

**MINUTES**  
**SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)**  
**MEETING**

**July 7, 2021**

Members Present

J. C. Hudgins  
Tommy Kellum  
Ernest George  
Beverly Ludford via WebEx

Members Present

Jackie Shannon via WebEx  
Cody Metcalf  
Don Porter Sr.  
Charles Johnson

VMRC/VIMS Staff

Andrew Button  
Pat Geer  
Ben Stagg via WebEx  
Jamie Hogge

J. C. Hudgins, Acting Chairman, opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Andrew Button, Head Conservation and Replenishment, provided an update on the progress and status of the 2021 Oyster Replenishment Projects. Mr. Button's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Button discussed the proposed establishment of the 2021-2022 areas of public harvest, public oyster harvest seasons, and management measures. Several board members suggested opening HT area(s) in October in the James River and/or the York River due to better quality and better market.

Board members also suggested the following:

Harvest time for the James River to end at 2 p.m. to give the harvesters a chance to harvest their quota, research the possibility of using power assist for Hand Tongs as other states and increasing the Patent Tong bushel limit to 10 bushels per cardholder with a shortened 4-day harvest week. Board members also requested a more consistent, set time to begin harvest instead of the daily changing 'sunrise' time to harvest.

After much discussion from the members, it was agreed that at least one, if not two SMAC meetings should be held prior to the August Commission Meeting, which will allow members to review the information that was presented and provide suggestions for the 2021-2022 oyster harvest season.

Mr. Button provided an overview of additional proposed regulatory changes pertaining to the importation of Shellfish 4 VAC 20-754-10 ET SEQ., restrictions on Shellfish 4 VAC 20-1230-10 ET SEQ., and tagging of Shellfish 4 VAC 20-1250-10 ET SEQ. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Board member Tommy Kellum recommended having a work group to discuss all options and concerns pertaining to the regulatory changes.

The next SMAC meeting will be the July 21, 2021 to discuss the upcoming Oyster Harvest seasons.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.