



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 15, 2021
To: Town of Wellfleet Selectboard
From: Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable
RE: 2021 Seasonal Recreational Shellfishing Permits

Dear Selectboard members:

Given our productive discussion about our proposal for a recreational shellfishing tax insert (and to not do it this year), the reality of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and our careful review of our 2020 shellfishing numbers, the Wellfleet Shellfish Department is recommending that the town not sell seasonal recreational shellfishing permits in 2021.

We do not expect many changes in COVID circumstances this summer as opposed to last. If anything, reports are talking about an increase in visitors from the summer of 2020. Last year, we sold 100 less recreational permits overall, made \$500 more in revenue and saw an increase in usage on the flats of 36%. That resulted in an 11% increase of recreational oyster harvest and an 85% increase in recreational quahog harvest from 2019 numbers. This increase in activity stretched the department's resources, both in trying to make sure ample shellfish was available for harvest and staffing to conduct propagation and enforcement due to this growing usage.

We are proposing that you vote that the Town does not sell seasonal recreational shellfishing permits in 2021. Annual permits are still available for all to purchase.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shellfish Constable

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