



4. Old Business:

Leasing Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Normant stated there would be a Policy Subcommittee Meeting on Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office to discuss proposals of new lease block areas in several waterways. Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Normant what the process would be going forward after the upcoming policy meeting. Mr. Normant stated that the proposals would be presented to the full Leasing Committee. The Council suggested scheduling the Leasing Committee meeting before the January 2017 Council meeting.

Shellfish Growing Water Classification Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:12)

Mr. Johnson stated the Council needed to continue to stay involved in the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring (BMWM) Shellfish Growing Water Classification Rule (N.J.A.C 7:12) development process. Mr. Johnson made clear the Council's discontent with the new rule changes that were adopted in September and the time constraints regarding the submission and review of comments. Mr. Normant stated he had spoken to Mr. Schuster from the BMWM prior to this meeting and was informed the BMWM intended to reopen the rules for modification. Mr. Normant stated the Bureau had additional concerns with the rules and the implementation of the application process. Mrs. Avery, who was in attendance on behalf of her husband Bill Avery stated her discontent with application procedure and requirements for the aquaculture leasing permit.

2014 Raritan and Sandy Hook Bay Shellfish Inventory Report

Ms. Dacanay presented the results of the Raritan and Sandy Hook Bay Shellfish Inventory completed in 2014. The survey resampled stations from two previous surveys (1983 and 2000) to assess the standing stock and relative distribution of adult hard clams. Survey results showed an increase in hard clam standing stocks in both Raritan and Sandy Hook bays. Standing stock were estimated at 839.1 million hard clams in Raritan Bay and 355.1 million in Sandy Hook Bay, a 39% and 4% increase, respectively, from the 2000 stock estimates. Stock estimates within the Sandy Hook/Raritan Bay Depuration Harvest Zones were 931.1 million clams, representing 27% increase from the 2000 estimate. Cumulatively, 1.2 billion clams were estimated in Raritan and Sandy Hook bays.

Mr. Maxwell was interested in the frequency of resampling. Ms. Dacanay stated that the Bureau plans to continue sampling the waterbodies south of Great Bay and then begin reassessing the estuaries to the north. Ms. Dacanay stated a copy of the report is available by request.

5. New Business:

No new business was discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Johnson.

6. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: November 14, 2016  
TIME: 7 PM  
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office  
360 New York Rd. Rte. Port Republic, NJ 08241