

Gouldsboro Shellfish Meeting Agenda for October 9, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2024
3. Adjustments to the Adjustments
4. Bill Update
5. Pauline Update
6. Heidi Update
7. Elin and Chantel green crab project update
8. Net Removal Date
9. Update from Mike on Meeting with Near Shore Supervisor
10. Change from Limited License to Unlimited License Sales
11. Green Crab Mini Trap
12. Next Scheduled Meeting November 13, 2024
13. Motion to Adjourn

Gouldsboro Shellfish Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2024

Committee Members Attending: Wayne, Mike and David

1. Meeting called to Order by Wayne at 1805 Hours
2. Approval of meeting minutes from September 11, 2024—Motion was made to approve as written by David, 2nd Mike, motion carried unanimously
3. Adjustments to the Agenda—Add an 8A note from Dr. Brian Beal
4. Bill wasn't in Attendance
5. Pauline wasn't in Attendance
6. Heidi wasn't in Attendance
7. Elin presented me a copy of her findings from the green project during the summer—copy attached. Chantel reported that she caught over 5000 green crabs. She was fishing 2 traps off her pier, she didn't do that well there so she moved her traps to Dana's buying float in Bunkers Harbor. The number of crabs that she caught increased greatly. Her problem is what to do with all the crabs, it is very hard work. Both Ladies wanted to know what we expect to learn from catching and counting all those crabs. I told them that is a Heidi question. I sure we will get a presentation from Heidi when she gets all the information compiled.
8. Net Removal—The date for removal is November 10, 2024 at 1130 AM
- 8A. Mike read a note from Dr. Brian Beal about the project he was proposing in the Town Of Gouldsboro. He wanted to do a control project using oysters, mussels, quahogs. The group had a lively discussion on the project, There was a motion by Alan not to participate in the project, there was a 2nd by Mike C.--the motion passed unanimously
9. Mike briefed the committee on his meeting with the Near Shore Supervisor. He talked to her about few concerns. One concern was the requirement to do flat surveys to reduce license numbers. He asked her definition of CoManagement. The conversation went well.
10. Mike explained to us that we currently have limited shellfish license sales, that is why everyone has to have their conservation time done before the license allocation paperwork has to be submitted to DMR. If you are Gouldsboro resident and you meet all

the requirements you can get a license. If a license is not sold within 90 days anyone can by the available license, without doing conservation time. If we go to unlimited license sales anyone in Gouldsboro can have a shellfish license if they meet all their conservation time which includes meeting time. In the unlimited licenses anyone can get a license but Mike doesn't have to tell DMR how many licenses needed. If someone has done all the requirements to get a license and they don't get a license , it doesn't go up for sale to anyone who wants it.

11. Mike wanted to get a motion to authorize him to check after a discussion with Heidi about getting mini crab traps built if a they might be helpful in our study of green crabs. There was motion by Alan to allow Mike to get traps built if it will help—Wayne 2nd, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Next Meeting is November 13, 2024

13. Motion to Adjourn was made by David at 1926 hours- 2nd Wayne, Motion Passed unanimously

Submitted by Shellfish Warden
Michael A. Pinkham

Invasive Green Crab Trapping - Report to Gouldsboro Shellfish Meeting, 10/09/2024

Since mid-June, I have trapped Green Crabs on Jones Cove. I have used two traps, supplied by Mike Pinkham, one with standard mesh, the other screened on the inside with 1/8" mesh.

To date, I have removed over 5,000 crabs from the cove.

With the advice of clammers in the cove, I have learned to place the traps near piles of rocks on the mud flat, and cover them with seaweed, as far out in the cove as possible, about 40 ft from the high tide line.

Baiting the traps has resulted in far larger catches than using no bait. The largest catches have been with either a combination of pig skin and herring, or chicken or turkey carcasses. Other meat/fish/fat/animal scraps have yielded more modest catches but much better than no bait. Baiting the trap with dead large male crabs has yielded low catches similar to no bait. Baiting with dead female crabs yields better results but not as many as with baits mentioned above.

Smallest catch has been 7 crabs, largest 221 crabs. For reasons I can't explain, the trap lined with 1/8" mesh has consistently caught more crabs than the standard trap.

Trying to maximize the number of crabs trapped has challenges. The traps are heavy, catches of 50 or more crabs are heavy, and the best place to put the traps requires carrying heavy buckets quite a distance to disposal area. The requirement to count the catch is time consuming, especially with catches over 50. Obtaining bait is not easy, as usual sources are not nearby. Disposing of dead crabs is difficult. Composting on our property raises issues of odor and plagues of flies. At a point where my containers were overwhelmed and catches were robust, Mike bailed me out with 5 gal buckets that he picked up when full.

Finally, I have two large questions:

First, does this help? Do we have any evidence that our clam population has been helped by this level of green crab removal?

Secondly (and assuming the answer to the first question is either "yes" or "we don't know yet, but we are working on finding out") can we make it easier?

Respectfully submitted,

Elin Poneman