



# Town of Harpswell, Maine

INCORPORATED 1758

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 39

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<http://www.harpswell.maine.gov/marineresources>

David Wilson  
Chairman

Sean Hall  
Vice-Chairman

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## Marine Resources Committee Meeting March 28th, 2023 Minutes

- Open Meeting at 5:03
- **Attendance:** David Wilson, Mark Leuchtenberger, Robt. Boyce, & Assoc Mary Ann Nahf, Paul Plummer, Shellfish Admin. Stephen Welch and Todd McGee, Shellfish Wardens, Kathy Doughty, Town Clerk.:
- **Absent:** Sean Hall
- **Jan 27 minutes** approved unamously.
- **Public Comment:** None
  
- **Warden Announcements:** S. Welch reviewed Chapter 9 rules and regs regarding storing product and prohibition of storing others products.
  
- **Ferda Farms Lease Proposal** – Max Burdis described their 8 acre 10 year LPA proposal and discussed the harvesters main concerns regarding
  - Size (800 cages) and amount of floating gear that will collect bird feces how that could affect water quality
  - Location as close to shore as planned might limit harvesters ability to dig.Through the discussion, Max decided to reduce the LPA size to 5 acres and time frame to 5 years on their proposal to the State, which would allow them to review and make changes if necessary, sooner rather than later. Also, received a grant to put in 3 water quality monitoring buoys that will give real time changes to water quality.
  
- **Town of Harpswell LPA – Donated Surf Clams Discussion**  
Determined would like to grow to 2 inches and sell, using money toward marine resources budget. If not possible to sell would take down to Storvers and distribute. Paul will check with the Select Board to get their approval and report back at April meeting.
  
- **Quahog Bay (QB) Conservation Closure Discussion:** In order to rebuild stock, members discussed pros and cons of closing a portion of QB for the summer. I

It was moved and seconded to close a portion of Quahog Bay from Bethel Pt. Landing to Webbers Dock from May 1 – Sept 30, 2023. Passed unamously.

- **Homeowner appreciation day:** The Committee determined to have a Homeowner Appreciation Day on Sunday, August 20 starting at 11:30. There will be a Conservation Day on August 19 to dig clams for the event. The closed area in Quahog Bay will be opened for the day to dig under the supervision of the Wardens for the event and in an effort to have residents learn more about the industry, they will be invited to watch from their properties.

- **New Business:** Due to the massive die-off last summer, David would like to request DMR to set up 2 additional monitoring stations in Middle Bay. He and Robert will go out with the Wardens to survey sites on 4/27 at 10:30

**New Meeting Day:** With Warden Welch's retirement, Warden McGee requested a change in meeting day to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month to meet on working day for him and the new warden. The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month was agreeable to the members and fit into the Town meetings schedule. April's meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26 at 5pm.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:31

Submitted by,  
Mary Ann Nahf, Scribe