

Shellfish Advisory Council Meeting Agenda
December 14, 2022, from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Moore Community Center Ellsworth
[Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Call to order – **Lewis Pinkham**

01:00-01:01

Roll call – **Mickenzy Breton**

01:01-01:05

First Name	Last Name	In attendance
Amanda	Lyons	Yes
Dick	Douty	No
Jessica	Joyce	Yes
Joan	McDonald	Yes
Kevin	Brodie	No
Lewis	Pinkham	Yes
Marissa	McMahan	Yes
Michael	Danforth	Yes
Ron	Parritt	Yes
Jeff	Auger	Yes
David	Wilson	No (Notified ShAC ahead of time)
Jordan	Kramer	Yes
Lori	Howell	No
Chris	Warner	Yes

New members – **Lewis Pinkham**

01:05-01:10

- Amanda Lyons – reappointment

Adoption of minutes from last meeting – **Lewis Pinkham**

01:10-01:15

Ms. Joyce motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Danforth seconded. All but one present voted in favor of approving minutes, one abstention.

2023 & 2024 Clam Fecundity Study – **Sara Randall**

01:15-01:30

Presentation regarding research to be conducted by DEI on how to maintain and improve rates of clams surviving to harvestable size given a recent trend toward fewer and fewer clams surviving their first year of life mainly due to non-human predation. Multiple people asked questions about how the information that results from this study can be applied by the industry, Ms. Randall suggested that if larger clams produce more eggs there could be protection on larger breeding clams similar to lobster regulations. The presentation is available [here](#).

Bureau of Public Health Budget discussion – **Kohl Kanwit**

01:30-01:45

Ms. Kanwit advised ShAC regarding the various funding sources of the BPH and provided a detailed breakdown of each funding stream and the BPH organizational chart. She also gave information about the Opportunity Fund and talked about municipal mini grants drawn from those funds. There was discussion of area biologist pay, the solvency of the mahogany quahog fund, and how mini grants will be handled. The presentation is available [here](#).

Shellfish Management Committee Update – Jessica Joyce & Amanda Lyons

01:45-02:15

Ms. Joyce began by outlining the Committee’s progress reviewing recommendations from the regional workshops since the last ShAC. She suggested scheduling a prioritization meeting in March near the next ShAC meeting. Currently, the proposal is for the ShAC to prioritize state level policy issues that could be legislation or have a statewide impact. Recommendations would be added to the work plan, and addressed over the next year or so.

Ms. Lyons addressed the opinion of the committee that educational information should be collected in one place that is easy to access and intuitive to use. Many of the recommendations being worked on are town level issues that require action on the town’s part, but towns could benefit from educational resources to know how to act on these issues. Ms. Joyce reiterated the standing invitation to all ShAC members to attend committee meetings, that she will continue to send out advanced notice of meetings, and that she would like input. She also hopes for an hour-long poster/demo/social session at Shellfish Focus Day and wants members of ShAC present to disseminate information about the process.

Airboat Stakeholder update – Jessica Joyce

02:15-02:30

Dan Sylvain (Brunswick Marine Resource Officer), who is a member of the airboat stakeholder group, broke down the past meetings. The stakeholder report is due to IF&W January of 2024. Their recent discussions focused on whether regulations should focus on a town or region, rather than statewide. Ms. Joyce noted that this is brought to ShAC because there is some overlap between some issues being discussed by the ShAC and stakeholder group. Mr. Sylvain explained the current regulations (which are due to sunset in September of 2023) and what options the stakeholders and legislators are considering for future regulations, including revising the sunset date to September of 2024. There was some discussion of why this is seemingly such a significant issue considering how few airboats are registered in Maine and how/if this affects towns where airboats aren’t currently used. There was further discussion regarding the potential expansion of airboat use to other parts of the state and the equity of airboat exclusive regulation vs. regulation of other watercraft.

Overview of current retail rules – Kohl Kanwit

02:30-02:45

Ms. Kanwit presented a [flow chart](#) explaining the current process for selling shellfish in Maine. The current administration is friendly to the idea of consuming more food in Maine that comes from Maine and any efficiency recommendations would likely be well received. It was suggested that selling directly from landing points could potentially be allowed at specific, approved landings that are easy for Marine Patrol to access. Ms. Lyons suggested creating an app for ease of tracking/record keeping. There was extensive discussion on the necessity and burden of regulations including mention of special license categories that exist in other states and previously existed in Maine but were underutilized. It was suggested that this category could be brought back given the increasing administrative/public interest in consuming food harvest and/or grown in Maine.

Announcements and updates – ShAC Partners

02:45-03:00

Dan Devereaux announced discussions of municipal shellfish restoration using soft aquaculture techniques. There has been discussion with legislators about ways to avoid having private aquaculture rules applied to towns as an extension of the right to fish, fowl, and navigate. This issue could be transferred to the something more along the lines of the DMR’s permitting process for municipal shellfish conservation because towns doing conservation work do not feel like they ought to be subject to the same rules as private aquaculturists with for-profit operations. This issue was discussed at the regional meetings and is something that is being reviewed by the ShAC Management Committee as part of their review of other suggestions. Mr. Devereaux asked if it was possible to have an additional meeting before the next quarterly meeting so that legislative recommendations on this topic of municipal LPAs could be reviewed by the ShAC.

Kohl Kanwit announced the restructuring of the shellfish management program. It was asked that any new capacities be shared with the ShAC and the public but presently these changes are mostly backfilling existing issues that needed to be addressed and any expansion of duties will be happening later on. Also discussed Mr. Devereaux's announcement to say that many of the issues that towns have with the LPA process are issues that are currently being addressed, but some of them are legislative issues and DMR is planning on making legislative recommendations to the current session. Essentially the focus is streamlining the licensing process, as there is no appetite within DMR to move town restoration projects from aquaculture to the new Nearshore Marine Resources program. Mr. Pinkham requested that ShAC be able to review potential/proposed bills before they actually get recommended.

Work plan

03:00-03:15

1. Fee for service lab testing and certification of private labs - **Tabled**
2. Alpha-numeric system for identifying harvest areas - **Tabled**
3. Soft-shell clam market presentation - **Keith Evans (Bridie McGreavy discussed in his absence)**

Keith Evans asked for clarification regarding the discussion about soft-shell clam marketing. Ms. Kanwit had previously suggested providing funding for a student to do a market analysis. Mr. Evans advised a master's student who had done some limited market research and there is potential for a follow-up study wider in scope.

4. Fisherman's forum committee – **Jessica Joyce**

March 2nd at Samoset, Shellfish Focus Day Committee has reviewed presentation proposals and will be meeting again to put together an agenda and plan Shellfish Focus Day. There will be two rooms to accommodate past crowds. Mr. Pinkham would especially like to have diggers attend.

5. Shore access – **Dave Wilson (Bridie McGreavy spoke instead)**

U Maine is planning to hold a Coastal Access Forum online to open learning and conversation and hopefully later, they will host a larger in-person event sometime in the spring.

6. Streamlining direct to customer shellfish sales – **Jordan Kramer**

Discussed during overview of current retail rules.

Public input – **Open floor**

03:15-03:45

Mr. Pinkham thanked area biologists for the regional meetings and complimented their success. Ms. Joyce concurred for the Brunswick meeting.

Other business

03:45-04:00

Adjourn Michael Danforth motioned to adjourn, adjourned 3:27, all presented voted in favor.