease 2R and Mr. Gef Flimlin from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension would be responsible for the Barnegat Bay-Seaside research lease 3R. By having a formal agreement, it would provide an element of enforceability. The three research leases were approved on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Hughes.

8. Old Business:

Barnegat Bay Hard Clam Stock Assessment

Ms. Dacanay presented the preliminary findings of the 2012 Hard Clam Stock Assessment of Barnegat Bay, along with the post-Superstorm Sandy investigation results for both Barnegat and Little Egg Harbor bays. The final report would be available once the peer review process was completed. Once finalized, a full color copy of the report would be provided to all Council members.

Mr. Johnson recommended that future studies in Barnegat Bay include analysis of the meat quality in the hard clams. Mr. Maxwell stated that hard clam meat quality began to degrade in Barnegat Bay in the late 1970's.

Atlantic Coast Leasing Committee Update

Mr. Normant stated that the Atlantic Coast Shellfisheries Council's Leasing Committee (ACLC) would meet on February 25, 2015 at 2 pm. Mr. Normant stated that the two subcommittees (Regulation and Policy committees) would review and discuss each subcommittees' recommendations.

The upcoming Atlantic Coast Section of the New Jersey Shellfisheries Council Leasing Committee meeting was advertised with the Secretary of the State, on the Division website and with the Bureau of Shellfish email listserv. Committee recommendations would be made on a consensus basis and the meeting would be open to the public.

Proposed Lease Area

Mr. Scott Lenox conveyed to the Council that he had applied for a lease within a small unnamed creek off of Rose Cove in Little Egg Harbor Bay. Mr. Normant stated that the proposed lease area was approximately three acres. Mr. Lenox stated that the area he applied for was less than two acres. Mr. Johnson inquired if the area was navigable and if there were potential user conflicts. Mr. Normant stated that a biological investigation would be conducted.

Proposed Traditional Lease Area (Barnegat Bay)

Mr. Greg inquired if the proposed new lease area near Barnegat Light in Barnegat Bay would be an Aquaculture Development Zone or a traditional lease area. Mr. Johnson stated that the Council proposed to make this a traditional lease area. Mr. Johnson stated that there were several attempts to meet with the mayor of Barnegat Light. Mr. Johnson suggested that the Bureau develop a proposal describing the intent and location of the proposed lease area and ask for the mayor's comments. Mr. Normant stated that if the Bureau and Council gave approval for the proposed lease area, there would be approximately twelve to fifteen one acre parcels.

9. New Business:

Mullica River Oyster Seed Bed Survey, 2014

Mr. Normant reviewed the findings from the 2014 Mullica River Oyster Seed Bed Survey. Mr. Normant stated that the mean spat per 37 quart bushel was 1,741 spat at French's Point and 1,511 spat at Moss Point (spat was 3,376 at Moss Pt 1, but declined the further down river to 260 at Moss Pt 4). Mr. Normant stated that the bed conditions were 89.9 % oysters at French's Point and 62 % at Moss Point. Mr. Normant also stated that the average total mortality was 7.5 % at French's Point and 16.6 % at Moss Point.

Hard Clam Relay, 2015

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to suspend the 2015 Hard Clam Relay. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Financial Disclosure Statements

Mr. Normant reminded the Council that their Financial Disclosures Statements were due by May 15th. Mr. Normant stated that computers were available at the Nacote Creek Office if any of the Council members needed to use one to file.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and a second by Mr. Hughes.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: March 16, 2015
TIME: 7 PM
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office
360 New York Rd. Rte. 9
Port Republic, NJ 08241