

November 14, 2022

Dear Ms. Taylor, Chairman of the Shellfish Advisory Board, and the Selectboard, Ryan Curley, Chair:

I would like to take an opportunity to address the topic of grant extensions. Historically, when these grants were laid out, they were nonproductive areas. However, "nonproductive" has been something left to discretion and not so much history. Places where people have worked, even though those places may not show shellfish from year to year, can have a natural set of shellfish intermittently. It's important in my opinion to protect the wild areas for the wild pickers and for spawning grounds. I have observed some areas that are productive that were turned into extensions of grants or new leases on years without set. Hypothetically, an area that doesn't catch a set every year may look like barren bottom but years later could catch a bumper set of quahogs, razor clams, blood clams, whatever. And said area, if it is extended or turned into a lease, becomes one less area that the wild fishermen have to work. There should be more consideration and discussion on areas proposed to be extended because it is a town matter and the state doesn't concern itself with what has been there or who's been working there harvesting shellfish in the past.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Ziemba".

Mike Ziemba

P.S. I have asked the Shellfish Constable to forward this on my behalf because I don't have email.