

MINUTES
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

August 14, 2024
4:00 to 6:00 pm

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

* * * * *

Members Present

Jackie Shannon
Richard Harding
Wayne France
Tommy Kellum
Lee Deihl
Ben Johnson

Members Present

J. C. Hudgins
Beverly Ludford
Peyton Mason
Dan Dize via WebEx
Cory Rice

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button
Adam Kenyon
Jamie Hogge
Andy Shinn
Melissa Southworth, VIMS

Prior to the start of the meeting, all members that attended in person received a packet which included the agenda items that were up for discussion. The information that was provided to the members was also available on VMRC website for the public and committee members that were not able to attend to view.

Jackie Shannon, Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Introductions:

The meeting began with introductions of those SMAC members present, in-person and via WebEx. SMAC members present:

In person included:

Members Jackie Shannon, Chair, Peyton Mason, Wayne France, Cory Rice, Lee Deihl, J. C. Hudgins, Richard Harding, Ben Johnson, Beverly Ludford and Tommy Kellum.

WebEx:

Dan Dize

Approval of Agenda:

Member Kellum made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Member France. Motion passed 10-0.

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.

MINUTES

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Approval of July 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

A Committee Member made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Develop Recommendations for the 2024-2025 Public Oyster Harvest Season:

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, explained the public harvest history. Mr. Button also presented a Draft Season Template of the upcoming 2024-2025 Public Oyster Harvest to the members to gather input from the SMAC members. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Member Mason made a motion to extend the James River Clean Cull season through the month of May with the harvest ending at 11 am. with the understanding that each harvester would need to adhere to the Warm Water Harvest restrictions that begin May 1. Member J. C. Hudgins seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0

Member Kellum made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Public Oyster Harvest Season as discussed, including extending James River Clean Cull the month of May, for the exception of Piankatank and Great Wicomico harvest areas. Member France seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Discussion and Recommendations on Opening Public Oyster Grounds in the Piankatank and Great Wicomico Rivers as Part of the 2024-2025 Public Oyster Harvest Season:

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, explained the history of the Piankatank and Great Wicomico areas. His comments are a part of the verbatim record. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Piankatank

Members discussed recommendations for Piankatank harvest lines that included:

Bland Pt – Iron pt.: Palaces Bar (HT)
Cape Tune & Burtons Point (HS)
Harvest line cut off at Ginney Point

Recommended areas to open for harvest included:

Palaces Bar – (HT)
Bland, Cape Tune & Burtons Point (ROCK reef) – HS

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.

MINUTES

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The members also discussed opening the recommended areas for 10 working days the beginning of March, concurrent with other areas. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Member Kellum made a motion to open Palaces Bar for HT, Bland, Cape Tune & Burton Pt. for HS for 10 working days in March. A Member seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Great Wicomico

Shell, Sandy Point, Haynie Point – Open in October

France made a motion to open Shell Bar, Sandy Point & Haynie Point in Oct. – Dec for HT. Motion seconded by Member Mason. Motion passed 10-0.

Open Discussion

Member Kellum recommended a discussion with the federal partners to receive credit for the private ground replenishment activities that take place. He also asked that staff provide updated number on the gear types and numbers of the participants. His comments are part of the verbatim record.

Members also discussed a more real-time reporting method for reporting James River Seed Harvest. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

A member made a motion to go forward with a more real-time reporting method for reporting James River Seed Harvest. A Member seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Andrew Button also reminded the members of the regulation change which will allow clean cull harvest and James River seed harvest but not together. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Member seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 5:40 p.m.

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.