

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
March 4th, 2024 6pm
Town Hall Basement Conference Room

Board Members in attendance: Rebecca Taylor (Chair), Brad Morse (Vice Chair), Nick Sirucek (secretary), Adrien Kmiec, Stephen Pickard, Ethan Estey, John Duane (via Zoom), Chris Merl

Regrets: Damien Parkington

Announcements & Public Comment

- R. Taylor called meeting to order at 6:05pm
- D. Brunt commented on Overwintering Agreements and Annual Reports, made general comments about the board

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Minutes reviewed, motion to approve by B.Morse, 2n'd by E.Estey, minutes approved 7-0

Town Ice Machine Update

- The SAB Ice Machine subcommittee presented the Board with a summary of their site visit and visit to the Provincetown Ice Machine, noted that the location on the south side of beach sticker/shellfish shack is the most viable location, noted that north side of the building has an underground tight tank and is too close to the road
- A.Kmiec commented on possible concerns from an abutter, including noise levels and traffic
- S.Pickard noted that the power company would need to do engineering and that could possible take a significant amount of time
- C.Merl commented that site needs to be specific in order for Eversource to do any engineering
- J.Wolf (Select Board liaison to SAB) commented that the condensing unit can be enclosed to help mitigate noise, commented that other sites at the marina aren't as viable as next to the shellfish department building
- J.Duane asked about the water disposal from the machines and if a dry well was needed
- The board discussed the next steps for the Select Board to take, if more funding sources are needed, and on the possibility of a warrant article, potential issues with abutter re: setbacks, easements, noise
- Public comments: M.Parent noted that the machine in question doesn't have a blower which is often the loudest part, T.Sayre noted that an abutter is likely to oppose the proposed placement, B.Bressenel commented that the project might need a Conservation Commission permit
- Board discussed next steps, what can be done with the currently available funds, timeline for a warrant article
- C.Merl commented that the RFP (request for proposal) covers different scenarios and that the Town Administrator is working on it
- J.Wolf commented that he will let SAB know when the Select Board will discuss the Ice Machine next

Horseshoe Crab Regulations

- B.Bressenel commented that the Mass DMF had a public hearing about new Horseshoe Crab harvest regulations, proposal includes closure of harvest for 3 months, new trip limits, and more. Noted that SAB wrote a letter in the past asking for a moratorium but the DMF denied it. Asked if the SAB would support these proposed regulation changes.
- S.Pickard asked why Wellfleet can't have closures like Monomoy and Nauset have; B.Bressenel responded that those specific areas have federal protections
- N.Sirucek commented on anecdotal evidence of horseshoe crabs feeding on bamboo worms
- J.Duane proposed writing a letter to the DMF in support of these proposed regulation changes
- S.Pickard raised concerns about the quality of trawl survey data
- Board discussed sending letter to DMF and if letter needed to be submitted to BOS in advance
- C.Merl made motion: "to send letter of support for proposed DMF horseshoe crab regulations", motion passed 7-0

Overwintering Form Review

- Board discussed the overwintering form and possible changes that could be made
- N.Sirucek commented that the form does not reference cages/condos specifically and the form only refers to "racks" when talking about gear to be overwintered
- S.Pickard commented that it's important to have a way to keep product out over winter
- A.Kmiec commented that if we make the form too vague that enforcement will be a challenge, noted that overwintering is site-specific
- Public Comments: D.Brunt thinks the Overwintering Form is "one-size-fits-all" and creates too much work for the Shellfish Department, that emphasis should be on enforcing if errant gear causes damages, M.Parent commented that condos aren't as damaging as racks if moved by ice, commented that strict overwintering regulations negatively effect year-round farm operations, and raised concerns about the lack of an end date on the agreement form, and the status of Wellfleet as a "Right to Farm" community. Noted difference in overwintering equipment vs overwintering product.
- E.Estey commented on how the overwintering regulations could be loosened
- Board agreed to table this item to a future meeting by unanimous consent

Future Topics

- Potential future topics discussed included: Ice Machine update and alternate funding sources, Shellfish Revolving Fund, Overwintering form, Chipman's Cove Cons Comm regs

Meeting adjourned

Materials used at this meeting: DMF Horseshoe Crab Management Proposal, Overwintering agreement, Feb 15th Minutes, 2019 Town Warrant Article 35, FY25 Shellfish Revolving Fund