

Shellfish Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
March 27, 2023, from 02:30 PM - 05:30 PM
DMR Augusta Marquadt Building Room 118
Virtual Meeting via [Microsoft Teams](#)

Call to order – **Lewis Pinkham**

02:30-02:31

Roll call – **Mickenzy Breton**

02:31-02:35

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

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

02:35-02:40

Ms. Joyce moved to approve, Mr. Brodie seconded, no discussion, ten voted in favor of adopting minutes, none opposed.

Election of officers – **Lewis Pinkham**

02:40-02:50

Mr. Brodie motioned to retain current officers, Mr. Auger seconded, six voted in favor of retaining current officers, two abstained, none opposed.

Shellfish Mgmt. Comm. Work Plan Prioritization – **Jessica Joyce & Amanda Lyons**

02:50-03:50

Ms. Joyce reviewed the history of the management committee and provided background on why it was formed and what it has been doing for the past year. She indicated there will need to be a management committee meeting to refine the work plan prioritization. Time was allowed for public comment on the prioritization exercise, and only ShAC members participated in the actual prioritization. There was also some discussion of the specific issues being prioritized. The prioritization exercise took place in-person and by poll online. ShAC will be notified of the results of the prioritization exercise and discussion will take place at the next meeting about what items to add to the work plan. Mr. Pinkham recognized the contributions of Ms. Joyce and Ms. Lyons to the management committee.

ShAC/Legislature Introduction – **Jessica Joyce**

03:50-04:05

Ms. Joyce mentioned the requests to have the ShAC send a representative to a legislative meet and greet to provide information to the legislators, particularly at the Marine Resource Committee meeting on March 30. This would include information about what the ShAC is and about the shellfish co-management system. It was discussed whether to potentially request a longer session than the three-minute meet and greet, but consensus seemed to be that a shorter session would be best. Mr. Pinkham motioned to nominate Ms. Joyce as the representative, Ms. McMahan seconded, eight voted in favor, one abstained, none opposed.

Announcements and updates – ShAC Partners
None.

04:05-04:20

Economic study discussion – Bridie McGreavy

04:20-04:40

Dr. McGreavy (University of Maine) provided examples of potential research topics and solicited the opinion of the ShAC and the interested public on what could be or should be included in a request for proposals to fund an economic study. Ms. Kanwit advised that the RFP process can begin anytime but that a potential contract would not go into effect until sometime after July 1, 2023 and that research could begin in the fall if funding were allocated for a study.

Shellfish Focus Day Discussion – Jessica Joyce & Lewis Pinkham

04:40-04:50

Discussed the continuing role of ShAC and the DMR in planning Shellfish Focus Day (SFD) and whether it is worth it for there to be an entire day dedicated to shellfish issues and if so whether ShAC should continue being involved in planning it. Generally, comments were in support of retaining SFD and continuing ShAC's involvement. Some suggestions were made about changing the format to involve less talking "at" people and more networking as well as trying to get harvesters more involved. There was an agreement to add SFD to the work plan to discuss it throughout the year. A member of the public made a suggestion regarding potentially establishing a shellfish industry representative presence at events besides SFD such as the Common Ground Fair or Clam Festival to get the word out more about the shellfishing industry in general. A ShAC member suggested a Maine Maple Sunday-esque event line an "open shellfish day," and further discussion about what sort of events and/or festivals could also take place is warranted.

MRC Legislative Update – Deirdre Gilbert

04:50-05:05

Only three members returned to the MRC committee, and having many new members this year resulted in a relatively slow start to the session. There are about twenty bills being reviewed total, and five have been reviewed so far. The bills that are most relevant to the ShAC include:

- Act to Assistant Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs: waives fee for municipal LPAs and potentially change education requirements but not eliminate them.
- LD 711 Act to Regulate Oyster Seed requires that aquaculturists only use triploid oyster seed.
- LD 851 Act to Clarify that Maine Holds Title to Intertidal Lands withdrawn by sponsor before public hearings.
- LD 221 is with IF&W committee, an Act Regarding Airboat Noise. Representative Hepler sponsored a bill to extend current regulations until after working group report has been finalized.
- Ms. Joyce asked about a bill (LD 574) regarding changing working waterfront covenants which was assigned to AG, Conservation, and Forestry. Ms. Gilbert stated that there was some back and forth between legislators and the Island Institute on broadening the scope of which organizations can hold these covenants in an attempt to strike a balance between too many and none and all.

Dan Devereaux updated ShAC regarding airboat stakeholder group. Ms. Joyce added that it was suggested at the most recent meeting of the stakeholder group that there have been fewer complaints about airboat noise recently. According to discussion at the meeting this is attributable to the effectiveness of current regulations on

airboat noise and hours of use as well as mechanical changes and operational best practices suggested by wardens to airboat users.

Work plan

05:05-05:20

1. Fee for service lab testing and certification of private labs - **Tabled**
2. Alpha-numeric system for identifying harvest areas – **Tabled**
3. Streamlining direct to customer shellfish sales – **Tabled** (Removed from work plan in error)

Public input – **Open floor**

05:20-05:25

No public input.

Other business

05:25-05:30

Tora Johnson asked about potentially giving a presentation to the ShAC about research conducted and the resulting recommendations relating to health and safety in the fishing industry.

Mr. Pinkham asked for clarification about the Shellfish Management Plan requirement as part of annual reporting requirements. Specifically, he wanted to know what constitutes a management plan and whether it necessarily needs to be separate from the town's ordinance. Ms. Kanwit clarified that this has always been a requirement for municipalities to have approve shellfish ordinances, but that they haven't been updated in decades. Ms. Kanwit referred to Chapter 7 of the DMR Procedural Rules "Requirements for Municipalities Having Shellfish Conservation Programs" that state the scope of Shellfish Management plans and indicated that DMR is working on an outline to provide to municipalities.

Adjourn

Mr. Pinkham motioned to adjourn, Ms. Joyce seconded, all present voted in favor, none opposed.