MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION MARCH 5, 2014

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>

Commission Members:

Ron Silverman, Chair Leo Cirino Clarinda Higgins Heather Williams, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director Robert Myer, Westport Marine Police

Staff:

Susan Voris, Recording Secretary

The March 5, 2014 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:15 p.m. in Room 309 of the Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, Connecticut, by Chairman, Ron Silverman.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the March 5, 2014 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian	
Conservation Director	

1. Approval of December 4, 2013 meeting minutes.

The December 4, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Silverman Second: Higgins

Ayes: Silverman, Higgins, Cirino, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

2. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Silverman read the checking account balance ending January 31, 2014 into the record.

3. Police Report

Officer Myer reporter that more lights and a siren were being added to the jet ski. Marine boat III needs a new battery, which the Police Department pays for. The boats should be in the water by late April, weather dependent.

Water temperature is now about 32°. Boats are allowed back into Compo Basin around April 1, 2014.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris gave the following report:

The Commission has issued 303 annual recreational permits as of December 16, 2013.

279 are renewals and 24 are new permit holders. (92% / 8%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	175	(\$	3,500.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	123	(\$	1,230.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	2	(\$	100.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	3	(\$	75.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$	0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$4,905.00** since December 16, 2013 when we began issuing the 2014 recreational shellfishing permits.

Ms. Voris noted this is slightly down from permits issued last year. She questioned whether this is because of the long Vibrio closures of the past two years. She added that she spoke with Kristen DeRosia Banick of the Bureau of Aquaculture about this. We'll have to see what affect, if any, the long cold winter has on Vibrio this season.

- 5. New Business There was no New Business.
- 6. Old Business There was no Old Business.

7. Other Business

- a. Ms. Voris reported on her attendance at the Shellfish Initiative Plan workshop hosted by UConn and SeaGrant. Discussed at the meeting were various methods of commercial harvesting industry and a report on recreational opportunities. She noted that the group hopes to have the plan ready by 2016. She highlighted the plans sections which would include:
 - Shellfish Consumption and Health
 - Regulations and Management

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- Commercial Shellfish Management
- Recreational Shellfish Opportunities
- Natural Shellfish Resources

Officer Myer left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- **b.** Ms. Mozian stated that First Selectman, Jim Marpe is requesting that the Commission look into issuing shellfishing permits on-line. She needs to work with the IT Director to see if this is possible.
- **c.** Ms. Mozian noted Ms. Higgins new permanent exhibit on the Saugatuck River and Long Island Sound about water quality and best management practices on display on the second floor of the Town Hall.

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on April 2, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

9. Adjournment:

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: Silverman Second: Higgins

Ayes: Silverman, Higgins, Cirino, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0