

MINUTES
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

August 2, 2022
4:00 to 6:00 pm

Commission Room
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96
Fort Monroe, Virginia

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Members Present

Wayne France
Dan Dise via WebEx
Ernest George
Charles Johnson
Don Porter via WebEx
J. C. Hudgins

Members Present

Tommy Kellum
Richard Harding
Beverly Ludford
Cody Metcalf
Peyton Mason
Lake Cowart

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Ben Stagg
Jamie Hogge
Andy Shin via WebEx
Melissa Southworth, VIMS via WebEx
Roger Mann, VIMS
Danielle Schools, VDH/DSS via WebEx
Sarah Good, VDH/DSS via WebEx

Wayne France, Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Associate Member Kellum requested a discussion referencing the Hand Scrape / Dredge being in code, the definition of both gear types and discuss the Piankatank Patent Tong line as it currently stands.

Andrew Button stated that a member of Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) wanted to address the advisory committee regarding a project is that is linked to the seed quota area.

Associate Member J. C Hudgins made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Associate Member Cowart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Warm Water Harvest Regulations

VMRC does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities; therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodations due to a disability, please contact (757- 247-8052) prior to the meeting.

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, provided a reminder to the recently changed October curfew for the Warm Water Harvest Regulation with a PowerPoint presentation. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Quota Managed Seed Harvest

Mr. Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, asked the members for their input about having a quota managed seed harvest in the Great Wicomico and Piankatank River. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Piankatank – Kellum – Managed PT fishery in Piankatank.

Kellum recommended that staff work with VIMS to make a consensus for a plan to present to the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee (SMAC) later in the season. J. C. Hudgins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roger Mann, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), provided information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of a quota managed seed harvest in the Great Wicomico and Piankatank River. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Discussion on 2022-2023 public harvest season

Mr. Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, provided the SMAC members with background information of public and private data with a PowerPoint presentation. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The below proposed draft 2022 – 2023 Public Oyster Harvest Seasons were discussed as well as a harvest end time of 11 am for the month of October to accommodate for the Warm Water Harvest curfew. The early harvest end time would allow the vessel to return to the dock and get the oysters in proper refrigeration before the 12 NOON curfew.

The Proposed DRAFT 2022 – 2023 Public Oyster Harvest Season:

James River

Clean Cull:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. – HT

Area 2, 3:

Oct. – **HS* (2nd. half of the month with harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov., Dec. & Jan. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Feb. - *HS** (1st. half of the month with harvest ending at noon)

Area 1:

Oct. – **HS* (2nd. half of the month with harvest ending at 11 am)

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Nov., Dec. & Jan. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)
Feb. - *HS** (1st. half of the month with harvest ending at noon)

Seed Oysters:

Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May – HT

York River

York HTA

Oct., - HT (harvest ending at 11 am)
Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. & March - HT

York 2:

Jan. & Feb. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

York 1:

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. & March - HT

Milford Haven

Milford Haven:

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. & March - HT

Deep Rock:

Nov., Dec., Jan., & Feb. – PT* (harvest ends at noon)
March – *PT** (1st. half of the month with harvest ending at noon)

Rappahannock River

Area 1:

Oct. - **PT* (2nd. half of the month with harvest ending at 11 am)
Nov., Dec., Jan., & Feb. – PT* (harvest ends at noon)

Area 2:

Dec. & Jan. – HS* (harvest ends at noon)

Area 4:

Oct. - **HS* (2nd. half of the month with harvest ending at 11 am)
Nov. & Feb. – HS (harvest ends at noon)

Area 7:

Dec. – HS* (harvest ends at noon)

Area 8:

Jan. – HS* (harvest ends at noon)

Area 9:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)
Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. & March – HT

Corrotoman HTA:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)
Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., & March – HT

Great Wicomico

Great Wicomico 2:

Dec. & Jan. – HS* (harvest ends at noon)

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Blackberry Hangs

Feb. – HS* (harvest ends at noon)

Little Wicomico

Little Wicomico:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov. & Dec. – HT

Nomini

Nomini:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov., Dec. & Jan. – HT

Potomac Tribs

Yeocomico & Coan:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov. & Dec. – HT

Tangier-Pocomoke

Poco Area 2 & Tangier Area 2:

Dec., Jan. & Feb. – DR* (harvest ending at noon)

Poco. Sound 10:

Nov. – HT (1st. half of the month), HS* (2nd. half of the month with harvest ending at noon)

Feb. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Poco. Sound 9:

Nov., Dec. & Jan. – HT

Feb. – HS* (harvest ending at noon)

Seaside ES:

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., & Mar. – HT/By Hand

A motion to was made to accept seasons and adjusted harvest times for the month of October to accommodate the Warm Water Harvest curfew as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

User Fee Transferability Requirements

Mr. Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, provided recommendations for a change in transfer eligibility for medical exception, 2 year harvest history, unexpected death and a 70 year old exemption with previous harvest history.

Kellum request to defer Piankatank discussion to the next meeting.

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Other Business

Define definition of HS.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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