

Meeting of the
DELAWARE BAY SECTION of the SHELL FISHERIES COUNCIL
January 6, 2009

MINUTES

NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Shellfisheries
1672 E Buckshutem Rd, NJ 08332
Phone: (856) 785-0730, Fax: (856) 785-0853

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Warren Hollinger, Chair, Cumberland Co.
Scott Bailey, Cumberland, Co.
Stephen Fleetwood, Cumberland, Co.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

James W. Joseph, Shellfisheries
Russell Babb, Shellfisheries
Jason Hearon, Shellfisheries
Craig Tomlin, Shellfisheries
Joe Myers, Dept. Agriculture

HASKIN SHELLFISH LABORATORY

David Bushek, Research Professor

Compliance with Sunshine Law:

Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, The Press, and Daily Journal on December 16, 2008 pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

Mr. Joseph notified the Council that the meeting would be recorded.

The July 2008 minutes with Council suggested revisions (minor page 2 amendment) were presented for consideration. The September, October and November minutes were presented for review. Due to inadequate review time, a decision on the September, October and November 2008 minutes will be held-over until the next scheduled meeting.

Chairman Hollinger made a motion to approve the July 2008 Council Minutes. Councilman Fleetwood seconded the motion.

Revenue collected for November 2008 totaled \$5,883.50. This revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab License	\$500.00	Area 2 & 3 License	\$60.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$100.00	Assignment Fees	\$49.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	\$800.00	Lease Fees	\$74.50
Commercial Shellfish License	\$650.00	Net License	\$1,040.00
Recreational Shellfish License	\$20.00	Application Fees	\$34.00
Cultch Fees	\$2,556.00		

Revenue collected for December 2008 totaled \$30,623.50. This revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab License	\$4,100.00	Oyster Dredge Boat License	\$1,581.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	\$2,700.00	Planter License	\$100.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	\$2,100.00	Assignment Fees	\$66.00
Commercial Shellfish License	\$650.00	Lease Fees	\$11,177.50
Recreational Shellfish License	\$50.00	Net License	\$7,551.00
Area 2 & 3 License	\$234.00	Application Fees	\$214.00
Oyster Dealer's License	\$100.00		

- Oyster Resource Development Account balance as of January 5, 2009: \$686,430.31

1. Lease Ground Transactions

1.1. Robbins and Robbins, Inc. have transferred the follow grounds to Robert Robbins.

LOT #	SEC.	ACRE	LOT #	SECT	ACRE
106	A	167	268	C	16
137	A	46	269	C	30
157	A	226	278	C	33
158	A	114	279	C	17
100	B	90	280	C	21
110	B	17	422	C	84
121	B	37	428	C	40
134	B	85	438	C	59
136	B	11	449	C	62
149	B	9	470	C	16
167	B	8	534	C	26
168	B	8	599	C	16
254	B	83	50	D	18
9	C	11	55	D	7
20	C	56	59	D	8
22	C	31	63	D	43
47	C	76	265	D	53
48	C	165	301	D	10
54	C	29	328	D	20
57	C	20	349	D	37
64	C	11	367	D	21
70	C	26	389	D	19
89	C	9	406	D	21
96	C	11	472	D	62
113	C	121	499	D	13
117	C	23	537	D	15
132	C	18	554	D	31
266	C	9	579	D	37
267	C	13			

2. 2009 Leased Ground Extensions

- ### 2.1. Chairman Hollinger made a motion to approve the 2009 lease ground extensions. Councilman Fleetwood seconded this motion.

3. Old Business

4.1 Final 2008 Oyster Harvest Season Summary

Mr. Tomlin reported that 99 percent of the total allowable catch was harvested. He noted that the greatest harvest came from the Shellrock seedbed (29,736 bushels) and the second greatest harvest was from Ship John seedbed (21,469 bushels).

4.2 Aquaculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Leasing Committee Report – Delaware Bay

Mr. Myers stated that during the fall of 2008 the AAC Leasing Committee met three times and finalized the Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) leasing document. Chairman Hollinger

noted that both sections of the NJ Shellfisheries Council needed to form leasing committees to review and discuss the AAC Leasing Committee Report as well as traditional leasing policies. Mr. Myers informed the Council that the ACC would be holding a meeting on Friday, January 16, 2009 at the Department of Agriculture's Trenton office at 10 a.m.

5. New Business

5.1 Annual Election of Council Chairperson (N.J.S.A. 50:1-18(a))

Councilman Fleetwood made a motion that Chairman Hollinger retain his current position as Chair. Chairman Hollinger seconded the motion. Chairman Hollinger made a motion the Councilman Fleetwood become the new Co-Chairman. Councilman Fleetwood seconded the motion. Chairman Hollinger mentioned that there have been no new appointments for the last few years. Lengthy conversation ensued.

5.2 Athos I Damage Assessment Restoration Plan (DARP) – Creation of Oyster Reefs

Mr. Babb stated that in November of 2004 an oil spill occurred in the Delaware River (Athos 1). He noted that public information; a document has been released for public comment pertaining to this oil spill. Mr. Babb noted that this document could be reviewed at www.darrp.noaa.gov. He commented that DEP had been working with NOAA on this plan and that the Bureau had submitted a restoration project proposal for oyster reef creation and enhancement in 2005-2006. He stated the Bureau's proposal had ranked very high. Mr. Babb noted that if this proposal was accepted, that a 52-acre site would be selected on or near Middle seedbed and that this site would be closed to harvest for five years. Lengthy conversation ensued.

5.3 Oyster Stock Assessment Workshop Reminder

Chairman Hollinger noted that the oyster Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) would be held February 2-4, 2009. He reminded those in attendance that the SAW is when the quota for the 2009 season would be set. Mr. Babb stated that many letters had been sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the introduction of *Crassostrea ariakensis* (Asian oyster). Letters seemed to be against the introduction. A Lengthy conversation ensued over the value of the commercial oyster fishery.

5.4 Reminder Letters

Mr. Joseph stated that due to fiscal shortages the Division would no longer send reminder letters to leaseholder to renew their leases. Mr. Babb noted that the proposed Delaware Bay Office schedule never went into affect and the office remains open Monday through Thursday 8:30 till 4:30 with a one hour break for lunch from 12-1p.m..

5.5 Wind Farm

Mr. Hearon stated that a consultant had recently contacted him asking for information about the potential construction of a wind farm on the Delaware Bay. He stated that the consultant had suggested that they would like to appear before the Council to make a presentation.

6. Adjournment

6.1 Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Hollinger made a motion to adjourn. Co-Chairman Fleetwood seconded the

motion.

The next meeting of the Delaware Bay Shell Fisheries Council will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. in the library of the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory.