

# NEW JERSEY SHELL FISHERIES COUNCIL -DELAWARE BAY SECTION -

## MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Shellfisheries  
1672 E. Buckshutem Rd., Millville, NJ 08332  
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ADVISORY COUNCIL

Warren Hollinger, Chair, Cumberland Co.  
Scott Bailey, Cumberland Co.  
Stephen Fleetwood, Cumberland Co.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

James W. Joseph, Shellfisheries  
Russell Babb, Shellfisheries  
Jason Hearon, Shellfisheries  
Craig Tomlin, Shellfisheries  
Robert Connell, Marine Water Monitoring  
Calliope Alexander, NJ Dept. of Health  
Gary Wolf, FDA  
Karl Yunghans, Law Enforcement  
Joe Myers Agriculture

HASKIN SHELLFISH  
LABORATORY

Eric Powell, Director  
John Kraeuter, Assoc. Director  
David Bushek, Research Professor

*Compliance with Sunshine Law:*

Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office, State House, Trenton, NJ and the Bridgeton Evening News, The Press, and Daily Journal on August 19, 2008 pursuant to L. 1975 c. 231.

Mr. Joseph notified the Council that this meeting would be recorded.

1. Revenue collected for July 2008, \$68,436.00. The revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	1,000.00	Oyster Shucking House Lic.	100.00
Commercial Shellfish License	500.00	Oyster Dealer's License	100.00
Recreational Shellfish License	350.00	Cultch Fees	64,768.00
Juvenile Shellfish License	24.00	Nets	940.00
Delaware Bay Crab Dredge License	100.00	Survey Fees	120.00
Atlantic Coast Crab Dredge License	200.00	Application Fees	150.00
Oyster Dredge Boat License	84.00		

2. Revenue collected for August 2008, \$12,320.00. The revenue collected is itemized as follows:

License Type	Total	License Type	Total
Commercial Crab Pot License	500.00	Oyster Dealers License	600.00
Commercial Shellfish License	200.00	Cultch Fees	9,456.00
Recreational Shellfish License	50.00	Nets	984.00
Otter Trawl License	100.00	Survey Fees	180.00
Oyster Shuckers License	200.00	Application Fees	50.00

- Oyster Resource Development Account balance as of July, 2008: \$620,989.77

## 1. Old Business

### 1.1. Direct Market Program Update

Mr. Tomlin stated that the database system that tracks the total harvest had a technical issue and was in the process of being repaired. He stated that the approximate total harvest for the high mortality beds was at 75 percent of the total allowable catch (TAC), the low mortality beds were at 60 percent of the TAC and the Shellrock bed was just over 60 percent of the TAC. Mr. Tomlin stated that as soon as the database was fixed the Bureau would send out updated numbers to members of the Council.

### 1.2. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) Outbreak.

Mr. Gary Wolf stated that this year a Vp Control Plan was implemented for New Jersey. He stated that there was a Vp outbreak (defined as two or more cases confirmed by a stool sample) and that once the outbreak was confirmed, the State, under the Vp Control Plan, had to shut down the waters to harvest and recall the product shipped by the dealer in question. He stated that there may have been many factors that caused the increased levels of Vp. Mr. Connell stated that once his department received the confirmation of the illnesses, they were required to suspend harvest. Mr. Connell stated that they immediately took samples from the suspected beds as well as surrounding seedbeds. He stated that all of the samples tested well below the critical level set for the closure of the harvest beds. Mr. Connell stated that the available information pointed to temperature abuse as the cause of elevated Vp levels. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Many oysterman talked about methods to cool product. Mrs. Alexander stated that there has been some uncertainty regarding how one should tarp oyster product on the boats. She explained that the regulations were written as a guideline knowing that one tarp design would not necessarily fit all boats. Mr. Hollinger stated that he would like to start a committee headed by Councilman Fleetwood, to proactively come up suggestions and ideas that could be presented to the Council. He stated that these suggestions would then be implemented for the 2009 season. A lengthy conversation ensued.

Mr. Joseph asked Mr. Connell's bureau to review the Committee's recommendations. Mr. Connell said that he would actually prefer to attend the meetings. Mr. Connell explained that Vp has been found in almost every oyster they have tested from the Delaware Bay, but none have shown levels near what is considered dangerous by the Food and Drug Administration. Mrs. Alexander went over the cases involved in the outbreak. She stated that there were three cases of Vp from harvest dates July 14, 15 and 26. Mr. Fleetwood stated that he believed that this could be a reason to push consolidation through the system. A lengthy conversation ensued. Mr. Hollinger suggested that those people interested in participating in the Vp committee contact Mr. Fleetwood.

### 1.3. Leasing Subcommittees

Mr. Myers stated that the Aquaculture Advisory Committee's leasing committee would only be working on leasing regulations for the proposed Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ). Mr. Hollinger explained that the Council would form a leasing committee that would review the fee structure of traditional leases. A lengthy conversation ensued. Mr. Hollinger stated that he wanted a letter sent to leaseholders, regarding the Council's leasing committee adding that he would serve as the committee chair.

### 1.4. Oyster Tongers committee

Mr. Hollinger stated that he would like to set up a meeting for the Oyster Tongers Committee in the month of October. He stated that this would be an informative meeting only.

## 2. New Business

### 2.1. Oyster Revitalization Project

Dr. Powell stated that the federal funding has been exhausted at the end of the 2008-2009 project period. He suggested that letters be sent to local and state legislators to reestablish funding for this project. He stated that the environmental impact statement for *C. ariakensis* (Asian oyster) would be available for review soon. He stressed that all oysterman should review this document and submit comments. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Many in attendance expressed significant concern over the proposed introduction.

## 2.2. Rutgers University Budget

Dr. Powell stated that the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory (HSRL) would not be able to operate the fall random sampling program on the current budget. He also stated that the HSRL is suffering cutbacks. He stated that the legislators need to support the increase in funds to the HSRL. A lengthy conversation ensued.

## 2.3. Dermo Update

Mr. Bushek stated that the Dermo levels have increased. He stated that this may be due to the

increased salinities. However, he stated that there has not yet been a large mortality event in November. For point of context, he noted that the salinity on Arnolds was 15 parts per thousand (ppt) and is normally 10 ppt.

## 2.4. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was inaudible.

### Next Scheduled Meeting - Date & Time:

The next meeting of the Delaware Bay Section of the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council would be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6 pm in the library of the HSRL, Port Norris, New Jersey.

