

Right to Farm Feedback from other Shellfishing Towns

I am wondering which towns have a Shellfish Advisory Board or Committee and if any towns have dealings with an Agriculture Commission and/or Right to Farm initiative and how the Commission's oversight/advisory roles regarding aquaculture (incorporated in agriculture definition) interact with these previously established Shellfish Advisory Boards and Committees – and with the Shellfish and/or Natural Resources Departments' oversight as well. Does this add another layer of advisory capacity for these departments and for the regulatory body (Selectboard) that will need to be taken into consideration and what happens if their advice is at cross purposes with the Shellfish Advisory Board's? Any experiences and feedback would be helpful.

Our Shellfish Advisory Board will take this up tomorrow night as the establishment of an Agriculture Commission that includes aquaculture has been placed on the Wellfleet Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Thank you,

Nancy

From: mass-shellfish-officers@googlegroups.com <mass-shellfish-officers@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Peter Seminara
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Massachusetts Shellfish <mass.shellfish.officers@gmail.com>
Cc: MSOA GROUP <mass-shellfish-officers@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [MSOA] Please reply to Nancy

Gloucester has a Shellfish Advisory Commission, however, we have no aquaculture and minimal agricultural activities. I believe that in matters related to shellfish management, the town's Selectboard should defer to the Shellfish Advisory board recommendations rather than an Agricultural commission, as in my opinion, shellfish aquaculture falls within the scope and jurisdiction of shellfish management more so than it does agricultural management.

From: Timothy Cox <tcox@fairhaven-ma.gov>
Date: April 20, 2021 at 12:28:36 PM EDT
To: Massachusetts Shellfish <mass.shellfish.officers@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [MSOA] Please reply to Nancy

Nancy

Here in Fairhaven we have a Marine Resources Advisory Board. They only advise our Selectmen.

Thanks Tim

From: Suzanne Phillips <stormpetrel255@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Nancy Civetta <Nancy.Civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov>; Massachusetts Shellfish
<mass.shellfish.officers@gmail.com>; Suzanne Phillips <stormpetrel255@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [MSOA] Please reply to Nancy

Nancy--Orleans has a Shellfish/Waterways Committee, and an
Agricultural Advisory Committee,

and the 2 committees worked together in the past year to
amend the town's "right to farm" by-law

to include "right to fish". I can tell you about it, but would
rather do so on the phone, than

in an endless series of emails. In short, we worked
cooperatively, and presented the final version

to the Select Board, which approved it, and it was later
presented and approved by town meeting.

My phone # is 774-722-9701. Phil

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amber Salvage <asalvage@town.dennis.ma.us>
Date: Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 8:51 AM
Subject: RE: [MSOA] Please reply to Nancy
To: Massachusetts Shellfish <mass.shellfish.officers@gmail.com>

Hi Nancy,

We have a shellfish committee and an agricultural committee. Our Ag committee is pretty much defunct, they haven't met in years. They also haven't done anything with aquaculture topics.

Amber Salvage

Shellfish Constable

Assistant Natural Resources Officer

Town of Dennis Natural Resources

PHONE MESSAGE FROM SHELLFISH CONSTABLE AMY CROTEAU OF BARNSTABLE:

We do have a Shellfish Advisory Committee. It weighs in on shellfishing related matters. We don't have an Ag Comm. That work falls under Board of Health here. I agree with Pete from Gloucester that aquaculture falls under Shellfish Advisory not under agriculture. Not sure why an Ag Comm would weigh in on aquaculture. We have a lot of aquaculture here in Barnstable. Only entities who weigh in on aquaculture issues in an advisory capacity to the Selectmen are Town Counsel, the Shellfish Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Dept. Sometimes Conservation Commission, too, but they usually defer to us.