

2013

## SHELLFISH ADVISORY BOARD

The Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) met twelve times during 2013. One of the major accomplishments was the finalization of the revisions to the Shellfishing Policy and Regulations, and the approval of this document by the Board of Selectmen. One of the SAB meetings was held to explain the process of revision to the community and to obtain input from shellfishermen and growers about the draft document. During the year, further revisions were made to the document regarding *Vibrio* control measures, predator control measures, horseshoe crabs and driving on the beach.

The SAB provided input to the Town about the importance of access to the water at a location identified on Map 19, Parcel 101 and to the Marina Advisory Board about revisions to the mooring regulations. The SAB also provided support for the proposed oyster propagation project, which would establish no-take zones in the Harbor.

During the year, the SAB sought and finally received a response from the MA Division of Marine Fisheries regarding our petition submitted in April of 2012 to close the harvest of horseshoe crabs in the Harbor and to institute an April lunar closure statewide. The April lunar closure was approved, but the closure was denied. The SAB subsequently asked to meet with Commissioner Diodati to discuss the issue further, and the meeting was held on November 26.

Along with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the SAB co-sponsored the Horseshoe Crab Conference held at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on April 13. On April 20, the SAB sponsored and organized the annual beach cleanup. On April 29, the SAB hosted a meeting on the subject of shellfish diseases in Wellfleet Harbor with guest speakers Roxanna Smolowitz and Diane Murphy.

Members of the SAB participated in Wellfleet's Community Forum on Shellfishing, the Town's workshop on sustainability and an initiative by the Social and Environmental Research Institute (SERI) to identify and respond to the impact of climate change on shellfish and the shellfish industry.

Among the other topics that were addressed or discussed during 2013 were: the recreational shellfishery, gear left in the Harbor, *Vibrio*, icing of oysters, the Town cultch program, batch tagging for winter storage, petite oysters and various issues related to commercial shellfishing and aquaculture.

Respectfully submitted,

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