



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

Matt Camisa
Marine Fisheries Biologist
Shellfish Sanitation and Management Program
706 S. Rodney French Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02744

January 25, 2024

Re: Contaminated Quahog Transplant for Permit #179980

Dear Matt,

The Town of Wellfleet eagerly participated in the DMF 2023 contaminated quahog relay in May of last year. We received 1,156 bushels of mixed sizes of quahog clams from Bruce Ingham (f/v Ocean Rancher). We picked them up Monday, May 1, Tuesday, May 2, Wednesday, May 3, Thursday, May 4, Friday, May 5, Monday, May 8, Tuesday, May 9, Wednesday, May 10, Thursday, May 11, Monday, May 15, and Tuesday, May 16. (See attached bills of lading.) We planted them daily upon our return to Wellfleet with one exception. The quahogs picked up on Monday, May 1, were locked in the DPW garage overnight and planted the next morning due to the low tide upon return to Wellfleet.

We planted 296 bushels in the Burton Baker Beach Area (see attached map) and 860 bushels in the eastern area of Chipman's Cove (see attached map).

We counted the clams in thirteen bushels and found the following bushel counts:
 $445+243+386+278+343+429+288+369+375+295+333+489+489 = 4762$ clams total/13 bushels=366.31 average clams per bushel. We rounded it to 366 clams per bushel x 1156 bushels = 426,096 clams. We distributed 860 bushels = 314,760 to Chipman's Cove (a recreational only shellfishing area) and 296 bushels = 108,336 to Burton Baker Beach. At \$26.00 a bushel, the math indicates we paid about \$0.07 per clam – an incredible value.

We petitioned the state to open Burton Baker Beach after 60 days specifically to provide oyster resources for our recreational harvesters due to the fact the open areas had been picked over. A sample of contaminated quahogs from Burton Baker Beach was sent to the state for testing and came back with a clean bill of health. On Sunday, August 20th Burton Baker Beach was opened to recreational shellfishing, and in addition to providing abundant quahog resource, also improved the success of oyster harvest for our recreational permit holders.

We will recap again our thoughts from last year, which are still valid today: The quahog relay continues to offer a good bang for our buck in terms of return on investment. This is because the "grow out" period is three months to a year depending on our management

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decisions as opposed to three-four years with buying hatchery clams. In addition, there is significantly less loss of contaminated clams as compared to loss incurred due to disease and predation with planted seed quahogs. This program provides as close to immediate gratification for our recreational and commercial harvesters as you can get!

We continue to be excited about realizing the spawning potential that these clams provide. We keep hearing from both commercial and recreational harvesters that they are seeing many seed quahogs in Chipman's Cove, and they attributed it to the quahog relay.

We remain deeply appreciative of this program and look forward to continuing to participate in it. Thank you for all the efforts you have made to keep this program running successfully!

Sincerely,



Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable
Town of Wellfleet



John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable for Propagation
Town of Wellfleet