

<b>NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL</b>		<b>Delaware Bay Section</b>
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>		

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Monthly Meeting of NJ Shellfisheries Council - Delaware Bay Section		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	March 4, 2014		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	6:00 PM		
<b>Venue</b>	Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory	City	Bivalve, NJ
<b>Attendees</b>	General Public		

<b>Council</b>	<b>State/Fed Representatives</b>	<b>Haskin Research Lab</b>
Warren Hollinger, Cumberland Co.	Russell Babb, DFW Shellfisheries	David Bushek, Director
Richard Malinowski, Salem Co.	Jason Hearon, DFW Shellfisheries	Kathy Alcox, Field Researcher
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.	Craig Tomlin, DFW Shellfisheries	Daphne Munroe, Researcher Professor
Steven Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.		
Cape May / Salem Co. – Vacant		

*Compliance with the Sunshine Law*

Notice of this meeting was posted January 28, 2014 with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, and Daily Journal pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

**Revenue collected for January totaled \$9070.00 and is summarized as follows:**

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot	\$300.00	Otter Trawl	\$229.00
Nets	\$2,449.00	Commercial Shellfish	\$800.00
AC Crab Dredge	\$1,000.00	Recreational Shellfish	\$30.00
DB Crab Dredge	\$1,000.00	Dredge Boat Renewal	\$198.00
Application Fees	\$130.00	Lease Fees	\$528.00
Menhaden	\$722.00	Tonging Tags	\$1,600.00
Area 1, 2 & 3	\$84.00		

**Oyster Resource Development Account:**

<i>Mar 4, 2014</i>		
<b>Unexpended</b>	\$703,580.29	Budget authority less expenditures ( <i>total spendable dollars currently in account</i> )
<b>Expended</b>	\$46,026.84	Total amount spent against the appropriation ( <i>spent from account during FY'14</i> )
<b>Pre-encumbered</b>	\$0.00	Total outstanding requisitions processed against the appropriation ( <i>Amount previously set-aside for preparation of term contracts - since cancelled</i> )
<b>Encumbered</b>	\$281,475.66	Total outstanding purchase orders processed against the appropriation ( <i>Amount obligated to vendors or planned services (e.g., contracting, transplants)</i> )
<b>Uncommitted</b>	\$422,104.63	Amount available for pre-encumbrance, encumbrance, or expenditure ( <i>Current free-balance that is not obligated/encumbered to specific vendors, etc.</i> )

**Lease Ground Transactions**

**Application for New Grounds**

**Decision - Bivalve Packing (approved)**

LOT #	SEC	ACRE
181	B	32
238	B	42
628	C	25

**Decision - Luke Williams (approved)**

LOT #	SEC	ACRE
7	ADZ	1.5

**Decision- Matthew Williams (approved)**

LOT #	SEC	ACRE
8	ADZ	1.5

**New Business:**

*2014 Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW)*

Mr. Bushek presented the council with executive summaries of the past years SAW. He then gave a power point presentation that gave a brief history of the oyster harvest in the Delaware Bay. He noted that the bay is in a slight decline over the past few years. He also noted that fishing mortality in the bay is low and dermo disease was knocked back due to increased fresh water in the bay. Mr. Bushek stated that abundance of market oysters on the lower bay was on the increase but not in the middle section of the bay. He mentioned that recruitment is still not great throughout the bay. Mr. Bushek then presented the Council with SAW recommendations for harvest on all the transplant and direct market beds except the very low mortality beds. He acknowledged that the members of the SAW recommended no harvest from the very low mortality beds. Discussion ensued.

*Direct Market Harvest Dates*

Councilman Bailey made a motion to change the last day of harvest from November 14, 2014 to November 21, 2014. All were in favor.

Mr. Hearon stated that the dates for the season will be as follows:

Direct Market Sign up	March 10, 2014
Transplant Sign up	March 10, 2014
Tags Available	March 31, 2014
Direct Market Fishery Opens	April 7, 2014
Direct Market Fishery Closes	November 21, 2014
Transplant Begins	April 28, 2014

*2014 Direct Market Allocation*

Councilman Fleetwood stated that he was slightly confused on why the SAW suggested a large cut back in proposed harvest on the Medium Mortality Seed Beds. Mrs. Alcox explained the proposed cut back was do to observed high mortality and low abundance on those beds. Councilman Fleetwood expressed his concerns about the suggested high amount of quota to be harvested from the High Mortality beds compared to previous years. He also expressed his concern over a 20 percent reduction in total allowable catch (TAC). Councilman Hollinger stated that the reduced TAC may be from excess pressure on the Medium Mortality beds. Mr. Bushek explained that the fishing harvest on these beds was only about 1.9 percent of the total abundance. Mr. Babb stated that the there needs to be caution when it comes to dependence of the direct market fishery on the transplant beds. Lengthy discussion ensued. **Councilman Fleetwood made a motion for a harvest of the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile from the Medium Mortality beds, the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile from Shell Rock and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from the High Mortality beds. Councilman Bailey made a motion for a harvest of the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile from the Medium Mortality beds, the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from Shell Rock and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from the High Mortality beds.** Councilman Hollinger suggested that the 2014 harvest be set at the SAW's highest recommended level. **Councilman Hollinger made a motion for a harvest of the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from the Medium Mortality beds, the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile from Shell Rock and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from the High Mortality beds.** Lengthy discussion ensued. **Councilman Bailey amended his motion to a harvest of the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile from the Medium Mortality beds, the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile from Shell Rock and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile from the High Mortality beds. This motion was seconded by Councilman Malinowski. Motion passed 3 to 1 with Councilman Hollinger being the only no vote.** Mr. Babb noted that he would take the Councils recommendations to the Commissioner of DEP for his approval. It was then noted on the tape that a part of the discussion was not recorded due to voice recording error.

*2014 Transplant Allocation*

Councilman Fleetwood suggested that during the transplant vessels need to be very cautious to transplant mainly oysters and not much cultch. Councilman Hollinger stated that the only way to make sure the transplant boats kept cultch numbers low was to only pay for the percentage of oyster if they went over 25% cultch. Mrs. Alcox stated that the lab tested sampling techniques last year. She stated that they found that the way the Bureau takes a one bushel sample from transplant boats give a percentage of oysters that is the same as taking a sample every 20 min throughout the day. Discussion over the intricacies of the transplant ensued. The Council asked the Bureau to come up with a protocol for making sure that the percent of oysters is high on transplant boats. Further discussion ensued. **Councilman Hollinger made a motion to transplant the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile from Low Mortality onto Ship John seed bed. He added to the motion to transplant the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile from Medium Mortality transplant beds onto Shell Rock seed bed. All were in favor.**

#### *2014 Shellplanting Program*

Mr. Babb stated that the shell for this year had already been purchased. Mr. Tomlin stated the total shell to be planted this year will be about 170,000 bushels. Mr. Babb acknowledged that the Bureau was using subsidiary money to plant 50,000 bu of the 170,000. Mr. Babb noted that the Bureau has earmarked \$50,000 for shell planting in tongers area but asked to table this discussion till a later meeting. Tape ended.