

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL
Minutes of Shellfish Advisory Panel
June 23, 2010 4:30 pm
Jamestown Public Library
Jamestown, RI

MFC Members Present: J. King (SAP Chair)

SAP Members Present: D. Goebel, J. Vivari, P. Kennedy, O. Kelly, J. Grant, G. Schey, S. DiPetrillo, M. McGiveney, D. Brayton

SAP Members Absent: W. Cote, J. Migliore, J. Mullen, R. Bercaw, J. Gardner

DEM Marine Fisheries: D. Erkan, R. Russ

1. 2010 Winter Management Area Winter Openings

McGiveney, RI Shellfishermen's Association (RISA) proposed that the initial Winter Management Area openings take place on Wednesday December 15, 2010; Friday Dec. 17, 2010; Monday Dec.20, 2010; Tuesday Dec. 22, 2010; Monday Dec. 27, 2010; Tuesday Dec. 28, 2010; and Wednesday Dec. 29, 2010. **SAP voted unanimously in favor of all dates listed above.**

2. Western Greenwich Bay Division

McGiveney, RISA, proposed that the western part of Greenwich Bay be divided into two separate sections for 2010 (**see attachment 1**). Proposed area "2" would be closed for the 2010-2011 season. Intent is to give sub-legal hard clams an opportunity to grow without disturbance. Area "1" would be open to harvest for 2010-2011 season (timing and dates to be determined). Discussion ensued. Erkan noted that former "broodstock" will now be made accessible to harvest and is of concern. **SAP voted unanimously in favor of proposal. Note: The proposal should not be considered by the MFC until Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement have developed appropriate responses. There is a need to conduct a dredge survey within the proposed area and consider Enforcement's position particularly when considering the fishing dates and access hours.**

3. Western Greenwich Scheduling Openings

McGiveney, RISA, proposed the need for managing access to the new area(s) and a variety of proposals. Erkan recommended use of simplified language for clarity. Erkan also noted need to involve Enforcement in developing openings and hours. The concept of managing by quota was also suggested with additional discussion.

- a) December 2010 – 2 hours per day (8:00 AM to 10:00 AM).
- b) January 2011 – Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 hours per day (8:00 AM to 10:00 AM).
- c) February 2011 – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 3 hours per day (8:00 AM to 11:00 AM).
- d) March 2011 – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 4 hours per day (8:00 AM to 12:00 AM).
- e) March 2011 – Closed to harvest March 31, 2011.

SAP voted unanimously in favor of all Western Greenwich proposals.

4. Potowomut “A” Modifications

- a) McGiveney, RISA proposed that harvest within Potowomut Shellfish Management Area “A” be changed from seasonal access to year-around access (no closed season, sunrise to sunset, 3 bushel possession limit). Erkan noted that there would likely be recreational harvesters that would oppose the change. Proposal to change boundary was continued.

SAP voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

- b) McGiveney, RISA proposed that the boundary between Potowomut “A” and High Banks Shellfish Management Areas be changed as follows: (from Round Rock Buoy (“Spindle Can”) to the Northern end of Narragansett Street, North Kingstown beginning February 1, 2011.

SAP voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

5. High Banks, Bissel Cove, and Bristol opening

It was proposed starting February 1, 2011 that High Banks, Bissel Cove, and Bristol Shellfish Management Areas be opening to shellfishing from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week until April 30, 2011.

SAP voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

NOTE: ALL PROPOSALS NEED FURTHER REVIEW BY DEM FISH & WILDLIFE AND DEM ENFORCEMENT BEFORE RIMFC CONSIDERATION

