

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ATLANTIC COAST SECTION OF THE NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement  
Port Republic, NJ  
June 16, 2014

ROLL CALL: Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)  
Vice Chairman: John Maxwell (Atlantic County)  
Councilman: Walter Hughes (Monmouth County)  
Councilman: Vacant (Cape May County)  
Councilman: Vacant (Burlington County)

DEP Representatives: Jeffrey C. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Russell Babb, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Kira Dacanay, Bureau of Shellfisheries  
Jenny Tomko, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Mr. Normant announced in compliance with Sunshine Law, the meeting would be recorded. Notice was filed with the Secretary of State Office and newspapers designated by the Department.

1. Total Revenue for April 2014: \$ 1,229.55  
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$ 882.00  
  
Total Revenue for May 2014: \$ 2,049.10  
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund: \$ 1,268.00

2. Presentation of April 21, 2014 Minutes

The minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting were presented for consideration and approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes, which was seconded by Mr. Maxwell with the following modification, "*spraying has been occurring in the Waretown area, south of Wells Mills Road.*"

3. Applications for Transfer

LESSEE	APPLICANT	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP #
John P. Daffin	Paul Felder	1086	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
John D. Bozarth	Harry Emmel, Jr	50	B	1.7	GB/Graveling Point	1
John D. Bozarth	Harry Emmel, Jr	62	B	1.24	GB/Graveling Point	1
John D. Bozarth	Harry Emmel, Jr	70	B	11.36	GB/Graveling Point	1
John D. Bozarth	Harry Emmel, Jr	78	B	1.24	GB/Graveling Point	1

Without discussion, the lease transfers were approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

4. Application for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Michael L. Camp	221	A	2.00	Ludlam Bay	1
Matthew Gregg	889	B	1.85	Parkers Cove, LEHB	7
Luke Ungar	887	B	1.35	Parkers Cove, LEHB	7
Michael Snyder	2570	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27
Rosely Snyder	2576	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27
Bianca Duarte	2577	B	2.00	Scull Bay	27
Luke Williams	1022	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D
Gary Williams	1026	A	2.00	Great Sound	5D

Messrs. Camp, Gregg, M. Snyder, L. Williams and G. Williams and Mmes. R. Snyder and Duarte were present. Mr. Ungar was not present and must attend the next meeting. Pursuant to the leasing regulations at N.J.A.C.7:25-24.6, applicants must attend one of two meetings at which the Council reviews their applications. A decision on the lease applications would be rendered at the next meeting.

5. Old Business:

Atlantic Coast Shellfisheries Council Leasing Committee - Reconvene

At the February 2014 meeting, Mr. Babb had requested that the Council reconvene the Atlantic Coast Shellfisheries Council (ACSC) Leasing Committee (LC). Mr. Babb conveyed that the Bureau has numerous long-term goals for NJ's shellfish aquaculture program such as developing an aquaculture leasing plan, aquaculture regulations, codes and statutes.

Mr. Johnson inquired if the Council would have the right to meet in an executive session without conforming to the Sunshine Law in order to be involved with the committee. Mr. Babb stated he would investigate this matter. With a Council that currently has three members, a majority is only two. Mr. Babb added that two ACSC members could participate as long as the Bureau complied with the Sunshine Law and advertised the meeting. Mr. Babb also stated that the Bureau and the Council have requested that the two vacant seats on the AC Council be filled. Mr. Babb suggested scheduling an ACSC-LC meeting as soon as possible. Mr. Johnson stated that September would be a better time given their schedules. A Delaware Bay Shellfisheries Council Leasing Committee would also be formed.

Mr. Johnson recommended that he and Mr. Maxwell co-chair the ACSC-LC. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau and the Council would develop a draft agenda for the meeting. Mr. Johnson suggested that the committee also discuss revising Title 50. Mr. Babb stated that the focus should be on the development of shellfish aquaculture regulations as making changes would be more obtainable in the near future rather than tackle Title 50, which could take years to change.

Shellfish Aquaculture Working Group (SAWG) Update

Mr. Babb provided the Council with an update on the SAWG. Mr. Babb stated that there have been five meetings to date. The following organizations are members of the SAWG: Land Use, Army Corps, Bureau of Shellfisheries, Department of Agriculture, Tidelands, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring, Marine Enforcement, Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. These organizations are involved in some aspect of shellfish aquaculture permitting and/or management processes in New Jersey.

Mr. Babb stated that the short-term goals for the SAWG were to clarify what each agencies role was. The long-term goals are to develop; a website, a shellfish aquaculture permitting guidebook, a contact list, a flow chart, best management practices for leasing and streamline permitting. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau's objective was to strive to develop rules that work for everyone.

Mr. Babb informed the Council that the Shellfish Aquaculture Meeting would be held at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve facility on June 19, 2014. Fourteen individuals who are involved in the shellfish aquaculture industry were invited to attend. The meeting was designed to be an informal listening session where attendees would be asked to provide feedback on perceived current and historical impediments to the advancement of the shellfish aquaculture industry. The goal of the meeting was to start a dialog on what will work for the industry and various organizations when developing a shellfish aquaculture policy. A Shellfish Aquaculture Workshop was being planned for the fall.

6. New Business

Inquiry Regarding a Potential "Limited Entry" License for Commercial Shellfish

Mr. Maxwell stated that he received a call from Senator Jim Whelan's office with an inquiry regarding the possibility of making the commercial shellfish license a limited-entry program.

## Hard Clam Surveys

Mr. Babb updated the Council on the planned hard clam survey of Raritan and Sandy Hook bays this coming fall. Mr. Babb stated that, assuming available funding, the Bureau had a long-term goal of surveying NJ's estuaries every five years. Mr. Babb stated that the Bureau would like to develop a fisheries management plan for hard clams; however, he noted that it was nearly impossible to conduct a stock assessment, without reliable fisheries landings data. Mr. Johnson agreed and stated that one area that may have landings data was from shellfish dealers. He stated that they should have this information in their log books. Unfortunately, this information has not been compiled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Hughes and a second by Mr. Maxwell.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting:

DATE: July 21, 2014  
TIME: 7 PM  
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office  
360 New York Rd. Rte. 9  
Port Republic, NJ 08241