

# Shellfish Advisory Panel

September 25, 2019; 4:30PM

URI Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Building, Large Conference Room  
218 S Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02874

## MEETING SUMMARY

RIMFC members: K. Eagan (Chair)

DEM: A. Gerber-Williams, C. McManus, P. Duhamel, J. Lake;

Scientific Advisor: D Leavitt;

SAP members: M. McGiveney, M. Sousa, G. Schey, R. Tellier, J. Gardner;

Public: J. McDonald, D. Eagan, T. Dasilva, L. Frattarelli, K. Murgio;

### 1. Discussion and/or recommendations regarding winter harvest schedules for Greenwich Bay, Bissel Cove, and Bristol Harbor Shellfish Management Areas:

- Greenwich Bay sub-areas 1 and 2: A. Gerber-Williams provided a brief explanation of the default winter harvest schedule for the Greenwich Bay Shellfish Management Areas. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to open additional harvest days from 8:00A.M – 12:00P.M. on Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Schey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**
- Bissel Cove: A. Gerber-Williams provided a brief explanation of the default winter harvest schedule for the Bissel Cove Shellfish Management Area. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to open additional harvest days from 8:00A.M – 12:00P.M. on Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Schey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**
- Bristol Harbor: A. Gerber-Williams provided a brief explanation of the default winter harvest schedule for the Bristol Harbor Shellfish Management Area. **Motion made by M. McGiveney to not alter the default schedule; 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Schey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

A. Gerber-Williams presented quahog landing data of direct counts collected in each of the shellfish winter harvest management areas going back to 2011. G. Schey recommended collapsing Greenwich Bay Management Areas 2A and 2B into one tagging area because of how small each area is and their proximity to each other.

### 3. Presentation on Whelk Pot Tagging.

*J. Lake* presented the proposed whelk pot tagging program, which would adopt a similar tag program to lobster with 300 tags per fisherman plus 10% routine loss provision for a total of 330 tags. In addition, gear rotation and catastrophic loss tags could be purchased twice a year with tags valid between September 1- August 31 annually. *D. Eagan* recommended that 20% routine loss and tag purchasing during the spring would be preferable. The list of motions on the topic are listed below:

- **Motion made by J. Gardner to adopt the whelk pot tagging program; 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Schey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**
- **Motion made by J. Gardner to allow 300 tags per fisherman; 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Schey. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**
- **Motion made by G. Schey to allow 400 traps per fisherman on a single boat with 10% tag routine loss provision; 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Sousa. K. Murgo did not agree with only allowing 1 license per boat. The motion tied with 1 vote in favor and 1 vote to object and 3 abstentions.**
- **Motion made by G. Schey to allow 300 tags per fisherman with 15% routine loss provision, gear rotation and catastrophic loss tags, and that tags be available for purchase April 1<sup>st</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Gardner. The motion pass with a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

*Prepared by: A. Gerber-Williams*