

1 **Title:** MSI Assessment Committee Meeting #1 Detailed Notes-
2 **Date:** February 6, 2019
3 **Location:** Barnstable County Complex Innovation Room Meeting
4 **Type:** DRAFT Meeting Detailed Notes w/concerns
5 **Time:** 2-3:45PM
6 **NOTE: SOME NAMES ARE LEFT OUT AND TOWN IDENTITIES ARE USED AS PLACEHOLDERS AS**
7 **NOTE TAKERS WERE JUST INTRODUCED TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DID NOT NOTE THE**
8 **FULL NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT BUT DID RECONGIZE THE TOWN/MUNICIPALITY OF THE**
9 **SPEAKER**

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11 **Attendance:** (Names identified through bold and underlined font serve on the Assessment
12 Committee)
13
14 Scott Soares, MSI Coordinator
15 **Steve Kirk, The Nature Conservancy**
16 **Renee Gagne, Town of Chatham Shellfish Constable**
17 **Liz Lewis, Town of Barnstable Shellfish Propagation Specialist**
18 **Suzanne (Phil) Phillips, harvester, Town of Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Committee, Town**
19 **of Chatham Deputy Constable**
20 **Dan Morton, Wellfleet, wild harvester**
21 **Brent Valli, Wellfleet shellfisherman, Sarah Peake's appointee Ginny Parker, Wellfleet citizen,**
22 **Sarah Peake's appointee**
23 **Nathan Davis, Town of Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Committee, wild harvester, inshore**
24 **dragger**
25 John Mankevetch, Town of Wellfleet Assistant Shellfish Constable
26 **Chris Manulla, Town of Wellfleet Deputy Shellfish Constable**
27 **Lindsey Williams, MIT Sea Grant**
28 **Jeff Kennedy, Mass Division of Marine Fisheries**
29 Chris Schillaci, Mass Division of Marine Fisheries
30 **Mark Bagley, Barnstable shellfish grower**
31 **Melissa Sanderson, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance**
32 Sean Bowen, Mass Dept of Agriculture
33 **Ron Bergstrom, Cape Cod Commissioner, Town of Chatham appointee, wild harvester**
34 Nicole Paine, Town of Eastham Shellfish Constable
35 Shana Brogan, Town of Eastham Director of Natural Resources & Conservation
36 **Diane Murphy, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension & Woods Hole Sea Grant**
37 Barbara Auston, Town of Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board, shellfish grower
38 Helen Miranda Wilson, Town of Wellfleet Board of Selectmen
39 **Michele Insley, Wellfleet SPAT**
40 Jim Bergstrom, Chatham fisherman
41 Kat Davis, Orleans harvester
42 Henry McCarthy, Duxbury, shellfish grower, Northeast Fisheries Sector 10 and permit bank
43 Paul Bagnall, President Mass Shellfish Officers Association, Town of Edgartown Shellfish
44 Constable

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1. MSI Assessment Committee (AC) Charge:

- Assess the capacity and status of state, town government and Non Government Organization support and programming for shellfish including but not limited to current staffing, labs, hatcheries, research, monitoring, education, outreach, town programs and economic impacts of shellfish in Massachusetts
- Assess the status of existing strategic goals related to Massachusetts shellfish, across state agencies, nonprofit organizations and municipalities;
- Compile public input that has been collected through surveys and agency requests for public comment associated with shellfish in Massachusetts, as well as any informal feedback gathered by the committee.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND GROUND RULES DISCUSSION

- The Charge was set as a result of the Task Force meeting (1/2/19). Task Force requested MSI to start with a situational analysis. AC will rely on stakeholder engagement and discussion for this analysis. Goal: situational analysis report to Task Force for 4/3/19 meeting.
- There is concern that Duxbury lacks representation in this group. However, a request for involvement was shared broadly after the 1/2/19 Task Force meeting, with the goal of having broad representation. The 2/6/19 AC meeting intended to be a forum for discussion on issues and concerns of the status of MA shellfish industry.
- There is concern that there will be no follow-up and/or public involvement based on the lack of follow-up from the MA Shellfish Advisory Committee. However, MA Shellfish Advisory Committee follow-up meetings were intentionally being delayed until MSI launched. The MA Shellfish Advisory Committee intends to re-launch in the Spring.
- There is concern about the lack of fishermen on the Task Force. However, the intention of the Task Force is to have various interests represented; fisheries are represented broadly instead of specific harvests.
 - There is concern that Town Managers cannot sufficiently represent fisheries because they know less than fishermen/growers. There is a feeling that this group has been excluded. There is concern about the result of MSI if these groups are not sufficiently represented and included in the process.
- There is concern about the extent to which the State will base policy decisions on MSI, and

88 that DMF will directly base decisions on MSI. However, MSI is intended to be a forum for all
89 voices.

- 90 ○ There is concern that this will lead to fisheries being stolen by corporations.

92 3. ELECTION OF ASESMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

- 94 • Jeff Kennedy (DMF) volunteered as AC Chair.
 - 96 ○ There is concern about the close relationships between TNC and MA Government
97 Agencies (e.g., DMF). There is concern about having DMF chair the AC because MSI
98 is a private initiative. However, DMF participates in public forums; DMF drafts
99 policies, opens policies to public comment, and usually only gets comment from
100 TNC. DMF thinks that chairing MSI will increase comment/input from fishermen.
 - 102 ○ There is concern that the AC needs to slow down.
 - 104 ○ There is concern that Sarah Peake is the only representative for Cape Cod on the
105 Task Force, and that she is largely unable to attend the Task Force meetings.

107 4. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW MSI SURVEY RESULTS

- 109 • The UMass Boston Team created the initial scoping survey to gather feedback on the idea of
110 a shellfish initiative for MA. There were 7 outreach meetings. Surveys were released at the
111 outreach meetings and online to determine the potential for MSI.
- 113 • The survey had 9 sections to address different stakeholder groups. There were 389
114 participants.
- 116 • Takeaways from outreach meetings:
 - 117 ○ Need more public outreach and education
 - 118 ○ Water quality is of concern
 - 119 ○ Government regulations are a lengthy processes
- 121 • Stakeholder identification: 29% recreational harvesters, 19% aquaculturists, 16% general
122 public
 - 123 ○ There is concern that this survey was insufficient; participation by stakeholder
124 groups and towns does not seem proportional to the population.
 - 125 ○ DMF thinks the survey needs a broader approach, that is was insufficient. However,
126 DMF thinks this survey was a useful place to start.
 - 127 ○ Barnstable DNR is concerned that she is underrepresented by the survey because
128 she represents all stakeholder groups.
- 129 • High-level survey takeaways
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- 131 ○ 71% aquaculturists want an increase in DMF funding for water quality monitoring
- 132 ○ 73% aquaculturists want expanded resources for shellfish hatcheries
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- 134 • Other State Shellfish Initiatives offer insight into shaping MSI.
 - 135 ○ WA: first state to initiate a shellfish initiative (2011). Had a joint interim Task Force.
 - 136 ■ Accomplishments: restored shellfish hatcheries, streamlined aquaculture,
 - 137 and addressed ocean acidification
 - 138 ○ CA: included CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and Pacific Shellfish Growers.
 - 139 ■ Created a big working group who informed regulators about on-the-ground
 - 140 issues. Did an issues assessment to inform regulators about shellfish
 - 141 resources.
 - 142 ○ CT: Lead by CT SeaGrant.
 - 143 ■ Included a 3-part vision plan: overview of recommendations, issues
 - 144 assessment, and suggested actions. Outcome: public engagement activities.
- 145
- 146 • Duxbury thinks the main concern of MSI should be to increase advertising.
 - 147 ○ Jeff Kennedy sees the AC as tasked with assessing the current situation of MA
 - 148 shellfish, including resources, impact, and municipal staffing.
- 149
- 150 • Wellfleet has concern that MSI is headed by private interest groups. Believes TNC is trying
 - 151 to accrue money from the initiative.
 - 152 ○ Wellfleet does not want more regulation; some have stopped fishing in federal
 - 153 offshore waters because those waters have become too regulated.
 - 154 ○ DMF sees the Task Force as representative of various viewpoints, and is grateful for
 - 155 these viewpoints. MSI needs to start by including people working in the industry.
- 156
- 157 • In Chatham, many make their entire living on shellfish. Would prefer to maintain home-rule
 - 158 over shellfish industry. MSI should start by identifying what is working well now.
- 159
- 160 • MSI first step should be to listen to stakeholders; constables of towns should be surveyed
 - 161 first. Every commercial permit holder should be surveyed. Surveys should not only be
 - 162 computerized, but paper too.
- 163
- 164 • President of MSOA sees MA home-rule as beneficial and unique to MA. MSI is missing input
 - 165 from municipalities. MSI should identify what municipalities want, then what growers want.
 - 166 (E.g., if municipalities do not want growers, then growers should not be there).
- 167
- 168 • DMF thinks survey should be crafted to town constables to capture the flavor per each
 - 169 town. Survey should be beyond multiple-choice answers (e.g., open-answer).
 - 170 ○ Along with the survey, include a set of goals for MSI (e.g., of
 - 171 preservation/restoration—ensure this initiative will not just be for economic gain).
 - 172 People need to be bought into why they should complete the survey.
 - 173 ○ Ensure the ultimate goal is not for economic gain. The NACE meeting’s goal was to
 - 174 maximize oyster production. It must be determined what local people want and

- 175 what the environmental concerns are (e.g., ocean acidification).
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- 177 • There is concern about looking to other states to model this shellfish initiative because the
- 178 other states are not home-rule states.
- 179
- 180 • There is concern that the 208 Pleasant Bay Watershed Plan strips away home-rule, because
- 181 it is watershed-based. Response: home-rule is not stripped.
- 182
- 183 • Survey should capture the historical and traditional aspects of each town.
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- 185 • Survey should reach a proportionate amount of each stakeholder group relative to the
- 186 population.
- 187 ○ DMF only has contact with commercial harvesters and constables, no contact with
- 188 recreational fishermen. DMF needs help from municipalities to reach more people
- 189 and to determine the desired outcome. More voices need to be heard.
- 190 ○ Towns would be willing to help DMF reach recreational fishermen.
- 191
- 192 • There is concern that 4/3/19 is not enough time to reach all stakeholders in each town.
- 193 ○ DMF sees the need to broaden participation and content. 4/3/19 might be
- 194 unrealistic to reach all stakeholders, but by then, AC can have enough information to
- 195 frame MSI purpose. Will have time to reach town shellfish constables and ask for
- 196 estimates of industry numbers.
- 197
- 198 • What will be done with the information?
- 199 ○ The Task Force will determine this, but AC plans to: identify recurring themes across
- 200 municipalities/stakeholders, identify towns that already has shellfish management
- 201 plans with goals, etc. AC will identify techniques to collect the information and
- 202 present the information to the Task Force.
- 203
- 204 • There is concern that town shellfish constables will not be reachable.
- 205 ○ Advisory boards will know what the constables are doing.
- 206 ○ Also need to survey those who work on the water, those who would be displaced by
- 207 privately-owned harvesting.
- 208
- 209 • Duxbury asked how the MSI Task Force was chosen.
- 210 ○ This process was a few months long.
- 211 ○ Melissa, Chris Sherman, Steve Kirk, Chris DMF, and Secretary Beaton identified those
- 212 who would be strategic to include. The goal was to create a forum for their
- 213 discussion and to present constituents' concerns, and to hear other others'
- 214 concerns.
- 215 ■ Advisory Panel: manage regulations and in-the-water concerns. Focus less on
- 216 grants/funding.
- 217 • MIS, SAP, and Marine Fish Advisory Committee formed this
- 218 committee to make more efficient use of time.

219 • The Advisory Panel has been re-invigorated.

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221 • Include MSOA in survey.

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223 • Include wild harvesters on the Task Force.

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225 • Include constables in survey; they could answer many questions about stakeholders and
226 could help contact advisory boards. DMF already has contact with constables.

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228 5. NEXT STEPS

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230 • AC Chairman Jeff Kennedy will send an email to collect feedback on agenda item 6 (what
231 data needs to be collected and from where) and item 7 (what tools/tactics will be used for
232 data collection). Will determine what the desired outcome is from MSI and what the biggest
233 challenges are.

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235 • Once the survey matrix is determined, AC will decide how to solicit the survey. Information
236 via email and paper will be gathered as quickly as possible.

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238 • A deadline for information collection will be set. Once the data is collected, it should be
239 disseminated publicly because withholding results creates suspicion.

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241 • AC will re-convene 2 weeks prior to 4/3/19 Task Force meeting to compile information.

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243 • Reach out to AC Chairman Jeff Kennedy (Jeff.Kennedy@mass.gov) with any questions.

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