

RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

Shellfish Advisory Panel

Date: Tuesday Dec. 1, 2015 @ 4:30PM

Fort Wetherill Marine Laboratory

3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI

MEETING MINUTES

RIMFC Members Present: J. Grant (Chair); M. Rice

SAP Members Present: M. McGiveney; D. Ghigliotty; R. Tellier; R. Pastore

CRMC: D. Beutel

DEM: J. McNamee; S. Olszewski; C. Deacutis; P. Duhamel

Aquaculture Lease Applications

1. Sousa, Island Park Cove/Gull Cove, Portsmouth; CRMC File # 2015-08-101:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. He offered that an objection was received from another aquaculturist in the vicinity. The objection noted that the site was very close to closed pollution area. The applicant acknowledged that his site was near the pollution area but went on to state that it was far enough away to not be a problem. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to not object; 2nd by D. Ghigliotty. The motion passed 4 – 0.**

2. Bazarnick, Dutch Harbor, Jamestown; CRMC File # 2015-08-073:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. Discussion followed regarding marking of the site and the operational plan. D. Beutel offered that an objection was received from a local property owner to prohibit all aquaculture in the area to the west of Jamestown. Discussion followed regarding other uses of the site, namely a previous lobster reef area developed as a mitigation effort to an oil spill marked on the NOAA chart. C. Deacutis offered that new uses in a previously designated area that may have received federal dollars could be a potential issue. **Motion made by R. Pastore to not object; 2nd by R. Tellier. The motion passed 2-0 (D. Ghigliotty and M. McGiveney abstaining).**

3. Walrus & Carpenter Oysters LLC/Opton-Himmel, Dutch Harbor, Jamestown; CRMC File # 2015-09-103:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. He offered that a number of objections were received. He offered that ACOE are currently working on the island to fill in old cisterns as a plan to promote increased recreational opportunities on the island. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to object; 2nd by D. Ghigliotty.** R. Pastore offered that the area is a popular fluke drift area and suggested re-locating to the other side of the channel in the lee of the Fort Getty.

R. Tellier expressed that the potential increased recreational activity on Dutch Island will result in increased boat anchoring and recreational activity at this site, and that aquaculture would be in conflict with this use. **The motion passed 4 – 0.**

4. Walrus & Carpenter Oysters LLC/Opton-Himmel, Dutch Harbor, Jamestown; CRMC File # 2015-09-105:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. He offered that quahaug densities were found to be low in the general area during a survey conducted for a previous application, but noted these densities were not from the defined application area. Discussion followed regarding shellfish densities. D. Ghigliotty offered that his support for the application would be predicated on results of a new survey, as he personally had used the area in the past, and was aware of other commercial use, when upper portions of the bay were closed to shellfish harvest. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to not object if the new survey shows a quahog density of < 3/sq. meter; 2nd by D. Ghigliotty. The motion passed 4 – 0.**

5. Cregan, Dutch Harbor, Jamestown; CRMC File # 2015-11-032:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. Discussion followed regarding the anchoring system proposed for the operation. D. Beutel offered that this anchoring system should result in less movement of the gear. R. Pastore stressed the importance of assuring that the anchoring is adequate, and that a proper analysis should be performed due to potential impacts from anchor dragging and navigational hazards. D. Beutel offered that the density survey results were <1/sq. meter. **Motion made by D. Ghigliotty to not object; 2nd by M. McGiveney. The motion passed 3 – 1 (R. Pastore objecting due to insufficient information provided regarding the anchoring).**

6. Peet, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown; CRMC File # 2015-09-030:

D. Beutel provided a brief overview of the proposal. He offered that DFW had objected during the PD process due to close proximity to the shoreline, and that the proposal was re-located to accommodate this. D. Beutel also offered that the grow-out portion received an objection due to conflict with boating. He offered that quahaug densities were > 5/sq. meter. After continued discussion, the membership decided to defer review to the full Council, and that D. Ghigliotty would solicit input from fishermen that may use the area, and report this information to J. Grant for presentation to the full Council. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to defer to the full Council; 2nd by R. Pastore. The motion passed 4 – 0.**

Prepared by: P. Duhamel