



**SHELLFISH COMMISSION**

TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE

WESTPORT, CT 06880

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**WESTPORT™**

**MINUTES  
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
MARCH 3, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Heather Williams, Chair

Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair

Matt Dembski

Dick Harris

Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris

The March 3, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, by Chairman, Heather Williams.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the March 3, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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Alicia Mozian  
Conservation Director

1. Approval of the December 2, 2020 minutes.

This agenda item was tabled to the next meeting.

**Motion:** Walsh **Second:** Williams  
**Ayes:** Walsh, Williams, Harris, Higgins  
**Nays:** None **Abstentions:** None **Vote:** 4:0:0

2. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read the checking account balance ending January 31, 2021.

3. Police Report

Sergeant Fearon was not present and there was no report.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

a. February 2021 Report

Ms. Voris presented the following report:

The Commission has issued **201 annual recreational permits** as of February 28, 2021. There were **176** renewals and **25** new permits. (87.6%/12.4%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	92	(\$ 2,730.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	100	(\$ 780.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	7	(\$ 420.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	2	(\$ 60.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$ 0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$4,605.00** since December 30, 2020 when we began issuing the 2021 recreational shellfishing permits.

6 senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

Closures:

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
January	31	0	31
February	28	0	28
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	59	0	59

**b. Review of 2020 Annual Report**

Ms. Voris reviewed the 2020 report including:

The Commission has issued **540 annual recreational permits** as of December 31, 2020. There were **338** renewals and **202** new permits. (62.6%/37.4%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	<b>323</b>	<b>(\$ 9,660.00)</b>
Senior Resident Permits issued –	<b>197</b>	<b>(\$ 2,820.00)</b>
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>15</b>	<b>(\$ 900.00)</b>
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>5</b>	<b>(\$ 150.00)</b>
Daily Permits issued -	<b>16</b>	<b>(\$ 240.00)</b>

The Commission has collected **\$13,770.00** since December 26, 2019 when we began issuing the 2020 recreational shellfishing permits.

9 senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

**Closures:**

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
January	31	0	31
February	29	0	29
March	31	0	31
April	17	13	30
May	5	26	31
June	30	0	30
July	31	0	31
August	31	0	31
September	30	0	30
October	21	10	31
November	24	6	30
December	23	8	31
	<b>303</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>366</b>

**Notes:**

**Closure Events**

4/13/20 - > 1.5"

4/27/20 - transplant - water temp 45 degrees

10/16/20 - >1.78"

10/30/20 - >1.5"

12/5 - 1.65"

Ms. Voris reviewed incomes and expenses for the year with the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the permit holders by City for informational purposes as follows:

**2020 Permits by City**

City	State	
Ansonia	CT	8
Bantam	CT	1
Barkhamsted	CT	1
Beacon	NY	2
Beacon Falls	CT	5
Bethany	CT	1
Bethel	CT	9
Bethlehem	CT	2
Bridgeport	CT	8
Bronx	NY	1
Brookfield	CT	6
Brooklyn	CT	4
Burlington	CT	1
Corona	NY	1
Cortlandt Manor	NY	2
Danbury	CT	17
Derby	CT	6
Durham	CT	1
Easton	CT	7
Englewood	FL	1
Fairfield	CT	49
Greens Farms	CT	1
Greenwich	CT	1
Haddam	CT	1
Hamden	CT	1
Hampton	CT	1
Harwinton	CT	2
Holmes	NY	1
Huntington	CT	3
Jewett City	CT	1
Kent	CT	1
Mahopac	NY	1
Meriden	CT	3
Middlebury	CT	2
Middlefield	CT	2
Milford	CT	20
Monroe	CT	13
Naugatuck	CT	5
New Canaan	CT	4
New Fairfield	CT	4
New Hartford	CT	1

City	State	
Norwalk	CT	42
Oakville	CT	2
Old Greenwich	CT	1
Orange	CT	1
Oxford	CT	13
Peekskill	NY	1
Plymouth	CT	1
Prospect	CT	2
Redding	CT	3
Ridgefield	CT	5
Roxbury	CT	2
Rye	NY	1
Sandy Hook	CT	4
Seymor	CT	8
Shelton	CT	22
Sherman	CT	1
Somers	NY	1
South Kent	CT	1
South Salem	NY	1
Southbury	CT	10
Southport	CT	4
Stamford	CT	2
Stratford	CT	20
Terryville	CT	1
Thomaston	CT	1
Tolland	CT	1
Torrington	CT	16
Trumbull	CT	20
Wallingford	CT	2
Warren	CT	2
Waterbury	CT	3
Watertown	CT	2
West Haven	CT	3
West Redding	CT	1
Weston	CT	6
Westport	CT	91
Wilton	CT	9
Winsted	CT	1
Woodbridge	CT	2
Woodbury	CT	2

New Milford	CT	12
New York City	NY	2
Newington	CT	1
Newtown	CT	10
North Haven	CT	2

Westport	CT	91
Fairfield	CT	49
Norwalk	CT	42

It was noted that closures were for the most part insignificant. The largest closure was due to the transplant. Compared to 2019 there were less closures in 2020 primarily due to lack of significant rainfall events.

Mr. Harris noted that Norm Bloom has indicated that he can do another transplant in the Spring once the water warms up.

## 5. New Business

### a. Information learned at 2021 Gathering of Shellfish Commissions

Ms. Mozian, Ms. Higgins, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Harris were in attendance at the Gathering.

Ms. Mozian noted some ideas noted from listening to other Towns for exploring different locations to sell permits. The Commission discussed ideas of where to sell permits since the Dock Shop has closed. These ideas include:

- Explore selling at the Town marinas via Parks and Recreation;
- Set up a table at Ned Dimes Marina to promote sales or at least advertise there;
- Reach out to Fisherman's World in Norwalk to see if they would sell our permits;
- Attendance at the Summer Farmer's Market.

Members discussed the presentation given on the overall effects of climate change on shellfishing.

### b. Report on Shellfish Restoration meeting

Ms. Higgins and Mr. Harris attended this meeting.

Ms. Higgins summarized the "story map" that UConn SeaGrant has put together for possible restoration areas. They are establishing sub-groups for both recreational and commercial shellfishing in the areas of public outreach, best management practices, regulatory guidance and data management. It follows the Blue Plan but digs deeper into recreational and commercial shellfishing in the State. It also tracks temperature, salinity and O<sub>2</sub> saturations.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Update on Crabbing Regulations

Ms. Mozian read her notes from discussion with CT DEEP Marine Fisheries. The bottom line is that the Town cannot be more strict than the State but we could dictate what activity takes place on Town property. She noted that the Commission should be mindful that the Town has no jurisdiction below the mean highwater line.

She noted the CT DEEP Fishing Guide has a section on crabbing. She suggested that the Commission could publish the DEEP hotline number to our website for people to report suspected violations of crabbing regulations especially for suspected commercial harvest.

### b. Outreach

It was the consensus of the Commission that greater public outreach is necessary both on the Town webpage and on the Town Facebook page.

Ms. Williams indicated she would work with staff on Facebook postings.

**7. Other Business**

- a.** Mr. Harris mentioned Mitten Crabs in the Housatonic River. 8 have been collected; 2 of which were female. It was suggested that we should post a warning about the Mitten Crabs to Facebook page.

The March 3, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Dembski</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Walsh, Dembski, Harris, Higgins, Williams</b>		
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
			<b>Vote: 5:0:0</b>