



# Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

3 Fort Wetherill Road Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835  
(401) 423-1920 Fax: (401) 423-1925

## Shellfish Advisory Panel

October 17, 2013, 4:30 pm  
DFW Marine Fisheries Office  
3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown, RI.

### Meeting Minutes

RIMFC Members Present: J. Grant (Chair)

SAP Members Present: M. McGiveney; K. Eagan

Scientific Advisor Present: D. Leavitt

DEM Fish and Wildlife: J. Mercer;

### New Business:

#### **1. Development of 2013-2014 winter shellfish management area schedules.**

J. Mercer showed a table with the winter harvest schedule for 2012-2013 and asked if there were any proposed changes.

K. Eagan began by addressing the Bristol Harbor Management Area and stated that half of the fishermen she talked to wanted a January opening and the other half wanted to keep the opening at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed in December.

There was discussion on the merits of both options. It was decided that the Bristol Management Area would open January 3<sup>rd</sup> 8-12 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. During February, March and April the Area would be open sunrise to noon M-F.

M. McGiveney originally recommended Bissel/Fox Island remains the same as last year. He later suggested that Bissel/Fox Island be opened sunrise to sunset seven days a week beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed in December through the end of April since there were no transplants into the area this year. After some discussion this was agreed upon.

M. McGiveney recommended that GB have the same schedule as last year. Jeff G. asked if Greenwich Bay should be open on Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>? McGiveney mentioned that Wednesday, January 1st isn't ideal as most of the dealers are closed and Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> not great either as the product will sit at the dealers over the weekend. After discussion it was decided that Greenwich Bay Sub Areas 1 & 2 should be open Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8-12 and beginning Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-12 until the end of April.

J. Grant explained what the default schedule was and when the default schedule would be in affect. McGiveney recommend that the default schedule for Greenwich Bay be changed from 8-10 instead of 8-12.

J. Grant asked if the default schedule for Greenwich Bay should exclude January 1st as a fishing day. There was some discussion and it was agreed upon that January 1st should be excluded as a fishing day in Greenwich Bay if it falls on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

After some discussion it was decided that the default schedule for the Bristol Management Area should also exclude December 25th and January 1<sup>st</sup> as fishing days.

K Eagan asked if the Bristol Harbor Management Area boundaries had been clarified yet. J. Mercer stated what the problem was and said that a change would have to go to public hearing and that he would work on making that change.

**Everyone agreed upon the final schedule listed in the table and changes to the default schedule listed below.**

	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>APRIL</b>
<b>Greenwich Bay Sub Areas 1&amp;2</b>	CLOSED OWR	8-12 Jan 2 & 8-12 MWF starting Jan 6	8-12 MWF	8-12 MWF	8-12 MWF
<b>Bristol</b>	CLOSED	8-12 MWF beginning Jan 3	sunrise - 12 M-F	sunrise - 12 M-F	sunrise - 12 M-F
<b>Bissel/Fox</b>	Opens 2nd Wed	Open	Open	Open	Open
<b>Mill Gut</b>	Opens 2nd Wed	Open	Open	Open	Open

**Change the default schedule for Greenwich Bay Sub Areas 1 & 2 from 8-12 instead of 8-10 and exclude January 1<sup>st</sup> as a fishing day in addition to the December 25<sup>th</sup> exclusion already in the regulations.**

**Change the default schedule for the Bristol Harbor Management Area to exclude December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> as fishing days.**

The meeting was then adjourned.

Prepared by: J. Mercer