

Freeport Shellfish Commission
Minutes of meeting held May 11, 2017
Freeport Community Center

Commission members in attendance: Doug Leland, Malcolm McIntosh, Jarad Lavers, Chris Grimm, Nora Healy, Andrew Wilbur, Eric Horne Staff: Charlie Tetreau

Meeting Commenced at 6:35 PM

DownEast Institute Presentation: Dr. Beal presented previous research findings, including 2016, as well as upcoming and ongoing 2017 work.

Dr. Beal noted landings down 75% from 2012. 2015, learned that pet screen on the bottom of boxes seemed to keep out MRW's. 2016, tried multiple screening types on boxes. Numerous sites with 45 boxes per site to further investigate predation from green crabs, MRW's, and snails. Looked at acidification as Friends of Casco Bay is making headlines saying it is the link to declining clam harvests. Tried 12 different treatments including crushed shells with 3 types of densities. Found that nets increase acidity but that there seemed to be no link between acidity and clam survival. Looked at wild clam recruitment with over 800 boxes at the low, mid, and high tidal areas. General conclusion from Dr. Beal was that the decline is based solely on predation. Audience member questioned Dr. Beal's conclusions, speculating the decline was due to harvesters going after hard shell clams (not accounted for by DMR) rather than soft shell clams.

March and April Minutes reviewed and approved with a change to the March minutes of a typo for dates.

MRCO Report: Charlie presented 2007-2016 landings data from DMR.

Senior license age qualification discussion:

Public comment that 60 was too young to start senior license.

Nora/ Eric voiced support to change age for a senior license to 65.
Malcolm voiced thoughts that changing the number of licenses was a bad idea.

Voted and approved to change senior license age to 65. All in favor except Andy Wilbur who voted against. This recommended change will be forwarded to Town Council with recommendation for change to Freeport's Municipal Shellfish Ordinance.

Municipal License Allocation Request - 2017: After much discussion and a bit of confusion motion made by Nora and seconded by Jared to have 43 commercial non-senior residence licenses and 4 non residential commercial licenses. All voted in favor. Andy pointed out that this was out of compliance with municipal shellfish ordinance requiring availability of non-resident commercial licenses to be 10% of resident commercial licenses. Nora amended motion to add another non-residential license. Eric seconded. All voted in favor.
Student licenses: Jarad made a motion to request 5 student licenses from DMR. Eric seconded motion. All voted in favor of such.

Public comment: request made to consider making licenses saleable.

Freeport Shellfish Conservation Commission

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6:30 PM

6:30 PM - 7:15 PM — Guest Speaker

Freeport Soft-Shell Clam Research 2017 — an Overview

Dr. Brian Beal
Downeast Institute

7: 15 PM — Business Meeting

- Minutes (March & April)
- MRCO Update - (Officer Tetreau)
- Senior License Age — (possible ordinance change)
- 2017/2018 License Allocation Request
- License Allocation Request Timetable — (possible ordinance change)
- Summer Schedule
- New Business
- Adjourn