

# NEW JERSEY SHELL FISHERIES COUNCIL - DELAWARE BAY SECTION -

## MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2008

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

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Warren Hollinger, Chair  
Scott Bailey  
Stephen Fleetwood

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Russell Babb, Shellfisheries  
Jason Hearon, Shellfisheries  
Craig Tomlin, Shellfisheries  
Robert Connell, Marine Water Monitoring

### HASKIN SHELLFISH LAB

Eric Powell, Director

### *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 September 22, 2008 pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

Mr. Russell Babb informed the Council that this meeting would be recorded.

For completeness, the minutes of the February and April meetings required Council action. Chairman Hollinger made a motion to approve the February and April minutes. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion.

Revenue collected for September 2008, \$18,233.00. The revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Shellfish License	100.00	Nets	687.00
Recreational Shellfish License	60.00	Duplicate Fees	6.00
Commercial Crab Pot License	600.00	Cultch Fees	16,584.00
Oyster Dredge Boat License	34.00	Application Fees	62.00
Oyster Dealers License	100.00		

- Oyster Resource Development Account balance as of September, 2008: \$671,750.77

For Council's information, Todd W. King has transferred the Oyster Dredge Boat *Jenna Marie*, (9 GRT) and the Oyster Dredge Boat License (#5) to Jennifer King.

For Council's information, Jennifer King has replaced the Oyster Dredge Boat *Jenna Marie*, (9 GRT) with the Oyster Dredge Boat *Jody Lynn* (8 GRT).

### 1. Old Business

#### 1.1. Direct Market Program Summary

Mr. Tomlin stated that the harvest levels have increased significantly. He stated that most of the harvest had come from the Shellrock seedbed. He

added that Shellrock and the high mortality beds had reached 90 percent of the total allowable catch and that they would close September 17, 2008. Mr. Tomlin stated that the only areas open for harvest would be those areas above geographic latitude 39° 18.0 N.

### 1.2. Council Committee Updates (*Vibrio* / Maurice River Tongers)

Mr. Tomlin stated that Friday, October 10, 2008 would be the last day to sign up for the *Vibrio* Committee. He stated that the individuals that expressed interest in participating would be contacted with a time and date for the meeting. Councilman Hollinger stated that the Tongers Committee would meet on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory.

### 1.3. Washington, D.C. Oyster Restoration Funding Trip

Councilman Hollinger stated that he, Eric Powell and Mayor Garrison would be going to Washington D.C. to meet with the staff of congressmen and senate members regarding oyster restoration funding. Dr. Powell stated that this would be very important meeting and had the potential to create more funding for the project.

## 2. New Business

### 2.1 Shellfish Restoration & Shellfish Gardening Policy

Mr. Connell stated that more and more people and groups are doing small-scale shellfish restoration projects. He stated that while worthwhile, many of the project proposals are requested to occur in non-approved waters. He stated that this might cause an unnecessary health risk to the public. Mr. Connell stated that a DEP policy had been drafted in order to allow these types of activities to occur in approved and seasonally approved waters. Dr. Powell stated that he felt that "Project Ports" should be used as a model for these types of projects. A lengthy conversation ensued. Councilman Fleetwood suggested that the Council draft a letter to formally support the policy put forth by the State. Chairman Hollinger suggested that a copy of the Division's MOU (used for "Project Ports") be attached to the letter. Mr. Connell stated that education was going to be a part of the State's policy. He added that the Re-Clam the Bay project in Barnegat Bay has an education program that could be used as a model.

### 2.2 Special Permits

Mr. Connell stated that the Leed's Pt. office would no longer be able to issue permits. He stated that the best way to obtain a permit was to mail the application to the Leed's Pt. office and it would be dealt with in a timely fashion via U.S. Mail.

### 2.3 Environmental Impact Statement for *C. ariakensis* /Letter to Rutgers/SAW

Dr. Powell stated that his comments on the introduction of *C. ariakensis* were complete and that copies were available. He asked the Council if a letter had been sent to the President of the University. Chairman Hollinger stated that this letter had already been sent out. Dr. Powell stated that he wanted to know who the two members from DEP and the two industry would be for the Stock Assessment Review Committee. Chairman Hollinger stated that Steve Fleetwood and Scott Bailey would be the industry members. Dr. Powell stated that he had concerns about the financial status of Rutgers University as it pertains to the shellfish and the stock assessment process. Chairman Hollinger stated that Bill Riggan, Jr., in an effort to address the problem, was introducing a resolution in the local municipal government. Conversation continued over the environmental impact statement on the introduction of *C. ariakensis*. Dr. Powell stated again that he would distribute his comments on the environmental impact statement to the Council.

### 2.4 Extension of the Direct Market Season

Councilman Bailey made a motion to extend the direct market season one week. Mr. Riggan stated that he would like the Bay to remain open to harvest because it was closed for the *Vibrio* closure and the season has traditionally been open until the week prior to Thanksgiving. There was concern expressed by some over the idea of extending the season when everyone else had to abide by the agreed upon seasonal constraints. The Council made a motion that if the Bay water temperature was 50 degrees or greater on November 13, 2008, the season would be extended by one week. Councilman Bailey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### 2.5 Traditional Leasing Committee

Chairman Hollinger stated that the Traditional Leasing Committee would be charged with looking

at the fee structure in the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Coast. He asked to send a letter to all leaseholders to request comments or attendance at this Committee meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting - Date & Time:

The next meeting of the Delaware Bay Section of the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council would be held on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 6 pm in the library of the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Port Norris, New Jersey.

