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TO: Members of the Shellfish Commission
Members of the Harbor Management Commission
Randall M. Skigen, President, Board of Representatives

FROM: Mayor David R. Martin 

DATE: July 17, 2017

RE: Assignment of responsibilities of Shellfish commission to Harbor Management Commission

After reviewing the functions of both the Harbor Management and Shellfish Commissions, I am assigning all of the responsibilities of the Shellfish Commission to the Harbor Management Commission and discontinuing the current Shellfish Commission.

Currently, the City of Stamford has a Harbor Management Commission, which was created by City ordinance under State statutes. The City also has the Shellfish Commission, which is under the authority of the Mayor by State law (C.G.S. §26-257a). State law (C.G.S. §22a-113k) also authorizes the performance of the functions of both of these two commissions by a single commission.

I believe this change cannot only potentially reduce duplicative administration of two separate commissions, it can also better integrate and improve consideration of issues that are part of both Commissions' responsibilities.

But, I hasten to add that the Shellfish Commission is a valuable part of the management of Stamford's Long Island Sound resources, and its members hold important knowledge and expertise. I leave it to their discretion, but in furtherance of thoroughly incorporating the functions of the Shellfish Commission, I suggest the Harbor Management Commission consider creating a subcommittee, or some alternative mechanism, to focus on shellfish issues that would include at least some members of the current Shellfish Commission.

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