

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Minutes of Shellfish Advisory Panel
May 27, 2010 4:30 PM
Fort Wetherill Marine Laboratory
Jamestown, RI

MFC Members Present: J. King (SAP Chair), S. Parente
SAP Members Present: S. DiPetrillo, J. Gardner, D. Goebel, O. Kelly, M. McGiveney, G. Schey, P. Kennedy
SAP Members Absent: R. Bercaw, D. Brayton, W. Cote, J. Grant, J. Mullen
Scientific Advisor: D. Leavitt (absent)
CRMC: D. Beutel
DEM Marine Fisheries: D. Erkan, N. Lazar

A meeting of the shellfish advisory panel was held on 5/27/2010 at 4:30 pm in Jamestown to discuss the following items:

- 1) Consideration of CRMC Aquaculture Lease Application 2010-04-124 Peter Sebring, Nannaquaket Pond, Tiverton.
- 2) Reconsideration of a new shellfish spawner sanctuary in Sycamore Cove, Potter Pond.

1 - Sebring Aquaculture Lease Application

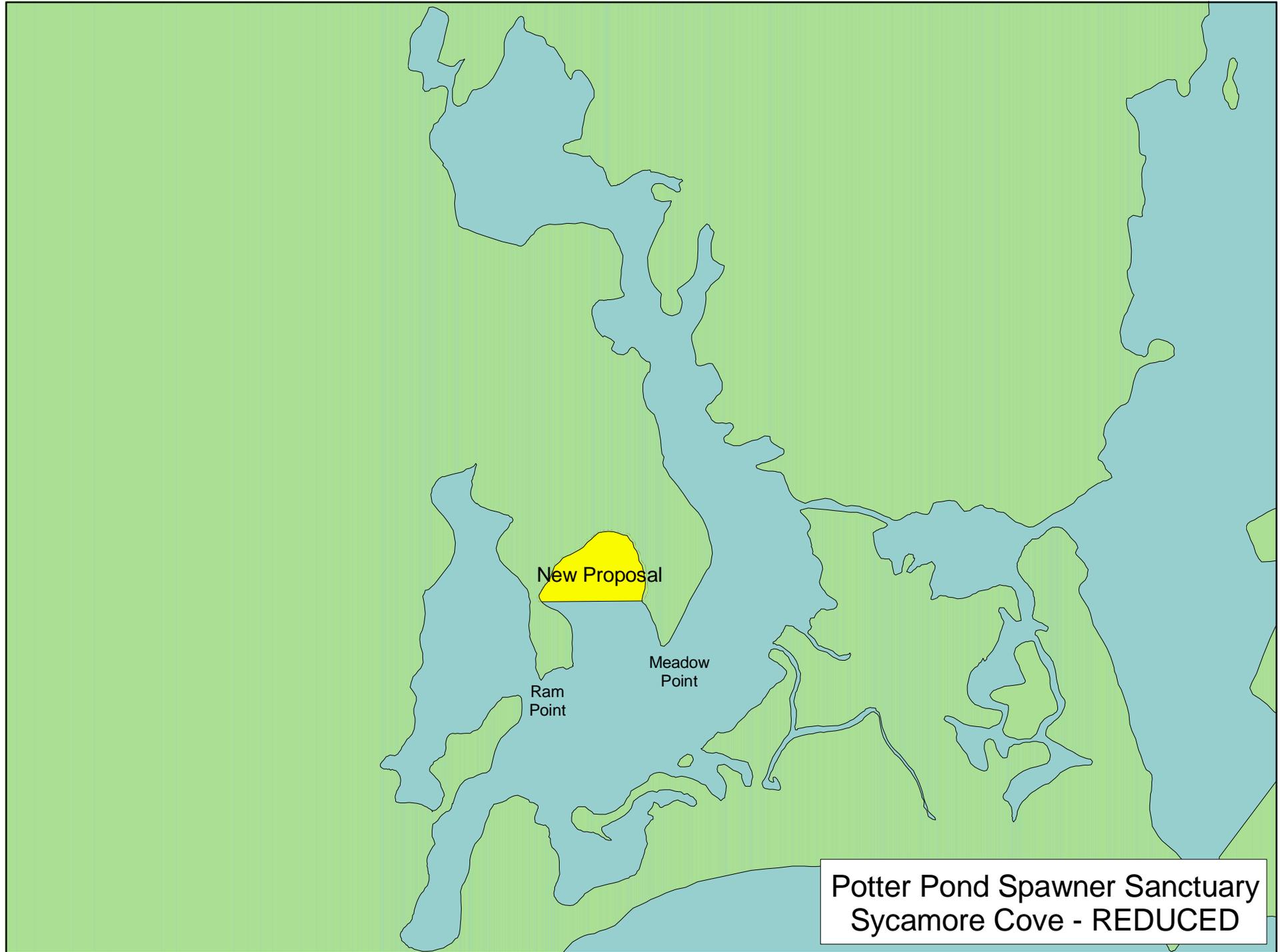
After a brief introduction by Chairman Jody King and consideration of the agenda, Beutel described the 3 acre aquaculture lease application of Sebring and Duckett proposed for Nannaquaket Pond in Tiverton. He noted that a PD meeting took place in March and the current proposal reflects comments and recommendations the PD process. Discussion ensued. McGiveney voiced opposition to the proposal. He noted that while the area has a low shellfish density, the area was historically fished. Sebring noted harbormaster approval. Beutel noted that a number of local residents opposed the project at the PD meeting. After more discussion the SAP voted to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Council oppose the lease proposal (4 to oppose, 2 to support, 1 abstention).

2 - Reconsideration of Establishment of Sycamore Cove Spawner Sanctuary, Potter Pond

Erkan reminded the group that in response to the NRCS-funded oyster restoration opportunities, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has a need to place oyster broodstock in areas closed to harvest for a sufficient amount of time first, to meet the NRCS contractual requirements and second, to maximize the stocked oysters spawning/recruitment potential. Additionally adult oysters would hopefully develop disease resistance. Erkan also noted that in response to the opposition at the prior meetings, a compromise where the overall size of the proposed spawner sanctuary was reduced was now before the SAP for consideration. Oyster seed was placed in the proposed footprint in the Fall of 2009. Concern was raised that those opposed to the project may not be aware of the proposal. Lazar noted that this was the third time that the SAP had the proposal before them for consideration. The public has had many opportunities to be aware of the proposal. Parente also was concerned about sufficient local notification. Erkan noted that some previously opposed were in support of the reduced footprint. Kennedy visited the cove and noted the area has little recreational value due to deep water, stones, and absence of shellfish. Gardner, a grower/participant in the program described the terms of his arrangements with NRCS. After more discussion the SAP voted unanimously to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Council support establishment of the compromise spawner sanctuary boundary (7 to support, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis Erkan



New Proposal

Ram Point

Meadow Point

Potter Pond Spawner Sanctuary
Sycamore Cove - REDUCED