

Shellfish Conservation Committee
February 1, 2021
Bristol Town Hall

Committee Members present: Scott Burke, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland

Also present: Corey Poland

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

Student Licenses.

Bristol currently allocates one student/junior commercial license. The committee is uncertain how to allocate the license when the holder ages out. Historically, student/junior license holders have been allocated an adult license when they no longer qualify for a junior license. This allocation method continually increases the total number of licenses issued. This is unfavorable as Bristol does not have a sustainable shellfish resource to keep increasing the allocation.

The committee reviewed current ordinance wording pertaining to student licenses, grandfathered licenses and required conservation hours. A suggested change to Part 5.A.8 was to replace the first line “Any municipal commercial licensed harvester who has....” to “Resident commercial and non-resident commercial license holders who have....” C. Poland suggested having a tier system for license holders. Tier 1 could be adult license holders and Tier 2 could be student/junior license holders. Each Tier would operate independently of each other regarding conservation and renewal. The student license holder would have to wait until an opening became available for an adult commercial license.

Goose Permit.

Poland proposed that J. Farris, a Maine Guide, be added to the goose depredation permit. As a Maine Guide, Farris could bring his clients to the Pemaquid area for Canadian geese hunting. This would allow more geese to be taken during the legal hunting season as the daily bag limit in 2020 was 10 per person. The goose depredation permit was filed with the USFWS in October 2020. There has been no response yet.

Conservation.

Possible projects for 2021 include building green crab traps, setting seed boxes and/or maintenance in Hope’s field.

Public Comment.

A resident of Drebelbis Point emailed Bizarro about a “die-off” of hard-shell clams in the Upper Pemaquid River. He has been digging the area since October 2019. This year there are fewer hard-shell clams, and some were found open with flesh and some with an intact hinge but no meat inside. He noted that soft shell clams, razor clams, American oysters, and European oysters seem to be unchanged. Committee members remarked that there has never been a significant resource of hard-shell clams in Upper Pemaquid River and wondered if the resident needed to find a new digging site.

C. Poland asked if conservation hours could be waived if a commercial license holder were receiving public assistance or if hours could be earned at another time other than the one scheduled weekend in the spring. This would be determined on a case by case basis.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:30 at the Town Hall. Agenda items to include: 2021 Conservation, student licenses

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Bizarro
Shellfish Conservation Committee Secretary