



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

Date: November 28, 2022

To: Shellfish Advisory Board

From: Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable

Re: Annual Review of Shellfish Permit Fees

Dear SAB members,

Each year, the Selectboard asks its advisory boards and departments to review the fees it charges for permits, stickers, services, etc. This year, both the Selectboard and Town Administration are asking for this review and to determine if there might be other ways to increase revenue to the Town (besides raising property taxes).

To that end, here are the current fees for recreational and commercial shellfishing permits. **Fees were last increased by \$10 on April 12, 2016**, although on September 8, 2020, additions were made to include Mass. veterans and Town of Wellfleet employees at resident level fees for recreational shellfishing permits.

5.2.2. Noncommercial Permit Fee Schedule (amended 09/08/2020)

Annual Permits (Jan.1-Dec. 31)	
Resident or Taxpayer	60.00
Resident or Taxpayer over 65 years old	20.00
Nonresident or Nontaxpayer	210.00
Massachusetts Resident Veteran Permit*	60.00
Massachusetts Resident Veteran Permit over 65 years old *	20.00
Town of Wellfleet Employee	60.00
Town of Wellfleet Employee over 65 years old	20.00
Seasonal Noncommercial Permits (June 1 – Sept. 30)	
Resident or Taxpayer	40.00
Non-resident or Non-taxpayer	85.00
Massachusetts Resident Veteran Permit*	40.00
Town of Wellfleet employee	40.00
Replacement Fee (for all categories)	20.00

wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department

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6.1.3. Commercial Permit Fee Schedule (amended 04/12/16)

Resident	\$310.00
Senior Resident (65 years or older)	60.00
Junior Resident (14-16 years old)	110.00
Eel Permit	3.00
Replacement Fee (for all categories)	20.00

In addition, here below is a comparison (as requested by the Selectboard and Town Administration) of shellfishing permit fees in other Cape Cod towns that the Shellfish Department offers for your consideration.

<i>TOWN SUMMARIES</i>		
TOWN:	Commercial Fee 2022	Recreational Fee 2022
Wellfleet	\$310 comm \$60 SR comm \$110 JR comm \$3 eel	\$60 annual resident or town employee or MA veteran \$20 senior annual resident or town employee or MA veteran \$210 annual nonresident \$40 resident seasonal \$85 seasonal nonresident
Barnstable	\$550 comm \$350 SR comm	\$70 annual resident or seasonal nonresident \$140 annual nonresident
Chatham	\$250 comm \$60 SR comm \$125 JR comm	\$35 resident and MA veteran \$15 senior resident or MA veteran \$100 nonresident
Eastham	\$200 comm \$12 SR comm	\$25 residents \$12 senior residents \$75 nonresident \$30 weekly rec permit
Falmouth	\$300 comm \$150 student comm	\$30 resident \$6 senior \$100 nonresident
Orleans	\$200 Age 16 to 69 \$50 Age 70 and up	\$20 Orleans/Eastham resident \$10 Orleans/Eastham resident Age 65 and over \$70 nonresident

To address the Selectboard and Town Administration’s request of considering adding other fees, the Shellfish Department has conducted some research through the Mass. Shellfish Officers Association. Following is a table demonstrating that some towns require aquaculture grant license holders to either pay an additional “Aquaculture Service Fee” or another similarly named fee and/or require them to hold Town commercial shellfishing permits. These fees would be in addition to the license fee of \$25 an acre or portion thereof required of each grant license holder by Mass. General Law, Section 64.

RANK IN ACRES AND FARMERS IN AQUACULTURE	TOWN	Aquaculture License Fee per acre	Aquaculture Permit/Use/Service Fee	Requires Commercial Shellfish Permit (Price)	Acreage in Aquaculture (DMF annual report 2021)	Numbers of Farmers (DMF annual report 2021)
1	Wellfleet	\$25			264.5	94 (actually 107)
2	Barnstable	\$25			158	48
	Bourne	\$25	\$125 (advertising fee)	\$100-\$625	17	6
	Brewster	\$25		\$100	11.5	10
	Chatham	\$25		\$250	7	2
	Dennis	\$25	\$100		32	23
4	Duxbury	\$25	\$100 (application fee)		79.1	31
	Eastham	\$5	\$100		43.6	25
	Edgartown	\$25			20	11
	Falmouth	\$25			54	8
	Gloucester* <i>In development</i>	\$5-\$25 per MGL	<i>Might also add a fee</i>	\$400	8.5	1
	Mashpee* <i>In development</i>	\$25	<i>Might also add a fee</i>	<i>Considering this requirement</i>	19	4
	Mattapoisett	\$200 (via home rule petition)			60	3
	Orleans	\$25		\$200	18.5	14
3	Plymouth	\$25	\$130 (application and advertising fees)		81.5	31

	Tisbury	\$25	\$100 (application fee)	3	3
	Westport			80	6

The positive thing about any shellfish fees collected is that they can only be used by the Shellfish Department for propagation or for trucks, etc. They can't be used for the General Fund, so when budget time comes, we can take care of our own needs without going to taxpayer funds.

Another statistic I found from the MADMF 2021 Annual Report is that Wellfleet is number three (#3) in the state for farmed oyster production, with more than 10 million oysters sold at a value of almost \$5.4M. Wellfleet is number one (#1) in the state for farmed clams with close to 3M pieces being sold worth more than \$850,000.

I submit all of this information to you for your consideration and look forward to our discussion tomorrow evening.

Thank you,



Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable