

Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative

Taskforce Meeting #3

December 4, 2020

MEETING SUMMARY

Recording of Meeting is available online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuM_QkrD5CA&feature=youtu.be

Presentation Slides from Meeting are available online:

<http://www.massshellfishinitiative.org/uploads/1/0/4/9/104987295/msi-taskforce3-presentationslides-12.4.2020.pdf>

Agenda

1. Attendance and Announcements
2. Meeting Protocols
3. Approval of Meeting Summary from Meeting #2 (April 16, 2019)
4. Steering Committee Update
 - a. Status of the Grant
 - b. Activities Since Last Meeting
5. Assessment Committee Report
 - a. Questions and Comments from Task Force
6. Scoping Committee Presentation
7. Skeletal Strawman Strategic Plan
8. Strategic Plan Work Group
9. Other Business
 - a. Public Comment
 - b. Plans for Next Meeting

Since there is a recording of the meeting available, this is not a transcript of the meeting but a high level summary of action items and the meeting dialogue. Please see the presentation slides for the updates/presentations. Detailed comments can be heard through the recording.

Discussion Items for Follow-up/Future Consideration

1. Request that MSI plan to update Assessment Report numbers regularly in the future (repeat parts of municipal survey)
2. Request that MSI continue to follow-up with towns that did not respond to the Assessment Committee survey, in order to collect their data. Can we provide carrots to towns for participating in providing data?
3. Request that MSI publicize a timeline with a formal deadline in which to accept comments and feedback from the public on the Assessment Report, and to add in additional missing municipal data for the Assessment Report.

4. Request that tide charts be considered when planning all meetings, to better allow shellfishermen to attend. (*this Taskforce meeting occurred around low tide for Cape Cod Bay areas northward and high tide for Buzzards Bay and Marthas Vineyard*)
5. Must have a clear process and adequate timeline for public input to the strategic plan.
6. The Taskforce accepted Chair Dan McKiernan's recommendation to form a Strategic Plan Work Group, with the charge of distilling the Assessment and Scoping Reports into an actionable Strategic Plan by the end of March.
 - a. The Work Group will have 3-4 meetings over next 6 weeks. They will present the draft strategic plan to the Taskforce and solicit public comment by Feb, then wrap up the document in March.
 - b. Composition of the Work Group (Taskforce members were asked to volunteer to participate):
 - i. MSI Chairman
 - ii. Steering Committee Chair
 - iii. Assessment Committee Chair
 - iv. Steering Committee members
 - v. Mike DeVasto
 - vi. Paul Bagnall and/or MSOA rep
 - vii. MDAR
 - viii. Coastal Zone Management
 - ix. Woods Hole Sea Grant
 - c. Meeting schedule to consider tide chart (DeVasto shellfishes in Wellfleet)
7. Note that there is a parallel process occurring with the state's Ocean Acidification Commission recommendations, which should be released by end of Dec. It includes stressors to aquaculture industry. Work Group should try to collaborate/leverage both groups where there are similar goals.
8. Next Taskforce meeting: to be scheduled at high tide, not Tuesday, not Jan 6th, mornings better.

Public Comment Summary (answers from Chair/Taskforce in sub-bullets)

1. DeVasto, Wellfleet shellfishermen and Taskforce member: Direct Sales of shellfish. Clear distinction between resale and need to track vs. direct sales to consumer. Maine allows direct sale with simple guidelines. Why does the state trust us to harvest and deliver safely to a dealer but not to a consumer? Outside of vibrio season, direct sales should be available option, will benefit farmers and consumers who want to engage with producers directly.
 - a. DPH and DMF are working with Wellfleet on solution... may be able to add to strategic plan if appropriate.
2. Ken Koonz, Nantucket: is there a deficiency in toxin testing?
 - a. To maintain existing classified areas, we are doing well. But with more capacity we could test more species (now just do mussels) and/or expand open areas/species. HAB (ASP) testing not including in typical tests, had to ship all samples to get analyzed; if could do in house (state or regional), could test quicker. Capacity is emerging concern (new toxins and new blooms). We're managing pretty well but concerned about ASP.

3. Helen Miranda Wilson (as self, not Wellfleet Board rep): MSI must focus on incorporating the raw comments/data into the strategic plan. Work Group needs to get familiar with all the comments. Need to make strong effort to share this meeting (recording) and reports and opportunities to participate with the public- provide handout with links for constables to post. What is SAP status?
 - a. SAP hasn't met in a year and half (Hickey, COVID), but DMF plans to continue it in future. Dan will recommend that the Strategic Plan formalize two SAP meetings/year with agencies and stakeholders to share/exchange information and recommendations.
4. Shareen Davis, chair of Chatham Select Board, commercial shellfish permit holder: need capacity to deal with NSSP changes. Look at scoping committee report holistically when pulling into strategic plan... look for common ground.
5. Jeffrey Cannon, Tisbury: Was there alignment between SAFIS report of landings and constable reported data to survey? Jeff is Tisbury's first aquaculture grant and expects conversations in Tisbury to continue.
 - a. If asterisk, it means that there were fewer than three fishermen or dealers
 - b. DMF could massage the data to get over confidentiality rules... summarize over 5 years, blend towns, etc.
 - c. Tisbury could ask for specific data at non-confidential level.
6. Jacob Angelo: Shouldn't have meetings at low tide.
7. Barbara Morgan, first MSI meeting, citizen: reclassifying of growing areas to increase harvest opportunities. Concerned about small independent shellfishermen being squeezed out by larger corporate interest.
 - a. A year ago, DMF made decision to not pursue reclassification b/c of manpower shortages. Many ways to increase harvest opportunity. Would need 30 runs of data/testing to upgrade an area classification, need MOU with community, process for dealing with closures. Alternately, shorten rainfall closure by increasing rainfall measurements to be $\frac{3}{4}$ vs 1 inch. Could expand season... but all take additional data collection documenting for NSSP.
 - b. Dan encouraged Barbara to submit specific concerns in writing to him. He doesn't see that small growers are losing opportunity.
8. Jon Russell: Concern that reports are missing native Wampanoag voices. Certain intertidal areas that are indigenous areas that corporate interests have tried to grab.
 - a. MSI reached out to tribal contacts to encourage participation, but can't force anyone to participate. Will absolutely accept comment/concerns from tribes.
 - b. Pat Moran offered to share MSI information with tribes.
9. Paul Bagnall, MSOA and Taskforce member: offered to participate on the Work Group (or send someone else from MSOA).
10. Ginny Parker, Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Association (WSA): Will the strategic work group meetings be public via zoom? Encourage that they be public, at least to listen if not comment.
 - a. Wasn't planning on making the calls open to public but the outputs will be made public and open to comment.
11. Ginny Parker: Will Cutler bill be part of strategic plan? Would like WSA to be part of any conversations.

- a. Not planning to come to consensus on Cutler bill in SP, but would like to have the strategic plan set up the structure /process for future conversations/in depth examination. Can't answer all those questions in the next couple of months. Wants to give that issue sufficient time and effort.
 - b. Wellfleet model is one to look at, DMF will stay in close communication.
12. Helen Miranda Wilson: Does MSI have to operate under open meeting rule?
- a. No, MSI was not created by a legislative directive
 - b. HMW: a lot of time has been lost by lack of transparency. In the end, transparency saves time. If you have working groups, you can limit public participation... let them come and listen so you don't have to respond to questions about what happened. Helps other people not on the working group to catch up.
-

Attendance was noted at beginning of the Zoom meeting based on name displayed and may not reflect mid-meeting changes.

Task Force In attendance

1. Page Czepiga
2. Deb Markowitz
3. Matt Charette
4. Lisa Engler
5. Sen. Susan Moran
6. Rene Read
7. Sean Bowen
8. Julia Kaplan
9. Steve Kirk
10. Scott Soares
11. Jill Goldsmith
12. Jeff Kennedy
13. Dan McKiernan
14. Pete Seminara
15. Paul Bagnall
16. Melissa Sanderson
17. Jared Silva
18. Chris Schillaci
19. Rep Sarah Peake (phone)
20. Mayor Sefatia Romaeo Theken
21. Rob O'Leary
22. Mike DeVasto
23. Sean McNally
24. Lt Col. Pat Moran
25. Todd Callaghan

Public Attendance

1. Phone number 781****298

2. Abigail Archer
3. Allison Bowden
4. Aphih4
5. Ashley Fischer
6. Barbara Morgan
7. Bethany Gibbons
8. Brett Stone
9. Brianne
10. Caroline Bastidas
11. Chip Terry
12. Chris Edwards
13. Christian Petipas
14. Christopher Spadea
15. Danielle
16. David Dauphinee
17. Donovan (Mashpee)
18. Gabe Lungren
19. Ginny Parker
20. Harriet Booth
21. Helen Miranda Wilson
22. Holly Williams
23. Danielle
24. Iris Pickard
25. Jacob Angelo
26. JC
27. Jenn Poniadowdki
28. Jennifer Bender
29. Jon Russel
30. Josh Reitsma
31. Jynessa Dutka-Gianeli
32. Kaley Towns
33. Ken Koonz
34. Liz Lewis
35. Matthew Weeks
36. Melissa Campbell
37. Michele Insley
38. Mike Moyer
39. Nancy Civetta
40. Nicholas Bates
41. Patrick Ross
42. Reg Gilmor
43. Renee Gagne
44. Richard Rush
45. Rick Karney

46. Ryan Curley
47. Ryan Joyce
48. SA
49. Sarah Ferrara
50. Scituate Res
51. Shareen Davis
52. Story Reed
53. Sue Boehler
54. Phil Phillips
55. Tim ODonnell
56. Tom Shields
57. Tom Siggia