

Section 11 – “Shellfishing”

Town of Wellfleet Local Comprehensive Plan

2018 Section Title: Shellfishing and Aquaculture

2018 Main Goal: To maintain a healthy marine ecosystem and create sustainable shellfish harvesting for future generations.

2018 Goals and Action Items:

Goal 1: Build a high functioning Shellfish Department that prioritizes diverse propagation efforts, fair and equal enforcement, and communication between town departments, the shellfishing industry and the general public.

Goal 2: Explore opportunities, collect feedback from shellfish harvesters and execute a diverse range of propagation activities, such as rotating sanctuary closures, cultching a wide variety of areas with different methods and materials, quahog planting, oyster growing, state quahog relay, deep water oyster seeding, etc. to benefit both commercial and recreational harvesters.

Goal 3: Create a safer, multiuse harbor and ensure public food safety by enforcing compliance with town, state and federal shellfishing policies and regulations.

Goal 4: Work with shellfishing businesses, recreational harvesters, the Marina Advisory Board and the Dredging Task Force to ensure positive advancement of Wellfleet Harbor dredging, both the initial three-phase as well as maintenance.

Goal 5: Develop partnerships to explore grant funding opportunities and apply for grants to help improve the shellfishing industry, as well as education and marketing efforts.

Goal 6: Increase communications with shellfishermen and create a two-way street of information flow to better the Shellfish Department’s efficacy and services.

Goal 7: Build partnerships with nonprofits, academic institutions, governmental bodies and independent agencies to increase marketing and branding efforts for Wellfleet oysters and clams, and to make sure shellfishermen’s voices are heard in the policy and legislative arenas.

Goal 8: Work with Town Health and Conservation Department, Natural Resources Advisory Board and Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries to safeguard clean water in our harbor and a healthy coastal environment, and communicate effectively in any times of crisis.

Goal 9: Document Shellfish Department activities and commercial and recreational harvesting efforts, research ways to increase income, and liaise with the state to provide context for Town’s resources and importance of efforts to its bottom line and how it compares to other towns of its size.

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Goal 10: Grow the Shellfish Department’s education and outreach programs by increasing the size of the current facility.

Goal 11: Conduct proactive outreach to the public and coordinate educational events with community partners and organizations. i.e. Arts and Culture District, SPAT, Chamber of Commerce.

Goal 12: Attend events, build relationships and generate education and mitigation materials regarding the potential impact of climate change on the shellfishing industry, i.e. sea level rise, warming waters and acidification.