**Freeport Shellfish Conservation Commission**

**9/21/23**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Sara Randall, Nelson Larkins, Chad Coffin, Sarah Warren, Kap Wallingford, Michael Ashby, Charlie Tetreau (Marine Resource Officer)

Quorum achieved. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Chad Coffin motion to approve minutes from the August meeting. Mike seconded. All in favor, minutes approved.

Marine Officer’s report:

10/3 at 5pm is the scheduled date for the working session. It is briefly on the Town Council agenda for same evening.

Discussion of current closures due to rain.

Discussion of Recompence Bay closure and review of sampling data; the committee sees some themes regarding land sampling vs boat sampling. Question about what is a significant number-anything over 30 is a negative result. One result is 1280 and it’s a significant outlier and that sample was done by land. Starting in Spring Charlie and/or Greg will sample all of them by boat. Requested 2 additional sites where there were gaps. The data may take 2 seasons or possibly 3.

Questions about point source pollution, Greg walked the whole area and didn’t see anything of note. Questions about process timing on data collection and how long the delay is.

Requesting additional information about the math done with these scores, committee member got a different result.

Discuss upcoming working session strategy and goals.

Discussion of editing preamble to focus more on adaptive management of the fishery. Aligned with climate action intiative. The town and the state co-manage the fisheries. No technical support from the state with regard to the resource. Discussion of process related to making the changes. Work to break the discussion into sections.

Sara- apprenticeship program

Conservation point change- Charlie

Adaptive fisheries management- Chad, Sara, Nelson

Shellfish assessment RFP. Requests must be in by June 1, and ours was put in late and not approved. Discussion of budget and utilization going forward. No need to RFP under $5000. Charlie will ask the Downeast Institute if they are willing to do the survey.

Discuss next month agenda.

Mike motion to adjourn at 7:21pm. Kap seconded, all in favor.