

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2, 2023

Members Present:

Hatch, Rapp, Leighton

Others Present:

Sherm Hutchins

Jan Carpenter

Bailey Bowden

Bryce Farnham

Business:

Meeting commenced @ 7:00 PM.

Sherm came in to get a copy of Carla Hutchins tax card. He also recommended Don Dorr as a good roofing contractor in the event the town gets the roof re-shingled someday.

Jan presented a list of transfer station summarizing the acceptable and non-acceptable wastes, disposal fees, and recycling criteria. She will post this on the town's website.

Hatch will check on the porta potty for Pierce's Pond.

Bailey presented proof of liability insurance and his proposal for this summer's mowing. His fee is \$300 for mowing & trimming. His proposal was accepted by the Board.

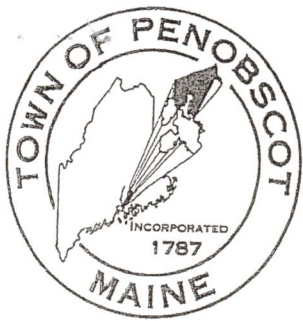
Board endorsed a response letter to the DMR Commissioner Keliher (attached), addressing concern over the reduced alewife harvest quota for Wight's Pond.

Leighton pointed out a mistake on the new tax maps regarding map 7, lot 8A. The current version shows only lot 8, it needs to also show lot 8A. A note will be left on Ellery's desk.

Rapp and Hatch will meet with Bryce tomorrow to inspect the MCB property on Turtle Pond.

Reviewed and approved Warrant #9 in the amount of \$83,944.78.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.



Town of Penobscot

TOWN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 4
PENOBSCOT, MAINE 04476
PENOBSCOTTOWNOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
(207) 326-4364

April 27, 2023

Mr. Commissioner:

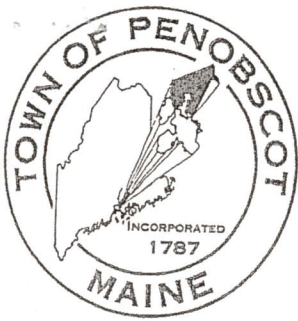
The Town of Penobscot Select Board received notice of the 2023 conditional commercial river herring harvest permit via your letter dated April 1st. What concerns us is the lack of any explanation in that letter of why the commercial harvest quota has been reduced to 22 bushels. Since 2020, our harvest quotas have increased incrementally from 57 to 62 and 65 bushels, until now.

The reduced quota seems to counter the prevailing assessment criteria in the following ways:

1. Our records indicate an *increasing* three-year average trend in the annual run counts. Last year's run count into Wight's Pond was 71,493 (529 fish/acre). The current three-year running average is 68,872. An increasing run trend, should carry no reduction penalty.
2. The total instantaneous mortality rate estimate (Z) for 2022 is a combined 1.61; (males 1.6 – females 1.3). This is *less* than the Z-estimate target of 2.0. Estimates below 2.0, should carry no reduction penalty.

The Town could rationalize a reduced quota of 10 bushels (15% of last year's 65 bushels), based on the following measures:

1. *Decreasing time series trend in repeat spawning rate.* Our 2022 rate was 16.8%, this is under the 20% target. This should result in a 5% penalty.
2. *Decreasing time series trend in age structure.* Due to several factors (early run, late permitting), our sampling yielded no three-year-old fish. This should result in a 10% penalty.



Town of Penobscot

TOWN OFFICE
P.O. Box 4
PENOBSCOT, MAINE 04476
PENOBSCOTTOWNOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
(207) 326-4364

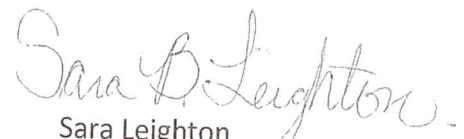
The Selectboard feels a 2023 river herring harvest quota of 55 bushels is more realistic and rational than what you have decreed. Also, we believe that this reduction in quota (without justification) would be contrary to the intent of the entire pilot program that aims to provide incentives for harvester/local based stewardship and data collection. We ask you to reconsider this quota and to reply to our request for an explanation of how you arrived at the 66% reduction in our harvest quota from last year.

Your letter stipulates the prohibition of harvesting of post-spawn river herring. This seems counter intuitive to ensuring increasing future run numbers. Limiting the harvesting of fish prior to entering the pond will guarantee less spawn returning to the ocean. Please provide us a list of the publication(s) used in forming the basis for this ruling.

Town of Penobscot Select Board,


Harold Hatch


Phil Rapp


Sara Leighton