

Town of Ipswich
MASSACHUSETTS

Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2009

Pursuant to written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all members, a meeting of the Town of Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 6:00 pm in room C of the Town Hall. Members present were Wayne Castonguay, Bradford McGowan, Michael Lampros, Elizabeth Kilcoyne, Charles Surpitski and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers.

Gary Collum arrived 6:40 p.m. Shellfish Warden Arnold "Pick" Thistlewood arrived 6:50 p.m.

Anthony Murawski and the Town Manager Robert Markel were not present.

Others in attendance: John Pelletier, Andy and Linda Alexsor, Matt Gonet, Shawn Parker and George Taylor.

Citizen's Query:

Andy Alexsor said his wife Linda e-mailed a copy of legal notice from 2002 stating that the Selectmen adopted the increase of oysters from 30 to 60. Ms. Kilcoyne responded in the affirmative and noted that it was a misprint everywhere else.

Ms. Kilcoyne **called the meeting to order** at 6:10 p.m. and thanked subcommittee members Mr. Castonguay and Mr. Lambros who reviewed and updated the regulations as discussed. The first revised draft shellfish rules and regulations were distributed for review. A second draft will be reviewed on the February 17th and on February 24th the subcommittee will vote on the third and final draft. On March 2nd it will be presented to the BOS and scheduled for a public hearing on March 16th and go into effect on April 1, 2009.

The Board discussed Ipswich Oyster Propagation Project Proposal submitted by Mr. Thistlewood at the last meeting.

The Board determined that Mr. Thistlewood presence would be required to answer questions regarding the funding; discussion was tabled.

The Board reviewed the first revised draft shellfish rules and regulations; the bold is added text and the italic text was deleted. Resident Recreational Permit – resident Family Permit and Non-resident Recreational Permit all need to be capitalized.

Mr. Castonguay initiated discussion regarding the definition of Shellfish Enhancement Fund. The Board determined to define the "Shellfish Enhancement Fund as a dedicated fund to be used by the Town of Ipswich to conserve and enhance shell fishing in Ipswich, funded by permit holders and other contributions.

Section 2 – insert "immediately" before 'prior'.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of 'resident'

Page 2 – second paragraph from the bottom bold February 15th should be changes to February 28th

Page 3 - the third paragraph was revised to read “Every commercial permit holder will perform 1 conservation or enhancement task, as defined by the Shellfish Constable, during the permit year or pay \$100.00 into the Shellfish Enhancement fund in order to receive the subsequent year permit.”

Lengthy discussion and debate took place regarding changing the weight limit to 240 pounds from 180 pounds.

It was determined to continue discussion to next week with the aid of harvest reports and closure dates, to be provided by Mr. Thistlewood.

Additional discussion was held regarding clambers volunteering or paying more money into the Enhancement Fund . A definition and budget will be developed for the Enhancement Fund.

Section 3 – add the word “minimum’ to Size Limit: and include mussels.

Section 4 – Resident (insert) Recreational Family Permit; remove *‘living within the same domicile’*.

Section 6 – third sentence to read “No shellfish permit holder is allowed to walk out from Plum Island during the period from May 1st to September 30th; all Plum Island flats are accessible by boat only.”

Linda Alexson showed the Board packets she compiled for each category of shellfish license, containing pertinent information that each clammer will receive with their license. She will add an informational sheet.

Ms. Kilcoyne reviewed the Hierarchy of Rules for Shellfish Clamming in Ipswich -
Federal – Memorandum of Understanding
State Law
Ipswich Rules and Regulations
Ipswich Procedures – Mr. Castonguay is undertaking this task.

Mr. Thistle wood described the federal compliance for measuring rain every month, federal laws requires to be read at five and five, the Town water treatment plant reads at seven and seven, and the school reads at twelve and twelve.

Mr. Surpitski will work with Mr. Thistle wood and the schools to read at five and five.

Ms. Kilcoyne will send a letter to the Ipswich Chronicle and extend an invite to all interested parties to the February 24th meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Sub-committee, topics will include increasing the commercial catch limits, raising fees, flat closures, volunteer time for commercial diggers.

Ms. Alexon will mail a notice to all shellfish permit holders.

Mr. Thistlewood will place a message on his phone regarding the topic of discussion at the meeting on the 24th of February.

Mr. Castonguay moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Lampros seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved by the Board on April 7, 2009.