

20170905 WEST TISBURY SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 5 pm Town Hall, WT

PRESENT: Peter Vann, Rick Karney, Jason Gale, Ray Gale, David Merry, Johnny Hoy, Virginia Jones -- members (absent with apologies, Will Whiting)

Ray Gale, Shellfish Warden, WT, Isaiah Scheffer, Shellfish Warden Chilmark

Matt Mayhew, Dennis M Jason, Chilmark Shellfish Advisory Committee

Also present: Kent Healy (BOS), Amandine Hall and William Reich

Ginny opened the meeting and declared a quorum present. Kent Healy described a communication from Patti Kellogg of the the Mass DEP outlining an initiative to reduce nitrogen in compliance with the Clean Waters Act, determine restoration of eel grass, and urge that any summer openings remain open for at least 17 days. Kent read a letter that he had written as a Pond advisor noting that he is a Commissioner of the Riparian Owners in response, noting that nitrogen levels in the middle of the pond are significantly lower than the limit set by the state. Eel grass has never been a huge presence in the Pond, and it was noted that the Pond is opened every summer although the length of the opening is in the hands of Mother Nature and not easily controlled by humans.

It was decided to delay spreading the current pile of shell at Sepiessa until the spring of 2018. Rick described spreading shell as one of the best shellfish management strategies.

We will meet again in October to determine when and if to open for oyster harvesting for both family/recreational and commercial.

Isaiah noted that he is unable to continue to do as much for WT as he has in the past due to the increase in his duties for CH. He urged that WT continue hiring some form of propagation agent to act during the summer, said agent to be a propagator as well as assistant warden.

The Town boat is currently ready for use as is the motor.

Growth that was so pervasive last year seems to have abated; it has never been satisfactorily identified.

Respectfully submitted

Virginia C. Jones

Approved 10/24/2017