

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Shellfish Advisory Panel
May 28, 2014, 4:30 pm
Fort Wetherill Marine Laboratory, Jamestown, RI
Meeting Minutes

RIMFC Members Present: J. Grant (Chair)

SAP Members Present: J. Gardner; B. Bercaw; M. McGiveney; D. Ghigliotti

Scientific Advisor Present: D. Leavitt

Public Present: Applicants: David Bartley; Ben Franford; Diane Franford; Jesse Bazarnick;
Other Public: Monique LaFrance

CRMC: D. Beutel

DEM Fish and Wildlife: J. Mercer

New Business:

Jeff Grant began with welcoming remarks and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review three aquaculture lease applications and their potential impacts to wild harvest fisheries.

1. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2014-03-013, Jesse Bazarnick, West Passage near Saunderstown, North Kingstown.

D. Beutel gave a brief description of the site. J. Mercer presented a map of the location and noted that a field survey was done and no clams were found. B. Bercaw noted that there was not a lot of shellfishing going on there and asked about finfish and whelk fishing. D. Beutel noted that the Salt Water Anglers Association requested at the PD meeting that the applicant stay within 20 foot depth contour. The lease is 3-12 feet deep. It was noted by the applicant that there is whelk fishing occurring in the area but in deeper waters. J. Mercer noted that State Statue says that the land area near the old Jamestown bridge be **retained by the state for public shore access and give consideration to the development of a public fishing pier**. D. Beutel noted that the Salt Water Anglers Association has submitted an objection to CRMC based on this. Motion made by B. Bercaw to not object, M. McGiveney seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to not object to the application**

2. Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2014-04-067, David Bartley, Point Judith Pond, Narragansett.

D. Beutel gave a brief description of the lease. J. Mercer presented a map of the location and also stated DEM conducted a site visit with an average density of just under 1 quahog per square meter was observed. The site was characterized by very soft, muddy bottom. Brief discussion followed. J. Grant asked for a motion: J Gardner offered a motion to **not object** to this application. B. Bercaw seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to not object to the application**

3. *Proposed Aquaculture Lease: CRMC File # 2014-04-106, Ben and Diane Franford, Point Judith Pond, Narragansett.*

D. Beutel gave a brief description of the lease. J. Mercer presented a map of the site and noted that the southern inshore edge was moved 80 ft offshore from the PD app to allow for commercial harvest in the area. DEM survey showed fairly substantial populations (4/m²) in the northeast corner but minimal quahogs caught in the rest of the lease. There was discussion of commercial and recreational clamming in the area.

J. Grant asked for a motion. B. Bercaw offered a motion to **not object** to this application. D. Ghigliotty seconded the motion. **The board voted unanimously to not object to the application**

The meeting was then adjourned.

Prepared by: Jeff Mercer