

York Shellfish Commission Meeting

Oct. 25th 2022

6:00pm

Wheeler Room York Public Library

Member Present: Peter Jones , Mike Masi , Brad Hunter, David Webber, Forrest Brenske
(Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden)

Other attendees: Stephen Martin

David called the meeting to order at 6:05.

1. Introduction of Forrest Brenske as incoming Shellfish Warden

2. Discussion of 2022/2023 season dates, license allocation, and conservation closures
 - a. Clamming season will begin on December 11th. Licenses will be sold at the harbormasters shack between 7:00-9:00am on Dec. 11th. Licenses will be available for purchase at town hall beginning Monday, Dec. 12.
 - b. License allocation:
 - i. 75 Adult Resident- \$15.00
 - ii. 8 Adult Nonresident- \$30.00
 - iii. 22 Resident Senior- \$0.00
 - iv. 3 Nonresident Senior- \$0.00
 - v. 22 Resident Junior- \$0.00
 - vi. 3 Nonresident Junior- \$0.00
 - c. There will be no conservation closures for this season.

3. Schedule “Flats Clean Up Day”
 - a. Licenses will be sold between 7:00-9:00am at harbormaster shack
 - b. Free t-shirt for those picking up trash on the flats

4. Brave Boat Harbor (BBH) access and parking
 - a. The Kittery side of BBH has been opened to clamming. 50 recreational licenses have been allocated and BBH is the only permitted digging area in Kittery. This could potentially result in challenges for managing the BBH flats including...
 - i. Parking- Limited parking on rt. 103. Parking is also on private property. Could be an issue if Kittery clambers are taking up all spots on the York side of rt. 103. We are hoping Kittery diggers will target clam flats sets near the tributary leading to Chauncey Creek and therefore park near

Seapoint Beach.

- ii. Tracking where clams were dug- If Kittery clambers are accessing Kittery flats but parking in York, we cannot be certain that the clams they possess were actually dug in Kittery when they return to their vehicle.

5. Open forum

- a. Discussion of how best to protect the resource at BBH as digging pressure will certainly increase.
 - i. Determined that the resource is strong enough to handle the expected pressure but we should certainly keep an eye on it.
 - ii. Discussed conservation and stewardship practices that could help protect the resource.
 - 1. We plan to educate and encourage diggers to work from the outside of the set to the middle and leave large clams (3.5+ inches) as a breeding/seeding source.
- b. Mike provided an update on the oyster/crab aquaculture lease application by Southern Maine Sustainable Shellfish, LLC.
 - i. DMR has not yet completed the site visit and likely will not until spring.
 - ii. A public hearing will need to be completed if the site is deemed appropriate by DMR.

6. Schedule next meeting

- a. Next meeting will be held in October 2023 unless we encounter issues in managing BBH that warrant a meeting in January or February.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

*Minutes submitted by Mike Masi
Oct. 26, 2022*