



WESTPORT™

SHELLFISH COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
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**MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
DECEMBER 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Jamie Walsh, Chair
Barry Lytton, Vice-Chair
Dick Harris
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate
Scott Reichhelm
Heather William, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director
Brendan Fearon, Westport Marine Police

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin. Asst. III

Guests:

Jeff Northrop, Sr.

The December 6, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of the Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, Connecticut, by Chairman, Jamie Walsh.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the December 6, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Colin Kelly
Conservation Director

Notes:

Closure Events

- 1/26 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 4/23 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 4/29 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 5/20 - rainfall > 2.5"
- 5/22 - sewage line bypass < 500 gallons
- 6/30 - rainfall > 1.5 "
- 7/14 - rainfall > 1.5" and flooding events
- 8/15 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 8/18 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 9/10 - rainfall > 2"
- 9/18 - rainfall > 1.5"
- 9/29 - rainfall > 4.3"
- 10/17 - transplant
- 11/23 - rainfall > 1.71"

a. Review of 2024 renewal season

The Commission and Ms. Voris discussed the renewal letter and updates to the 2024 season.

5. New Business

a. Discussion by Dick Harris on PFA sampling in abutting watersheds and what that testing could provide the Commission regarding the Saugatuck River.

Mr. Harris discussed testing that has been done by the State within Central Connecticut for PFAs and some of the resulting remedies that have included providing water for residents and/or upgrades. The State has not got enough funding to continue at this point. They will at some point be testing all watersheds and making remediation recommendations. PFAs are chemicals that stay in your system for at least 8 years.

He has done some testing within local waters in Norwalk and Wilton. These test run about \$295 per test. He has found a test that is backed by the Sierra Club that is about 75 to 80 percent accurate when run along site the same other test and would give background information on hot spots in watersheds. He is looking at watersheds. His interest is in having background information. The Cyclopure test runs \$79 per test. He was asking the Commission to back a testing of the Saugatuck River watershed for a baseline.

Ms. Voris noted comments Colin Kelly, Conservation Director, wrote to the Commission that supported this proposal for sampling and gathering data because it gives a regional overview of the impact to local waters.

Members of the Commission asked how these chemicals affect the shellfish.

Mr. Harris indicated that this is still an unknown. However, he noted that shellfish are filter feeders.

The Commission discussed the type and amount of testing they were comfortable with.

Motion to allow the purchase of 25 Cyclopure tests with costs being no greater than \$2,500.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Williams
Ayes:	Walsh, Williams, Higgins, Lytton, Reichhelm		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	Harris
			Vote: 5:0:1

6. Old Business – None

7. Other Business

- a. Ms. Voris highlighted comments from Mr. Kelly regarding the Save the Sound event on November 15, 2023 to help recycle abandoned lobster pots, which were covered from Long Island Sound.
- b. Ms. Voris noted the Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2024 in New Haven. When the registration opens, she will reach out to members for interest in attending and set up the registrations.

8. Next Steps

- a. Staff will work with Mr. Harris and the Finance Department to order the Cyclopure.

The December 6, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Lytton
Ayes:	Walsh, Lytton, Harris, Higgin, Reichhelm, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	6:0:0