Oyster harvest showdown
State shoots down Shellfisheries Council recommendations

Oyster

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Workshop recommended," Hollinger said. "It always was
modified. Now (McHugh)
wants us to strictly adhere to
the SAW."

Jim Joseph, chief of the
Bureau of Shellfisheries, said
he gave the director and assis-
tant commissioner all sides of
the issue.

"A lot is lost when it's only
coming from one side," Hollinger insisted.

Councilman Steve Fleetwood
complained that most of the
members of the Stock Assess-
ment Committee have no mon-
ey interest in the industry at
all.

Of the eight voting members,
only two represent the industry.
The rest are from the scientific
community.

Oysterman Scott Sheppard
said he sat in on the workshop
and most of his input was com-
pletely ignored.

Joseph told the council that if
it wanted a meeting with
McHugh and Watson, he would
ask for it.

Hollinger said he wanted a
meeting locally, not in Trenton.

"I want to see them right
here," he said, gesturing at the
seats in the Haskin Shellfish
Research Laboratory library,
where the council meets.

"We could have a meeting
again next Monday. We'll do
what we have to do," Fleetwood
agreed.

He reminded Joseph that last
year there was an allocation
of 110,000 bushels and oystermen
took only 70,000 to 80,000
bushels.

"We need to get somebody
here from the governor's office.
They're the ones who appointed
us and we're not being listened
to," Fleetwood said.

Hollinger said the meeting
should be held when Dr. Eric
Powell, director of the lab, can
be present, since Powell rep-
resents the scientific community
but also supported the council's
recommendations.

Councilman Scott Bailey
recalled that the council held a
four-hour meeting last week to
hash out the recommendations.

"It probably got shot down in
five minutes," he said.

The council last week had
proposed a harvest allocation of
88,000 bushels, but the state is
sticking with the 59,744 alloca-
tion recommended by the Stock
Assessment Review Committee
after its Feb. 2 and 3 workshop.

Hollinger wants meeting

By JEAN JONES
Staff Writer

COMMERCIAL TWP. — The
state Division of Fish and
Wildlife has rejected a harvest
proposal by the Delaware Bay
Section of the Shellfisheries
Council for the 2004 oyster har-
vest.

And Barney Hollinger is so
upset about it, he wants a
meeting now and he wants it
on his turf.

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right here," Hollinger
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