

Shellfish Conservation Committee

12/4/2023

Bristol Town Office

Committee Members Present: Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland, Steve Termine, David Cheney, Scott Burke

Others Present: E. Poland, Camden Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Fund, Jess Bourne Town Staff Liaison

On a motion by Lackovic and second by Termine the meeting was called to order at 6:31pm

Minutes:

On a motion by Lackovic and second by Burke all approved the November minutes as written.

Shellfish Management Plan:

DMR has request that the committee file a management plan by the end of 2023, this should contain broad goals and objectives.

Discussion was had about the goals and wording of the draft plan. The committee discussed re-seeding successes and failures. Quahogs may be more beneficial than soft shell clams if grown to size in an upweller, they may be more resilient to green crabs and water temperature changes.

Further discussion on upweller- who would keep it clean, operate and maintain it. Termine mentioned being willing to help build an upweller if someone got him the plans.

Discussion on species diversification and professional diggers being more likely to manage the areas they dig.

Lease/Moratorium Discussion:

4 LPAs could be used to work with four different species.

Discussion on who would tend the lease area, would we have to pay someone \$20/hour to do that? Further discussion on protecting the lease area, DMR/Wardens/Marine Patrol. The committee will work with DMR area biologist to drop some pins to gather coordinates for proposed LPA location.

New Area Biologist:

A new biologist will be working with the Town of Bristol, his name is Jay Turnure. Dave met him at the regional shellfish meeting, Jay is willing to help the committee complete the LPA applications.

Public Comment:

Camden works with Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Fund, he showed a two minute video clip from a meeting that was held 11/21/23 during which a lawyer working with PMFHF discussed the legalities of towns placing aquaculture moratoriums.

On a motion by Lackovic and second by Cheney the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8th at 6pm at the Bristol Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Bourne
Shellfish Committee Secretary