**TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT**

**SHELLFISH COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

# Wednesday, March 16, 2016

**Town Hall Meeting Room**

## 21 Sea Street

**Northeast Harbor**

1. Call to order 4:35 p.m.

Chairman Victor Doyle called the meeting to order; also present were Committee members Barry Thomas, and John Stanley; Commercial License Holders David Dunton (it was noted that he had perfect attendance), Ben Hamor, and Erick Swanson; Shellfish Warden Kevin Edgecomb; Town Clerk liaison Claire Woolfolk; Area Biologist Heidi Leighton;.and members of the public

1. Harvester Conservation Time Update

Chairman Doyle reported that he is ready to present to the Board of Selectmen on March 21st. Heidi Leighton said that once the BOS approves the closure she will process the application.

The conservation closure for a prohibited area is for six months. It is allowed to transplant 1 ½” clams *to* the area with a transplant permit.

There was an additional discussion regarding shell spreading; Ms. Leighton advised that a permit is needed.

1. Warden Update

Officer Kevin Edgecomb reported that Joshua Jordan has completed his warden training.

The wardens have continued to patrol but haven’t seen poachers since the summons were issued in the prior month; no new activity.

Chairman Doyle inquired about using the Harbormaster’s boat to patrol the Bartlett area. Officer Edgecomb said it was possible to have it towed over a couple of times this summer, but that they wouldn’t be able to leave it there as a deterrent. The use of cameras in the Bartlett area was also discussed as a deterrent.

1. Such other business as may be legally conducted

Ms. Leighton reported that all the paperwork from the Town of Mount Desert has been submitted as required by the State. There are no overall program changes this year.

She further reported that Seal Cove and Goose Cove have been closed because of water quality issues.

Gilpatrick Cove is scheduled for a 2016 field survey for DMR resource water quality list. They will survey the area to see if the resources are there to reopen. The surveys usually begin in April.

Somes Sound in general and Sargeant Cove specifically is a dead area. A discussion about the water quality and the possibility of a resource survey for that area ensued.

Chairman Doyle suggested that Erick Swanson replace Reid Swanson as a committee member for 2016-2017 since Reid has relocated out of state for the present.

A discussion of commercial license renewals followed. It was confirmed that commercial license holders are required to attend *at least* two meetings each license year in order to renew their commercial licenses. If this requirement is not met, the license holder must enter the lottery in order for a chance to obtain a commercial license the following year. The committee will hold one more meeting in mid-May to allow Ben Hamor and Erick Swanson the opportunity to renew their licenses. Zachary Damon will have to enter the lottery if he wants to obtain a commercial license in 2016-2017.

1. Adjourn at 5:10 p.m.