

MINUTES
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

August 10, 2023
4:00 to 6:00 pm

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

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Members Present

J. C. Hudgins
Richard Harding
Beverly Ludford
Lee Deihl
Dan Dize via WebEx

Members Present

Tommy Kellum
Charles Johnson
Peyton Mason
Cody Metcalf via WebEx
Don Porter

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Adam Kenyon
Jamie Hogge
Andy Shin
Melissa Southworth, VIMS
Roger Mann, VIMS

J. C. Hudgins, Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Member Tommy Kellum made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Lee Deihl. Motion passed 9-0.

Approval of July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Member Ludford made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Kellum? seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

Discussion of Potential Additional Harvest Areas

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, began the meeting with a discussion about potential new harvest areas for the 2023-2024 Public Oyster Season. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The areas discussed were: Beasley Bay, California Area and Larsons Bay.

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Discussion Licensing Requirements for Vessel and Individual Limits

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management Division, reviewed the licensing and limit regulations. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

- One user fee and gear license = 1 limit
- Vessel limits unchanged from last year, 28 hand or hand tong, 16 PT, HS, DR.
- Vessels and individuals shall only use one type of gear in the public fishery on any single day.
- The person 'working' the gear does not have to hold a license or user fee, but a user fee and license holder must be on the vessel.
- 'By Hand' harvest must be undertaken by the license holder

Member Kellum made a motion to approve the license and vessel requirements as presented. Member seconded Mason the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

Discussion on the 2023-24 Public Oyster Harvest Season and Request for SMAC Recommendation

A motion was made to hold the next SMAC Meeting 2nd week in January. Motion passed 10-0.

Cory Rice spoke and was in favor of opening Rapp. Area 1 to HS.

Member Kellum asked for a spokesperson to represent the committee during the Commission Meeting. Member Johnson volunteered to represent the committee.

The Proposed DRAFT 2023 – 2024 Public Oyster Harvest Season:

James River

Clean Cull:

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

Area 1,2:

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

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

Mar. & Apr. - HT

Area 3:

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

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

Mar. – HT** (2nd.. half of the month)

Apr. - HT

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Seed Oysters:

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

York River

York HTA

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

York 1:

Oct. – HT* (Harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov. – HS* (Harvest ending at noon)

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)

Rappahannock River

Area 1:

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

Nov., Dec. & Jan. – PT* (harvest ends at noon)

Middle Ground:

Nov. – HS* (Harvest ending at noon)

Larsons Bay:

Jan. – PT* (harvest ends at noon)

Area 4:

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

Area 6:

Nov. & Dec. – 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 1:

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

Potomac Tribs and other areas

Yeocomico & Coan:

Oct. – HT* (harvest ending at 11 am)

Nov. & Dec. – HT

Indian Creek:

Mar. – HT

Tangier-Pocomoke

Beasley

Mar. – DR** (2nd. half of the month, harvest ending at noon)

Tangier California:

Nov. – DR* (2nd half of month, harvest ending at noon)

Poco Area 1

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

Tangier Area 1:

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

Poco. Sound 10:

Nov., Dec. Jan., Feb. & Mar.– HT

Poco. Sound 9:

Nov., Dec. Jan., Feb. & Mar.– HT

Seaside ES:

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

Member Ludford made a motion to accept the season recommendation presented. Member Kellum seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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