

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
DELAWARE BAY SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory
MS Teams Conference Call
Bivalve, NJ
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
6:00 PM

Present were: Chairman: Warren Hollinger (Cumberland County)
Vice Chairman: Steven Fleetwood (Cumberland County)
Councilman: Richard Malinowski (Salem County)
Councilman: Scott Sheppard (Cumberland County)
Councilman: Vacant (Cape May/Salem County)

State/Fed Reps: Joe Cimino, Marine Fisheries Administration
Russ Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Jeff Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Craig Tomlin, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Megan Kelly, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Robert Shuster, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring
Amanda Wenzel, Department of Agriculture

Haskin Lab: David Bushek, Director
Jennifer Gius, Laboratory Researcher IV
Iris Burt, Laboratory Technician

General Public

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1B-30 et. seq), a notice of this meeting was posted May 10, 2023 with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and sent to the NJ Advanced Media news outlets. This meeting will be recorded.

- 1. Councilman Fleetwood motioned to approve the minutes for January 2023. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- 2. Delaware Bay Office Revenue Collected in March and April 2023**

2.1 Revenue collected for March totaled \$42,028.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$1,600.00	AC & DB Dredge	\$400.00
Nets	\$2,846.00	Menhaden	\$618.00
Application Fees	\$134.00	Dealer/Shucker	\$400.00
Oyster Tags	\$30,400.00	Recreational SF	\$30.00
Dredge Boat Renewal	\$3,100.00	Tonging Tags	\$100.00
Assigned Fees	\$2,400.00		

2.2 Revenue collected for April totaled \$27,839.00 and is summarized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$3,400.00	DB & AC Crab Dredge	\$400.00
Nets	\$2,177.00	Menhaden	\$672.00
Application Fees	\$140.00	Recreational SF	\$150.00
Oyster Tags	\$20,800.00	Tonging Tags	\$100.00

3. Oyster Resource Development Account (082): *(as of 5/01/2023)*

Expended	\$191,797.13	
Unexpended	\$522,225.80	

4. Lease Ground Transactions - Transfers

4.1 Lease Ground Transfers – M. Bowker to H. Bowker & K. Di Joseph

Leaseholder	Applicant	Section	Lot	Acres	Acreage Fee	Application Fee
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	B	113	22	\$11.00	\$5.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	C	116	29	\$14.50	\$1.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	C	175	15	\$7.50	\$1.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	C	185	8	\$4.00	\$1.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	C	204	86	\$43.00	\$1.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	D	397	8	\$4.00	\$1.00
Mary Bowker & Harry Bowker	Harry Bowker & Kelly Di Joseph	D	440	11	\$5.50	\$1.00
		Total		179	\$89.50	\$11.00

4.2 Lease Ground Transfers – R. Robbins to T.C. Reeves & Son Seafood, LLC

Leaseholder	Applicant	Section	Lot	Acres	Acreage Fee	Application Fee
Robert Robbins	T.C. Reeves & Son Seafood LLC	C	89	9	\$4.50	\$5.00
Robert Robbins	T.C. Reeves & Son Seafood LLC	C	96	11	\$5.50	\$1.00
		Total		20	\$10.00	\$6.00

Councilman Fleetwood motioned to approve the lease application. Councilman Malinowski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Following the motion, Mr. Babb addressed the Council with an update on discussions pertaining to lease transfers and lease over-staking that took place at a previous Atlantic Coast Sections of the New Jersey Shellfisheries Council meeting. In short, discussions of requiring a hydrographic survey for lease transfers have begun. Further updates will be given at upcoming Council meetings.

5. Old Business

5.1 Red Knot Stakeholder Committee Update

Councilman Hollinger stated that the Red Knot Stakeholder Committee had not convened, and therefore had no further information to share. Mr. Tomlin reminded all in attendance that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service had reissued conservation measures pertaining to red knots in the cape-shore area with no changes for 2023.

5.2 New Jersey Shellfish Legislation – Actions and Bills

Mr. Babb gave a quick update on the status of select bills that are before the State Senate and Assembly. First, the “right to farm” bill was signed by Governor Murphy on March thirteenth of twenty-twenty-three. Mr. Babb then informed the Council that the Sunday harvest bill was still before the Food Security Committee. Lastly, bills concerning ocean acidification and the bay-scallop fishery have been introduced.

5.3 Dredge Boat License Consolidation Administrative Consent Order (ACO)

Mr. Tomlin elucidated that five Administrative Consent Orders had been fully executed, which affect a total of forty-five dredge vessel licenses.

Councilman Fleetwood motioned to write a letter to Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette thanking him and those involved with issuing the Administrative Consent Order in such a timely manner. Councilman Sheppard seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5.4 Oyster Tonging Industry Update

Mr. Tomlin shared the following table, which summarized the 2022-23 tonging season:

	Oct '22	Nov '22	Dec '22	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	Totals
Single tags	500	250	250	100	150	50	50	1,300
Revenue	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$200	\$300	\$100	\$100	\$2,700
Weekly (bu)	0	380	236	154	104	130	50	1,062
Dealer (bu)	0	339	188	152	116	139	37	971

6. New Business

6.1 Intermediate Transplant Program

Mr. Tomlin gave a summary of what was accomplished during the 2023 Intermediate Transplant. Two vessels participated in a fourteen-day transplant. 32,350 bushels of oysters were moved. Oysters were transplanted to Nantuxent, Shell Rock, Ship John, and Upper Middle beds. This increased individual quotas

by 398 bu. to a total of 1,198 bu. per dredge vessel license. With the increased quota, 95,799 bu. are expected to be harvested in 2023.

6.2 Direct Market Harvest Program

Mr. Tomlin shared a table summarizing what has occurred so far in the 2023 Direct Market Harvest Program:

Bed Name	Region	Boat Days	Total Bushels	CPUE
Bennies Sand	HM	2	291	145.5
Bennies	HM	143	23,847	166.8
Nantuxent	HM	3	240	80.0
Total MMM		0		
Total SR		0		
Total HM		148	24,378	164.7
Total		148	24,378	164.7

6.3 Cohansey Cove to Back Creek and Nantuxent Cove Transplant

Mr. Tomlin reported the F/V C.J. Peterson worked a day in the Cohansey Cove and transplanted approximately 1400 bu. in Back Creek. A second day of transplant from Cohansey Cove to Nantuxent Creek is planned approximately a week following the Council meeting.

7. Date, time, and place of next meeting: - Council

DATE: Tuesday, July 11, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid (Haskin Shellfish Lab)

Councilman Sheppard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Fleetwood seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.