
Christopher Merl

55 White Tail lane
Wellfleet, MA 02667
(508)237-2632
cmerl2000@yahoo.com

April 25, 2023

Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board

300 Main Street
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Dear SAB,

I am writing to request that the SAB work on tightening up the loopholes in our current shellfish regulations. When I was chair of the SAB we tried to do just that so I was surprised to find two potential loopholes both of which I find extremely concerning. One being the ability for a corporate entity to hold a licensed aquaculture site in the Town of Wellfleet. Also, the possibility for a corporate entity to hold a shellfish permit. I would also ask the SAB to go over the regulations in their entirety to look for other loopholes that may be exploited. Many generations of our townspeople have relied on aquaculture as their main source of income. There are very few things we can do to protect that resource from privatization now and in the future. I believe having leases to be held ONLY in a human individual's name is the best way to ensure transparency and keep Wellfleet residents always having the full ability to control our flats.

Sincerely,

Christopher Merl