

**Aquaculture Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**October 28, 2024, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Augusta DMR Room 224 or [Microsoft Teams](#)**

Call to order – **Greg Lambert** **11:00-11:01**

Roll call – **William Fearn** **11:01-11:05**

- Greg Lambert - Chair
- Briana Warner
- Christopher Davis
- Lauren Gray
- Matt Moretti
- Will Owen
- Steve Zimmerman

Adoption of minutes from last meeting – **Greg Lambert** **11:05-11:10**  
**Christopher Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting and the motion was accepted.**

Council roles Chair/Vice Chair – **Greg Lambert** **11:10-11:15**

By laws – Administrative changes

Administrative changes consisted of asking for a Vice Chair of the council. William Owen has accepted the appointment. A motion was made by Briana Warner and Christopher Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Electronic bylaws were sent out for a review previously and now the newly updated Bylaws are available. The council discussed the new bylaws, and more information can be found on the website.

Legislative Update – **Deirdre Gilbert** **11:15-11:25**

Deirdre Gilbert shared that the DMR follows a timeline to converse with the policy director for a draft and revision before changes are made. Decisions are expected in the early winter months. Limited Harvester Retail Certifications and their purpose and costs were discussed again with the group.

The group also discussed that currently a Cultch-less American oyster growers license is needed for growing an American Oyster or to possess, buy or sell them off of a lease site. The honoris to show that the Harvester in possession have purchased seed has been a problematic history. This rule is not serving its original purpose any longer we are hoping to move away from this rule.

Lastly, the budget process for additional staffing for the Aquaculture team is being discussed and the Commissioner is requesting (4) four additional staff at this time. Their titles are: Marine Resources Coordinator, Mgmt. Analyst, Scientist I and Scientist II

Poaching Enforcement - **Danny White** **11:25-11:40**

Lieutenant White described the imprinting of the culched markings from Harvesters using a hammer among the difficulties for enforcement of the Cultch-less American oyster growers license, and the difficulty it poses for enforcement. The Town Ordinance governs what they can harvest, and law enforcement would need to survey suspected issues. Lease sites need to be marked clearly, and your oysters need to be on the site. Marked

equipment reduces issues when equipment floats away. The volume of these Cultural Licensing is believed to be minimal.

**LEEDS/Landings presentation – Rob Watts**

**11:40-11:50**

Rob Watts stated that the letters being sent are not Aquaculture suspension letters. Generally, they are Leasing letters for being in the rears. There is no violation history that follows the license. The group discussed the period of compliance to become in good standing and remind that this is a courtesy letter to avoid relicensing issues. Better reporting by harvesters of pricing improves the data needed to make assessments in a state emergency. We are hoping to capture the price that you would have paid a Harvester and not the price that you are selling it for to better understand losses in potential Public Health emergencies.

**Leasing Application and Instructions – Amanda Ellis/Lisa White**

**11:50-12:33**

Amanda Ellis explained that the application process for Aquaculture non-discharge lease application / new draft application has undergone a redesign with the user experience and standards of the Army Corps in mind in the redraft process. An electronic system is the goal when the resources are available. The redraft includes information omitted that is part of the current regulation. The group discussed the additions and the need for sub committees to gather insight on the proposal of amendments to regulation that may be warranted.

**Aquaculture Inspections – Kohl Kanwit**

**12:34-12:45**

Kohl Kanwit reiterated that the DMR is required to inspect loading and lease sites on an annual basis per regulation. A permanent and a contractor position was created and onboarded to assist with this effort. We also hired a contractor to assist in the inspection process. This effort was highly productive with 136 out of 151 active lease sites and 255 LPAs inspected this year which is extraordinary. In the past this was divided among several Bureaus in a less comprehensive way. Chloe Kilborn has been building the program while running it. The group discussed common issues and the notice and fine infrastructure.

**Work plan - Greg Lambert**

**12:46-1:03**

Greg Lambert discusses forming subcommittees for the first 3 topics in order to get targeted for suggested action. The council agrees to target items 1-3 in a subcommittee range. Greg Lambert will reach out with next steps.

1. Lease application/Amendment processing time expectations
  - a. Christopher Davis
  - b. Matt Moretti
  - c. Briana Warner
  - d. Greg Lambert
  - e. DMR Participant
2. Pathway for using Upwellers other than an LPA
  - a. Steve Zimmerman
  - b. Lauren Gray
  - c. William Owen
  - d. DMR Participant
3. Gear Amendment application processing time expectations
  - a. Lauren Gray
  - b. Briana Warner
  - c. William Owen
  - d. DMR Participant
4. Review of the Bonding system
5. Relaying Seed from prohibited areas
6. Wet Storage clarification
7. Gear tagging/standards – Labeling gear as they come off farms
8. Legislative updates and engagement

**Other business - Greg Lambert**

**12:35-01:08**

1. Programmatic updates – **Amanda Ellis**

The members discussed the new positions that have been requested on behalf of the Aquaculture team. The department asked for 4 new positions, but they would not come online until 2027 due to budget cycles. Considering that, we did internal shuffling, and another program Bureau of Policy and Management is lending us a new hire which will assist the Aquaculture team.

2. Industry input

We send out reminders, but it is time to renew, and new designations can be made. After the LPA is granted, you cannot make any changes to personnel.

The Dept proposed rules to owner operator requirement and including the feedback received during the public hearing. The draft of the new proposal is expected to be available on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

3. Schedule next meeting

January 27th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Public input - Greg Lambert**

**01:09-01:11**

1. Comments from the Teams Chat

**Adjourn - Greg Lambert**

**01:12-01:14**