

## **Shellfish Conservation Committee**

**October 1, 2018**

**Bristol Town Hall**

*Committee Members present: Scott Burke, Dave Cheney, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland*

*Also present: Hannah Annis (DMR), Denis-Marc Nault (DMR)*

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

### **DMR Survey Results.**

In July 2018, a full survey was done at the Eastern Branch, Schoolhouse Cove, Coombs Cove and Fort William Henry. A walk-through survey was completed along the Damariscotta River.

Overall, the Eastern Branch showed the best results. It had the highest number of clams that were ready to be harvested. It did not show a lot of new clam growth but a factor contributing to that may have been the timing of the survey. Often clams will set later in the season.

Schoolhouse Cove showed a significant amount of seed clam but not many adult clams. This is most likely because the legal sized clams had been harvested earlier in the year. Coombs Cove and Fort William Henry flats had very little or no clams present of any size. The Damariscotta River was found to be covered mostly with oyster beds.

D. Nault suggested that conservation efforts be concentrated in the Eastern Branch and Schoolhouse Cove areas. Re-surveying these areas was recommended.

DMR reported that there are 499 acres of clam habitat in Bristol. Over half of that habitat is closed at some point in the year due to water quality and conservation. Hence, the survey results supported the reduction of one license (14 to 13) for the 2018 calendar year. The survey also supported further reductions in license numbers for 2019.

D. Nault did indicate that if the license allocation is too low there may not be enough help for conservation, "it was a balancing act."

DMR commended the committee for overseeing multiple resources in their ordinance. It's always beneficial to save on one resource while harvesting another one.

### **Minutes.**

On a motion made by Cheney, and seconded by Lackovic the minutes of June 4<sup>th</sup> was approved unanimously.

### **Allocation.**

Out of the 13 commercial licenses (11 resident and 2 non-resident), two resident commercial licensed harvesters did not complete their conservation requirement so lost their grandfathered status. After reviewing the survey information with DMR, a motion to decrease the allocation by one resident commercial license was voted on. Three were in favor of the reduction. There was one abstention. Two non-resident commercial licenses were also allocated. The holders of these licenses retained their grandfathered status for 2019. 100 resident recreational and 10 non-resident recreational will also be available for 2019.

Adjournment at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be held on November 5 @ 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel Bizarro