

Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board
Hybrid Meeting Zoom/Wellfleet Adult Community Center
Friday, April 12th 2024; 6PM

In conformity with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Massachusetts General Laws, and Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023, Notice is hereby filed that a meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Board will be held on Friday, April 12th 2024; 6PM

Said meeting will be open to the public and the press both virtually, as required by the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and in person at the Wellfleet Adult Community Center.

To virtually attend through Zoom Video Conferencing instructions to join are given below. If you have technical difficulties, please contact the Chair of Committee at the following:

email_Media.Services.2@wellfleet-ma.gov

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94214261094?pwd=NW5FbVFCUTZZVzZaUldydjNMZ1lYZz09>

Meeting ID : 942 1426 1094

Passcode: 136251

Dial in by your local number: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Agenda:

- Announcements and Public Comment
- Review Minutes
- Herring River Project/Duck Harbor overwash
- Cultching, Quahog Relay, and Propagation
- Review Regulation 6.5.3 "Speed Limit on Beaches and Intertidal Areas" (re: Gross Vehicle Weight)
- Ice Machine Update
- Beach Cleanup Event
- Future Topics



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



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509
www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

Special Permit for Transplanting Contaminated Shellfish

Permit No. 179980

EFFECTIVE: 4/11/2023
FTN: TBD

EXPIRES: 12/31/2023
FEE: EXEMPT

Acting under authority of General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 17, paragraph 2, 3, and 4, Section 69, 75, 80 and 83, permission is hereby granted to:

**TOWN OF WELLFLEET
300 MAIN ST.
WELLFLEET, MA 02667**

To take, possess and transplant for propagation and natural purification purposes QUAHOGS (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) from the waters of the TAUNTON RIVER as further described in condition #2, to the waters of CHIPMAN'S COVE (CCB13) and INDIAN NECK RECREATION AREA (CCB11) in the TOWN OF WELLFLEET as further described in condition #3, and in accordance with all the following permit conditions:

PERMIT CONDITIONS:

1. This relay event shall be effective May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023. These dates are inclusive and upon expiration, all harvesting, transport, and transplanting shall cease. Not more than 1500 BUSHELS OF QUAHOGS shall be transplanted.
2. All QUAHOGS harvested for transplanting under authority of this permit shall be obtained only from the area or areas shown on the "harvest site" map accompanying this permit; namely, that portion of MHB2 in the TAUNTON RIVER South of a line drawn from the end of #2890 Pleasant Street to Pierces Point, South of a line across the mouth of the Assonet River, North of the Brightman Street Bridge and seaward of any commercial or private moorings (ATTACHED MAP).
3. All QUAHOGS shall be transplanted only in the areas shown on the "transplant site" maps accompanying this permit; namely, those portions of CHIPMAN'S COVE (CCB13) including Area 1 at the end of Indian Neck parking lot extending South and Area 2 to the South of Old Pier Road and that portion of Indian Neck Recreation Area (CCB11) including East of the breakwater extending out 500ft to the boundary markers/buoys (SEE ATTACHED MAP).

4. All QUAHOGS harvested for transplanting under authority of this permit shall be removed and transported under the immediate supervision of the SWANSEA SHELLFISH CONSTABLE.

5. Only harvesters or shellfishermen hired for the specific purpose of the transplant operation by the shellfish constable or other holder of this permit shall be used in the transplanting operation. The permit holder shall maintain a list of those individuals involved on a day-to-day basis and provide that list to any Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers, local shellfish constables and/or personnel from the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) upon request. Only the following boat or boats are to be used in the harvesting operation.

<u>BOAT NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OWNER/OPERATOR</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ocean Rancher	595899	Bruce Ingham	P.O. Box 291 Fairhaven, MA 02719

6. The WELLFLEET Shellfish Constable shall hold any commercial fishing licenses and transaction cards of personnel involved in the relaying operation during the period of the transplant.

7. Harvesting shall be conducted only during periods of good visibility between the hours of SUNRISE and 4:00 PM seven days a week. Shellfish must be placed in containers and tagged. No shellfish may remain aboard the boats involved upon completion of the day's work.

8. All shellfish harvested for transplanting under authority of this permit shall be transported from the harvest site to the transplant site by means of the following conveyance:

BRUCE INGHAM AND THE TOWN OF WELLFLEET VEHICLES AND SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT BOATS

9. All shellfish shall be transplanted (planted) in the designated area or areas (as shown on the attached map) on the day they were harvested from the donor site under the direct supervision of the WELLFLEET Shellfish Constable or their deputies.

10. The area to be planted with contaminated shellfish requires that signs shall be posted prior to the commencement of transplanting operations. Signs shall be placed to provide a buffer of at least 50 feet around the contaminated shellfish. The signs shall include the following:

"CLOSED TO SHELLFISHING"
"AREA PLANTED WITH CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH"

11. Before any of the transplanted shellfish are harvested, overlying water and shellfish samples shall be taken and examined by DMF and the status of the areas changed to "OPEN" to shellfishing.

12. An accurate account of the shellfish transplanted under authority of this permit shall be maintained. Such record shall show dates, source, the number of bushels or other units, the conveyance used, the transplant site, and shall bear the signature of the permit holder or the

permittee's authorized representative. A copy of this record shall be mailed at the end of the transplant to the Shellfish Program, 706 South Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02745.

13. All vessels, boats and vehicles involved in the harvest, transport and planting of contaminated shellfish, under the provisions of this permit, shall be subject to inspection at any time by Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers, local shellfish constables and/or personnel from the DMF.

14. A copy of this permit shall be on hand and in the possession of the person or persons in charge of supervising and/or conducting various aspects of the transplanting operations during such activities.

15. All shellfish harvested under the provisions of this permit shall be placed in bags or totes and must be tagged by the vessel operator prior to transport overland. The tag shall state: the harvest area, the date of harvest, the DMF permit number, the receiving town, the harvest vessel name, and the words "CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH".

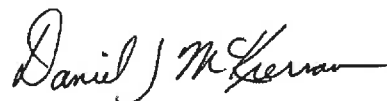
16. The vessel captains shall contact the Division of Law Enforcement Radio Room (Tel: 800-632-8075) each morning prior to the start of harvesting and leave a message on the answering machine stating the time, date, vessel name, contaminated permit number, and area fished.

17. Activities conducted under this permit, including amount of resource transplanted, date(s) of planting site closure and date(s) the planted site(s) re-opened to harvest (or expected opening date) shall be reported on the permit holder's annual municipal propagation report.

18. Upon completion of the transplant, DMF shall prepare an invoice to you as the receiving municipality in the amount of \$1/bushel for the total number of bushels transplanted. DMF will then disburse the monies to the donor municipalities at the end of the relay season.

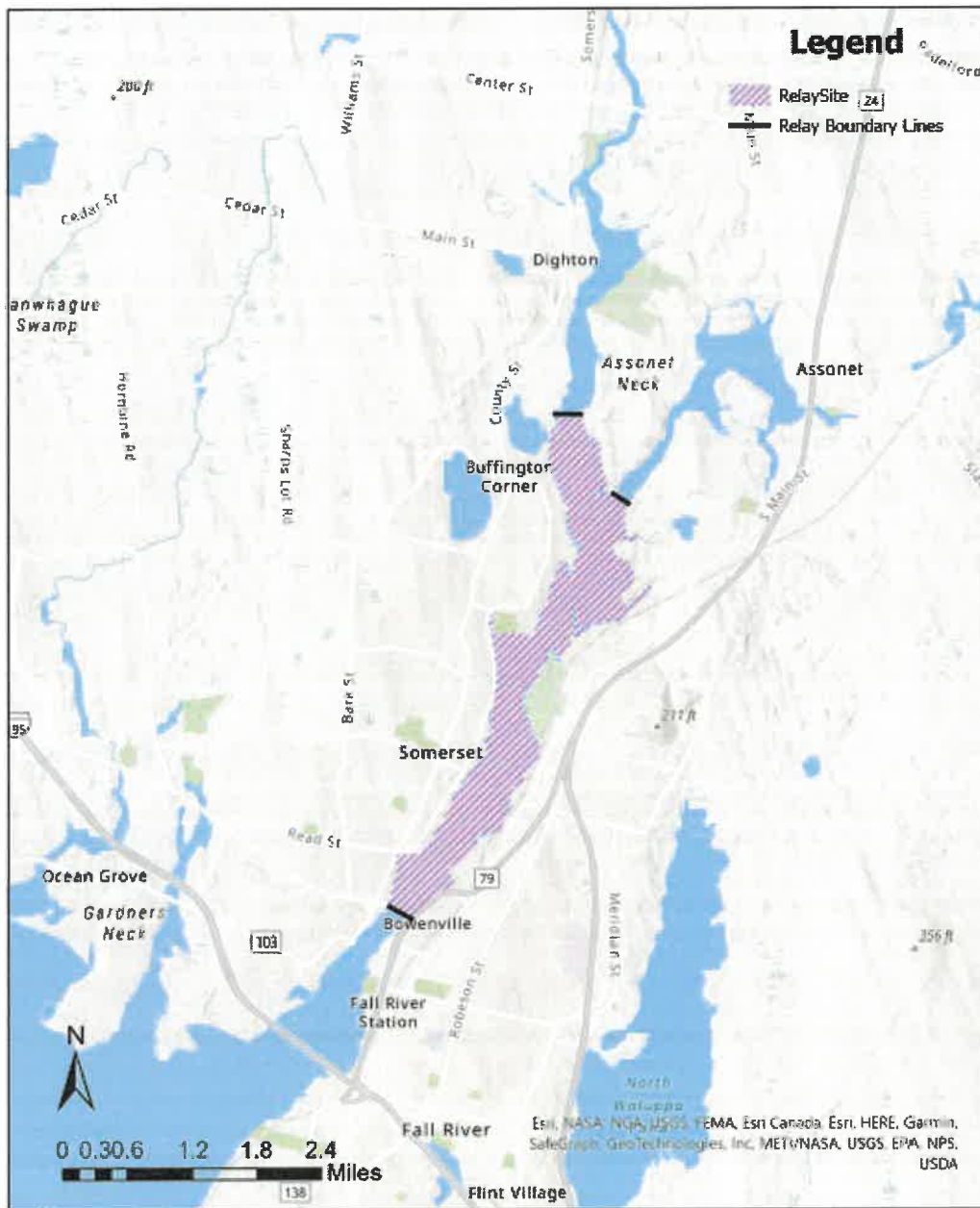
19. The Director of DMF reserves the right to revoke this permit at any time for failure to comply with any or all permit conditions, or for causes he deems sufficient.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: P. Moran, C. Baker, OLE
J. Kennedy, C. Petitpas, DMF
M. Moore, DPH
N. Civetta, Westport Shellfish Constable



Taunton River Harvest Site

Map of Wellfleet Chipman's Cove Contaminated Quahog Relay

AREA 1 (Left-West)

Northeast Corner: Latitude 41.925776°
Longitude -70.029158°

Southeast Corner: Latitude 41.920914°
Longitude -70.028909°

Northwest Corner: Latitude 41.925780°
Longitude -70.030019°

Southwest Corner: Latitude 41.922122°
Longitude -70.029910°

AREA 2 (Right-East)

Northeast Corner: Latitude 41.925673°
Longitude -70.024631°

Southeast Corner: Latitude 41.921144°
Longitude -70.024770°

Northwest Corner: Latitude 41.925674°
Longitude -70.025359°

Southwest Corner: Latitude 41.921149°
Longitude -70.025507°



Map of Wellfleet Indian Neck Contaminated Quahog Relay

Area

Northeast Corner:	Latitude	41.924723
	Longitude	-70.033594
Northwest Corner:	Latitude	41.925399
	Longitude	-70.035296
Southeast Corner:	Latitude	41.923858
	Longitude	-70.032839
Southwest Corner:	Latitude	41.924308
	Longitude	-70.035788



2022 SILVERADO 2500 HD



PAYLOAD & TRAILERING WEIGHT RATINGS

MODEL	ENGINE	WHEEL SIZE	GVWR (LBS.) ¹	MAX PAYLOAD (LBS.) ²	MAX CONVENTIONAL TRAILERING (LBS.) ³	MAX GOOSENECK/ 5TH-WHEEL TRAILERING (LBS.) ³
2500 HD REGULAR CAB						
Long Bed 2WD	6.6L V8 gas	17"/18"	9,900	3,757	14,500	17,370
	6.6L V8 gas	17"	10,000	3,857	14,500	17,370
	6.6L V8 gas	18"/20"	10,150	3,979	14,500	17,340
	Duramax 6.6L V8	17"	10,550	3,544	14,500	18,510
	Duramax 6.6L V8	18"/20"	10,750	3,715	14,500	18,480
Long Bed 4x4	6.6L V8 gas	17"/18"	10,000	3,544	14,500	17,060
	6.6L V8 gas	17"	10,250	3,794	14,500	17,060
	6.6L V8 gas	18"/20"	10,450	3,965	14,500 ⁴	17,030
	Duramax 6.6L V8	17"	10,900	3,581	14,500	18,190
	Duramax 6.6L V8	18"/20"	11,025	3,715	14,500 ⁴	18,160



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

DATE: October 20, 2023

TO: Leon Shreves, Chair, Wellfleet Conservation Commission and members
Barbara Brennessel, John Cumbler, Benjamin Fairbank, Michael Fisher, Martin
Murphy, Robert Stewart
Leslie Reynolds, Acting Superintendent Cape Cod National Seashore
Sophia Fox, Research Manager, National Park Service
Lauren McKean, Park Planner, National Park Service
Geoff Sanders, Chief of Natural Resource Management and Science, Cape Cod
National Seashore

CC: Jennifer Elsensohn, Health & Conservation Dept., Wellfleet
Richard Waldo, Town Administrator, Wellfleet
Purvi Patel, Mass. Environmental Protection Agency
Cally Harper, Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, Waterways Div.
Town of Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board
Don Munroe, Coastal Engineering

RE: WSD comprehensive cultching report 2020 to 2023

Dear Mr. Shreves and Conservation Commission members and Acting Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent Reynolds:

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department appreciates the ongoing collaboration that allows us to continue the town's century-old practice of placing sea clam cultch in Wellfleet Harbor as part of its yearly propagation efforts.

We wanted to follow up on a couple of things discussed in the Conservation Commission's August 2, 2023, meeting. First, we wanted to let you know that we received clarification both from the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries and Mass. DEP that placing spat-on-shell is NOT covered under our state propagation permit, as I mistakenly believed, but rather is required under our cultching permits. Our spat-on-shell bags are currently being moved from Chipman's Cove where we put them in June to inside the boundaries of Area 5 permitted in our Conservation Commission Order of Conditions and our state DEP certifications (WQC and Chapter 91). These are not included in this report but are being tracked and can be provided at a later time.

At your August 2 meeting, you asked the Shellfish Department to prepare a comprehensive report on our cultching activities. Previously, we had tried tracking our cultch strips, and upon doing further research, I was able to upload additional data from our handheld GPS from 2020 through 2022 into Google Earth. See attached maps of these cultch strips in relation to the permitted areas, which we now have also uploaded to our GPS. Following this memo are two sets of maps: (1) close ups of cumulative cultch

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strips in each area from 2020-2023, and (2) maps of North and South Wellfleet for each year's cultching, 2020-2023.

We received our state permits last year after our cultching operations had concluded, so this is the first year we walked the bottom with our GPS inside the final permitted areas using the coordinates from our permit, and then put buoys out based on these site visits. Using our GPS, we tracked our strips as we laid them, and then uploaded the permitted area coordinates and our strips to Google Earth.

As you can see on the 2023 maps, there are places where we went outside of the boundaries of the permitted areas. There are multiple explanations for this:

- our first time using these instruments, and we are doing so to the best of our ability,
- the limitations of our technology (our GPS is accurate to 3-10 feet and Google Earth is accurate to 15-30 ft.),
- the inherent inaccuracies of laying strips at high tide with wind, currents and buoys that move, as opposed to when we walk the dry bottom at low tide, and
- the dynamic nature of the marine environment with currents and tides as well as wind induced littoral transport.

We are exploring solutions that will both benefit Wellfleet Harbor and its shellfishing community and ensure we comply with the Conservation Commission's Order of Conditions and our state certifications. Since that meeting, we have had the actual boundary lines of each permitted area uploaded onto our GPS so that we can clearly see when we are "inside the lines" as opposed to how we did it this year, which was by boundary points, which made it difficult to understand where we were in the field. We already tested this with Area 5 and moving the cultch bags, and we are accurate. We will use these going forward each year.

Another avenue we are pursuing is the expansion of our cultching areas. We are already feeling the limitations of our current permitted areas due to the fact that the "polygons" are finite, and once we place cultch, oysters grow. Once oysters grow, we can no longer place cultch there as it would be a detriment to these living shellfish resources. The placement of cultch is enhancing our natural harbor environment, and the Town has been doing this since at least 1908. Our successful program will mean we will need more area in the future, so we are working with Coastal Engineering to seek permitting for expanded areas in Wellfleet Harbor for cultching. We met with MEPA this week about submitting a Notice of Project Change and the analysis and notifications we will need to provide. We will work with both the Cape Cod National Seashore and Conservation Commission during this process, so you are able to make a determination regarding additional permitting and requirements.

Here is our full and final 2023 cultching report by permitted area. Our operations ran from June 2 to 16, 2023.

- 1) We did not place any cultch in area 1 this year.
- 2) We placed about 20-22 strips here this year, and unfortunately missed the mark on getting inside the area. We are confident with the boundary lines in our GPS now, and this missing the mark shouldn't happen again.
- 3) We did not place any cultch in area 3 this year.
- 4) We did not place any cultch in area 4 this year.
- 5) We placed five strips of cultch here this year.
- 6) Area 6 is comprised of three areas in the Herring River.
 - A. We placed eight cultch strips here this year, and an additional one outside of the area as we began at the wrong buoy for the first strip.
 - B. We placed about a dozen cultch strips in this area, and unfortunately, while they all began inside the boundary, most of them finished outside the boundary.
 - C. We did not place cultch here this year.
- 7) We placed one cultch strip here.
- 8) Area 8 is comprised of two areas in Blackfish Creek.
 - A. We placed eight cultch strips here this year.
 - B. We did not place cultch here this year.

Because of an oversight on my part which I discovered when I went back into the GPS, I did not include data for six rows of cultch we placed on Smalley's Bar this year in the original maps provided for your August 2 meeting. They are in the updated maps attached. We understand that we are not allowed to do this. We will not place cultch outside of permitted areas again.

The Shellfish Department is working hard to make sure that we get the strips in the right locations under our current permitting. We are learning that this is not as exact a science as we would have thought. While we recognize that placing cultch outside of the permitted areas is not detrimental to the marine environment as it increases shellfish resources and biodiversity and contributes to improved water quality, we place a high value on getting it right and working under the Commission's review to provide this benefit to the Town. We look forward to continuing to see these harbor improvements, as well as water quality improvements due to our cultching program.

I look forward to our discussions and welcome any ideas on how we might be able to do a better job. We are committed to working within the Order of Conditions and DEP permitting to ensure a sustainable oyster fishery for the Town of Wellfleet in the future.
Sincerely,



Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable



Johnny Mankevetch, Asst. Shellfish Constable

Total Strips Laid in Designated Cultch Areas from 2020 to 2023

COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 1 – 3 strips, in and near



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 2 - 32 near

Area 3 -28 total (26 in, 2 near)



COLOR KEY:

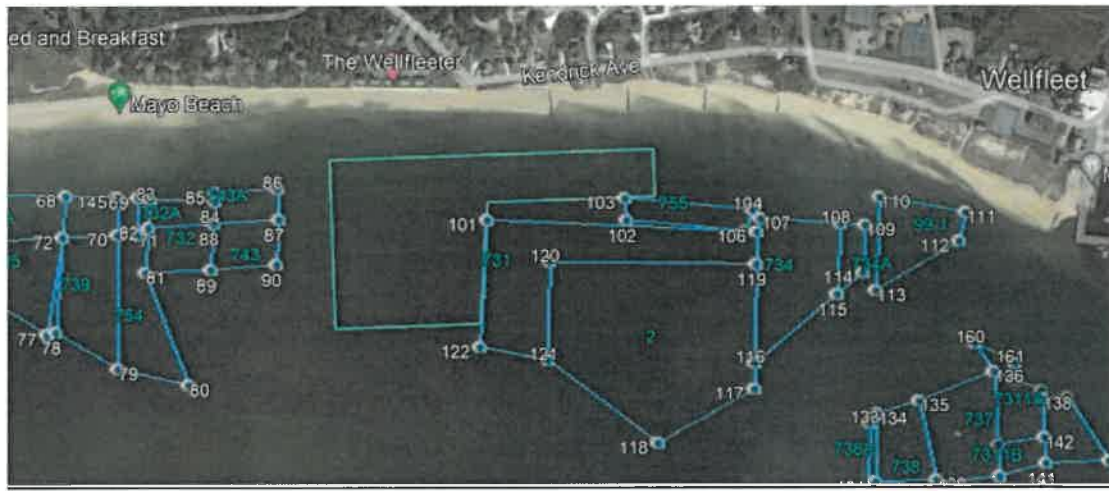
2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 4 – No strips. It is a bathing beach so we have not used the area.



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 5 – 16 (11 in, 5 near)

Area 6 – Herring River

6A - 9 total (8 in, 1 near)

6B - 34 total (9 in, 25 near)

6C - 0 There were strips laid **near** this area because we mistakenly thought that the area we call the Dandy Hole where we did lay them was the permitted area 6C.



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 7 - 19 total (3 in, 16 near)



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area 8 - Blackfish Creek

8A - 64 total (47 in, 17 near) A corner of this area cannot be used because there are grants on it.

8B - 0 This area cannot be used because of deep water on one side and grants on the other side.



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

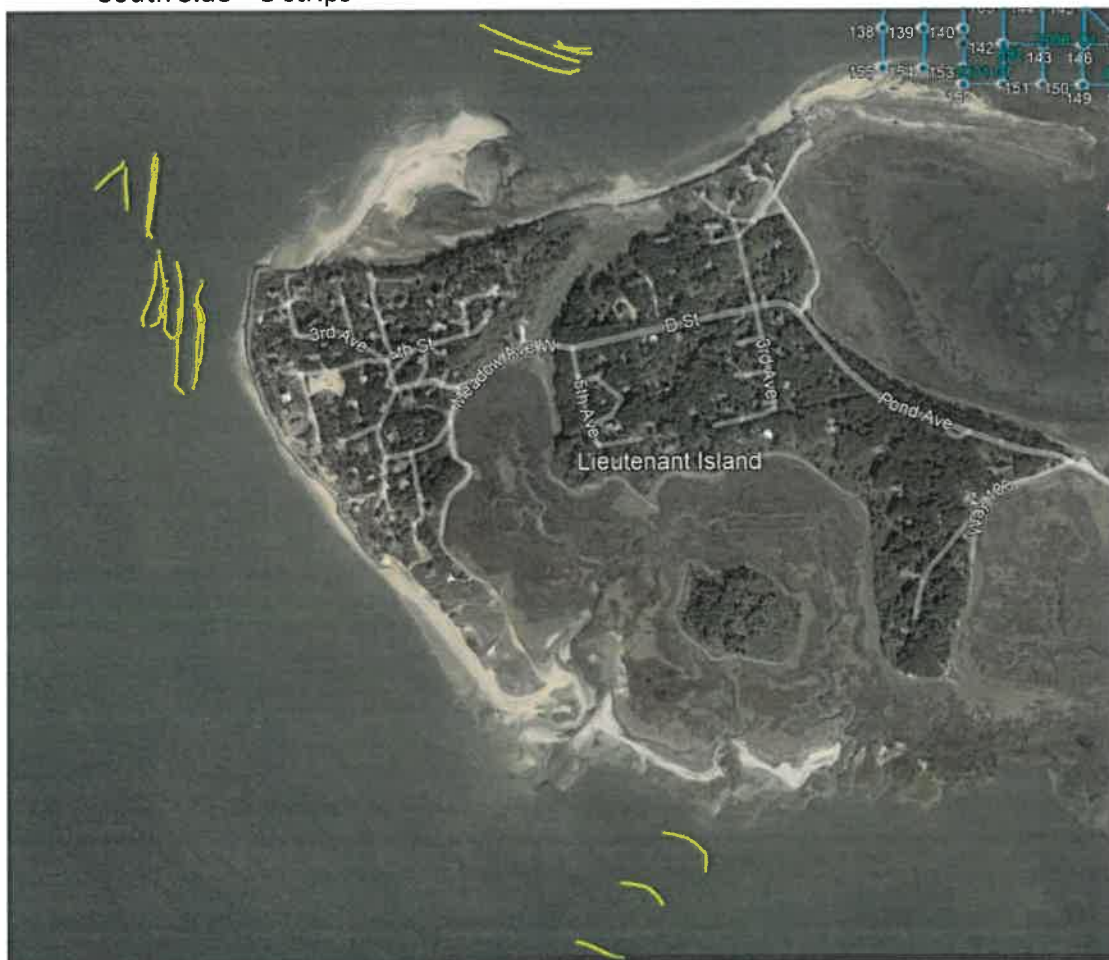
Strips of cultch laid Outside of Designated Boundaries 2020 - 2023

Lieutenant Island 2020

West Side – 13 strips

North Side – 4 strips

South Side – 3 strips



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Smalley Bar/Buoy Rocks - 2020 8 strips (1,660 feet from shore)

2023 6 strips (1,460 feet from shore)



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Area near Indian Neck 2021 – 1 strip



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Loagy Bay 2021– 15 strips



COLOR KEY:

2023=lilac/pink

2022=coral/salmon

2021=peach

2020=yellow

Great Island 2021 – 2 strips (1,510 feet from shore)



Great Island 2022 – 13 strips (We believed this was Area 6C, which we call the Dandy Hole.)



Breakout of Strips Laid Each Year

Strips Laid in Designated Cultch Area 2020 (North and South Wellfleet)

Area 1 - 0

Area 2 - 0

Area 3 Chipman's Cove – 8 strips

Area 4 Mayo- 0

Area 5 - 2 strips

Area 6 –Herring River

Area 6A – 0

Area 6B – 11 near

Area 6C - 0

Area 7 Burton Baker – 18 strips (2 in, 16 near)

Area 8 Blackfish Creek

8A Pleasant Point – 10 strips (8 in, 2 near)

8B – 0



Strips laid in Designated Culch Area 2021 (North and South Wellfleet)

Area 1 – 0

Area 2 - 0

Area 3 Chipman's Cove – 12 strips

Area 4 Mayo – 0

Area 5 – 5 strips (3 in, 2 near)

Area 6 – 3 areas in the Herring River

Area 6A - 0

Area 6B – 3 strips

Area 6C - 0

Area 7 Burton Baker - 0

Area 8 Blackfish Creek

8A Pleasant Point– 23 strips

8B – 0



Strips laid in Designated Cultch Area 2022 (North and South Wellfleet)

Area 1 – 3 in and near

Area 2 – 0 in, 10 near

Area 3 Chipman's Cove -8 strips (6 in, 2 near)

Area 4 Mayo - 0

Area 5 – 4 strips (1 in, 3 near)

Area 6 – 3 areas in the Herring River

Area 6A -0

Area 6B – 21 in or near (6 in, 14 near)

Area 6C - 0

Area 7 Burton Baker – 0

Area 8 Blackfish Creek

8A Pleasant Point – 23 strips (8 in, 15 near)

8B - 0



Strips laid in Designated Cultch Area 2023 (North and South Wellfleet)

Area 1 – 0

Area 2 – 0 in, 22 near

Area 3 – 0 strips

Area 4 Mayo– 0

Area 5 – 5 strips

Area 6 – 3 areas in Herring River

Area 6A – 9 Strips (8 in, 1 near)

Area 6B – 0

Area 6C - 0

Area 7 Burton Baker– 1 strip

Area 8 Blackfish Creek

8A – 8 strips

8B - 0



Cumulative Totals 2020-2023

270 total strips deposited
107 in permitted areas
98 near permitted areas
65 outside permitted areas

When cultch strips are laid on the bottom, they are typically about 100 feet long, about two feet wide and our goal for relief height is six inches. This relief settles down over time. Each strip we lay is equal to six yards of whole shell. Six yards of whole shells weighs 4,240 pounds. So, in four years, we have deposited 1.14M pounds of cultch throughout Wellfleet Harbor as demonstrated on the maps above. We source the shell from Atlantic Capes Fisheries and age it over the winter. In 2022, we also used two loads of oyster and quahog shells from Mass Oyster Project's restaurant shell recycling program, which had aged for more than a full calendar year. These two strips were deployed inside Area 3 next to sea clam shell for a comparative study they were doing.

Please see photos of our efforts attached.

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
March 27th, 2024 7PM
Wellfleet Adult Community Center

Board Members in attendance: Rebecca Taylor (Chair), Brad Morse (Vice Chair), Nick Sirucek (secretary), Adrien Kmiec, Stephen Pickard, Chris Merl

Regrets: Ethan Estey, Damien Parkington, John Duane

Announcements & Public Comment

- No announcements from board
- Wellfleet homeowner John Cowles spoke of his requirement as a waterfront property owner to do annual sand replenishment, and commented of how he is seeking to have the amount of sand reduced due to how quickly it washes away and potential impacts of the sand spreading to nearby shellfishing areas. Mr. Cowles asked the board and public for letters or comments in support of a reduction in the replenishment amount in relation to any negative impacts of the sand on nearby shellfishing areas
- Board members and members of the public commented on Mr. Cowles' request and spoke of issues related to beach replenishment
- Constable Civetta noted that the Conservation Commission has had meetings about it and WSD has weighed in
- Chair Taylor read a letter from a member of the public suggesting a solar canopy for the proposed Ice Machine
- Chris Merl seated as a voting member due to absences

Review Minutes

- Last meeting minutes not available, no action taken

Town Ice Machine update and funding sources

- Ice Machine subcommittee member Brad Morse informed the board that Interim Town Administrator Tom Guerino is working on grant applications
- R. Taylor noted that the location still hasn't been determined yet
- B. Morse asked Constable Civetta if she was aware if a legal opinion regarding use of the Shellfish Revolving Fund for the Ice Machine has been given yet; Constable Civetta stated that as of now, no opinion has been issued
- C. Merl commented that he would gather more info for the next meeting and that the board could start working on the Wellfleet Oyster Alliance grant
- Tim Sayre noted that the RFP will be open for bids starting April 1st and the process could take 3-4 weeks
- Jude Ahern suggested that other grants from organizations such as Food-Export Northeast, be pursued; noted that the Select Board wants to review/approve grants
- H. Miranda Wilson noted that the Select Board has a policy on grant revenue, noted that she spoke with different officials about their Ice Machine projects. Asked general questions about how much volume of ice is needed for the fishery and how many shellfishermen have their own

ice machines

- Board members discussed different types of ice and their pros/cons
- Constable Civetta asked general questions about the project; if the plan was for it to be available for use by the general public or fishermen/shellfishermen
- C. Merl commented that the general idea is for users to register an account with the town and have a keycode for access, and with video monitoring
- Constable Civetta questioned if there is any concern that public use will take away from commercial use
- S. Pickard commented that if the machines are high-volume enough there shouldn't be an issue
- H. Miranda Wilson spoke on town counsel's 2002 opinion regarding use of the Mayo Beach bathhouse, noted that staffing of the Ice Machine is still an important unresolved issue
- S. Pickard commented that staffing can't be decided until a location is determined

Cultching, clam relay, and propagation

- A. Kmiec commented that he would like to speak with the Assistant Constable for Propagation about cultching about a future meeting
- Constable Civetta asked the board about suggestions on how to improve cultching and what areas to focus on, and that the department would come back to SAB at a future meeting
- The Board reviewed cultching maps with Constable Civetta and gave suggestions for areas to focus cultching efforts on. Board members noted that the outer bars in Chipman's Cove should be a focus, as they have historically been productive areas for a wild set. Board members gave suggestions on timing of cultch deployment, pre-marking areas for cultching, placement of cultch near clams areas, orientation of cultch strips, cultching areas near Herring River, cultching areas near Blackfish Creek and Lieutenant's Island, broodstock placed near cultch, etc
- Board reviewed areas used for the contaminated Quahog Relay, asked if there were any proposed changes for the program
- Constable Civetta noted that the program involves 800 bushels of quahogs placed in 4 different areas
- S. Pickard suggested that the area on the south side of the marina may be a good area
- D. Brunt commented on her concerns about the quahog relay in general, questioned if there are any environmental concerns with using contaminated clams and if non-contaminated clams could be used
- Constable Civetta noted that the program is approved by the state, the clams are tested for other contaminants before being moved, "clean" quahogs would be much more expensive than the 4-7 cents per clam for Taunton clams, and that fecal coliform doesn't contaminate the environment
- S. Pickard asked if more testing could be done on the clams including meat samples, commented that the biggest benefit of the program may be the clams spawning and propagating the harbor
- D. Brunt asked of alternatives to the relay and if they could be discussed at a future meeting
- A. Kmiec asked Constable Civetta if WSD has ever considered keeping a relay clam area closed for 2 years in order to act as a spawning bed
- Constable Civetta commented that she would need to ask the state about that, and could possibly do a management closure on a relay clam area
- Board discussed propagation
- Constable Civetta noted that WSD was not buying seed this year because of a large hat seed

crop, but will be getting 88k oyster seed from the county. Noted that WSD plans to buy more hats for future propagation

Shellfish Revolving Fund Review and FY25 SRF Spending Limit

- B. Morse asked if the increased funds for expanding permitting harborwide, and if it was too costly and the project too large
- Constable Civetta commented that WSD wants to expand the permitted areas, but it's not a "harborwide" plan
- Constable Civetta gave a presentation to the board about the proposed expanded areas. Noted that the first step is to determine what areas to cultch. Commented that the WSD will come back to SAB and other boards when areas are surveyed and the maps are made. Noted that the WSD wants the cultching areas to be more effective and any plans need to be approved by the Conservation Commission
- C. Merl asked how large of an expansion was planned
- Constable Civetta noted that the plan was 10 loads of cultch a year, but that the plan is still in the idea stage
- S. Pickard suggested that cultching efforts be spread out more, be not as concentrated in the harbor
- C. Merl asked if \$41k was total price for the surveying and permitting
- Constable Civetta said that that was the estimate, but if it ends up being more that SRF increase request could be increased
- C. Merl asked if the SRF could be used for the Ice Machine
- Constable Civetta commented that in her opinion she doesn't see how the Ice Machine would fall under the scope of the SRF for propagation. Noted that in her opinion the use of the word "protection" in the shellfish applied to the wild fishery. Noted that the SRF protects the department from budget shortfalls. Noted that trucks and other equipment are paid for from the Shellfish Fund, not the Revolving Fund for propagation.
- N. Sirucek made a motion: "Recommend the requested increase of the Shellfish Revolving Fund spending limit to \$76,000 for FY2025"
- C. Merl asked what the plan is for the the accumulated funds in the SRF
- Constable Civetta commented that the eventual goal is for the SRF to pay for the salary of the Propagation Constable
- S. Pickard questioned the use of the word "protection" in the SRF warrant, and how it could be interpreted more broadly
- Constable Civetta reiterated that her intent of the word "protection" in the SRF warrant was for protection of the wild fishery
- D. Brunt commented that the Constable asked the Select Board to vote to increase the limit, but the BOS wanted it sent to SAB for review first.
- Constable Civetta said she took the Select Board's input and came back to SAB
- N. Sirucek restated his motion, "Recommend the requested increase of the Shellfish Revolving Fund spending limit to \$76,000 for FY2025", 2nd'd by A. Kmiec
- S. Pickard noted that the limit increase request has changed once, and if it would change again. Noted that the motion amount assumes that the town will accept/receive a grant from WOA. Asked if WSD will come back to SAB if grant money doesn't come through
- H. Miranda Wilson noted that additional funds could be approved at the fall town meeting
- Board voted on motion, motion passed 5-1

Herring River Project and Duck Harbor overwash

- R. Taylor commented that she talked to Carole Ridley from the Herring River Project, and that she would be willing to come talk to SAB in April or May. Would also reach out to other experts
- S. Pickard commented on Duck Harbor overwash, noted that the color of the water has changed and an increase in sediments. Noted that water gets tested but questioned if meats are being tested
- Constable Civetta commented that she could contact the county for further baseline testing
- S. Pickard commented on the need for SRF could be used for testing. Commented on the need for baseline testing for when the Herring River opens further to monitor any changes
- H. Miranda Wilson noted that she is on the Herring River Council and sits in on technical team meeting. Suggested that the technical team be contacted for whatever testing data they have
- A. Kmiec questioned why no one involved in the project has tried to slow down the Duck Harbor breakthrough
- Constable Civetta commented that the scenario changed and that the Duck Harbor breakthrough wasn't part of the plan. Park decided to mulch the Duck Harbor area. Noted that there is a need to understand how the Duck Harbor breakthrough will effect the project
- H. Miranda Wilson said that the Park Service is studying it already, and that the Herring River Project is discussing how to deal with the woodchip material that is impeding flow, suggested SAB discuss the issue again at a future meeting
- S. Pickard commented that the Duck Harbor breakthrough might affect the timeline of expected changes related to the Herring River Project, reiterated that meat testing of shellfish near the river should be done for baseline data
- D. Brunt commented on the revolving fund, said that WSD should get meats of shellfish tested, and said that the Center for Coastal Studies doesn't support the quahog relay
- Board made a motion: "Invite Herring River group to next meeting and request shellfish data", motion passed 6-0

Possible Future Topics

- Board discussed possible future topics, including: Herring River Project and Duck Harbor overwash, beach cleanup, Ice Machine update and funding, cultching, relay and propagation, and Regulation 6.5.2 re: truck GVWRs

Next meeting date April 12, 6pm

Materials used at this meeting:

- 2019 Town Warrant Article 35 (SRF)
- 2023 Quahog relay permit
- FY25 Revolving Fund Warrant Article
- ConsComm Comprehensive Cultching Report 2020-2023
- 2023 Quahog Relay summary for DMF

CAPACITIES

	Regular Cab		SuperCab		Crew Cab	
	8-foot cargo box	6 ¾-foot cargo box	8-foot cargo box	6 ¾-foot cargo box	8-foot cargo box	8-foot cargo box
Volume	78.5 cu.-ft.	65.4 cu.-ft.	78.5 cu.-ft.	65.4 cu.-ft.	78.5 cu.-ft.	78.5 cu.-ft.
Length at floor	98.1 inches	81.9 inches	98.1 inches	81.9 inches	98.1 inches	98.1 inches
Height	21.1 inches	21.1 inches	21.1 inches	21.1 inches	21.1 inches	21.1 inches
Width at floor (maximum)	66.9 inches	66.9 inches	66.9 inches	66.9 inches	66.9 inches	66.9 inches
Width between wheelhouse	50.5 inches	50.5 inches	50.5 inches	50.5 inches	50.5 inches	50.5 inches
Tailgate width	60.5 inches	60.5 inches	60.5 inches	60.5 inches	60.5 inches	60.5 inches
Maximum payload	7,850 lbs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum conventional towing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24,200 lbs.
Maximum gooseneck towing	37,000 lbs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum fifth-wheel towing	32,500 lbs.	N/A	32,500 lbs.	N/A	32,500 lbs.	32,500 lbs.

MAXIMUM PAYLOAD (LBS.)

	GVWR	Regular Cab		SuperCab		Crew Cab	
		Long box	Short box	Long box	Short box	Long box	Short box
F-250 SRW 4x2	9,900	4,160	3,880	3,770	3,780	3,550	
	10,000	4,260	3,980	3,870	3,880	3,650	
	10,600	3,940	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,700	N/A	3,770	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,800	N/A	N/A	3,740	3,750	3,520	
F-250 SRW 4x4	9,900	3,720	3,450	3,360	3,370	3,110	
	10,000	3,820	3,550	3,460	3,470	3,210	
	10,800	3,720	3,460	3,310	3,320	3,040	
F-350 SRW 4x2	9,900	3,960	3,710	3,590	3,550	3,320	
	10,000	4,060	3,810	3,690	3,650	3,420	
	10,100	4,160	3,910	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,850	N/A	
	10,400	N/A	N/A	4,090	N/A	N/A	
	10,500	4,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,600	3,930	4,350	N/A	N/A	4,020	
	10,700	N/A	3,800	N/A	4,290	N/A	
	10,800	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,720	N/A	
	10,900	N/A	N/A	4,540	N/A	N/A	
	11,000	N/A	N/A	3,980	N/A	N/A	
	11,100	4,380	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,460	
	11,200	N/A	4,250	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	11,300	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,160	N/A	
	11,400	N/A	N/A	4,320	N/A	4,020	
11,500	N/A	N/A	4,420	N/A	4,120		
F-350 SRW 4x4	9,900	3,530	3,270	3,160	3,120	2,890	
	10,000	3,630	3,370	3,260	3,220	2,990	
	10,400	4,030	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,500	N/A	3,870	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	10,600	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,820	N/A	
	10,800	N/A	N/A	4,060	N/A	N/A	
	10,900	4,470	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,890	
	11,000	3,910	4,320	N/A	N/A	N/A	

FORD F-SERIES SUPER DUTY®



MAXIMUM PAYLOAD (LBS.) CONTINUED

	GVWR	Regular Cab		SuperCab		Crew Cab	
		Long box	Short box	Long box	Short box	Long box	Short box
F-350 SRW 4x4	11,100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,260	N/A
	11,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,700	N/A
	11,300	N/A	4,610	4,500	4,460	4,230	
	11,400	4,960	4,080	4,660	3,900	4,390	
	11,500	4,350	4,120	4,700	3,940	4,420	
	11,800	N/A	N/A	4,900	N/A	N/A	
	11,900	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,730	
	12,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,190	
F-350 DRW 4x2	12,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,580	
	13,000	6,660	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,960	
F-350 DRW 4x4	14,000	7,850	N/A	7,190	N/A	6,960	
	13,000	6,210	N/A	5,770	N/A	5,530	
F-450 DRW 4x2	14,000	7,210	N/A	6,770	N/A	6,530	
	14,000	6,210	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,630	
F-450 DRW 4x4	14,000	5,900	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,320	
Maximum payload is in F-350 class across all Super Duty models	Overall maximum by cab	7,850, F-350 SRW 2WD 14,000 GCWR	4,610, F-350 SRW 4WD 11,300 GVWR	7,190, F-350 DRW 2WD 14,000 GVWR	4,460, F-350 SRW 4WD 11,300 GVWR	6,960, F-350 DRW 2WD 14,000 GVWR	

MAXIMUM CONVENTIONAL LOADED TRAILER WEIGHT TOW RATINGS (LBS.)

Engine	Rear axle	Axle ratio	Maximum GCWR	Regular Cab					
				F-250 4x2	F-250 4x4	F-350 4x2	F-350 4x4	F-450 4x2	F-450 4x4
6.2-liter gas V8 (6-speed)	SRW	3.73	19,500	13,300	12,900	13,200	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SRW	4.3	22,000	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	DRW	4.3	20,000	N/A	N/A	13,300	N/A	N/A	N/A
6.2-liter gas V8 (10-speed)	SRW	3.73	19,500	N/A	N/A	13,100	12,700	N/A	N/A
	SRW	4.3	23,000	N/A	N/A	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A
	DRW	3.73	20,000	N/A	N/A	13,200	12,800	N/A	N/A
7.3-liter gas V8	DRW	4.3	23,500	N/A	N/A	16,700	16,300	N/A	N/A
	SRW	3.55	21,800	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SRW	3.73	23,500	N/A	N/A	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A
	SRW	4.3	24,900	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SRW	4.3	26,000	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SRW	4.3	27,500	N/A	N/A	14,000	15,000	N/A	N/A
	DRW	3.73	24,000	N/A	N/A	17,200	16,800	N/A	N/A
6.7-liter Power Stroke diesel V8	DRW	4.3	28,000	N/A	N/A	21,000	20,000	N/A	N/A
	SRW	3.31	23,500	15,000	15,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SRW	3.31	30,000	15,200	15,000	15,000	15,000	N/A	N/A
	SRW	3.55	30,000	15,200	15,000	15,000	15,000	N/A	N/A
	DRW	3.55	40,000	N/A	N/A	21,000	20,000	N/A	N/A
	DRW	4.1	43,400	N/A	N/A	21,000	20,000	N/A	N/A
	DRW	4.3	45,300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21,200	21,200





Wellfleet Oyster Alliance / formerly Wellfleet SPAT Community Grant Application

Propose a project or initiative supporting Wellfleet's aquaculture or wild shellfishing community that aligns with WOA's mission.

Previous Grant Recipients include:

- MA Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- The Wellfleet Conservation Commission
- Friends of the Herring River
- Wellfleet Shellfish Harvester Relief Program
- Wellfleet Elementary School
- 246 Kitchen
- Marketing Campaign
- Wellfleet Shellfish Department
- Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
- Town of Wellfleet Maintenance Dredging Fund
- Wellfleet Recycling Committee
- Wellfleet Council on Aging
- East Coast Shellfish Growers Association
- MA Oyster Project
- Center for Coastal Studies Provincetown

- **For more information about WOA Community Grant Recipients, go to:** <https://wellfleetspat.org/about-spat/community-grants/>

Wellfleet Oyster Alliance's Mission Statement

Wellfleet WOA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization that produces and promotes the Wellfleet OysterFest®. The mission of the organization is to foster interest in Wellfleet's rich shellfishing industry. Our mission also includes supporting the Town of Wellfleet by educating the greater community about the benefits and value of its shellfishing history. This support takes the form of grants and scholarships awarded to local individuals or groups pursuing careers in the shellfishing industry or related fields, and in addition, the organization supports deserving causes and other organizations with a close tie to WOA's mission. Part of WOA's goal is also to support local individuals whose efforts and educational mission increase awareness of this important part of the community's livelihood. Each May, WOA awards a scholarship to a graduating Nauset Regional High School student pursuing four years of higher learning in aquaculture or a related field.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be sixteen years old or older.
- Wellfleet residents will receive first consideration. Non-residents will be considered if their projects directly support the WOA mission and are related to Wellfleet's shellfishing industry.
- All applicants must complete the form below and include a complete description of your project including its objectives, how the proposed project will support WOA's mission or benefit the community, and how the funds will be used as illustrated by a detailed budget.

- Compelling proposals greater than \$5K may be considered.
- This is a revolving application with no deadline date. Grant recipients will be notified within 6-8 weeks from the receipt of their application regarding the viability of their grant request.

WOA Community Grant Application

WOA/Wellfleet Oyster Alliance is a non-profit organization devoted to fostering a greater understanding of the history and traditions of aquaculture and wild fisheries, and to enhance the Town of Wellfleet by supporting its community.

WOA produces the annual **Wellfleet OysterFest**. Proceeds from the event support our educational mission and fund the Nauset Regional High School Scholarship and WOA Community Grant Awards programs.

Community Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$5,000 annually for programs and projects that primarily support WOA's educational mission and foster an appreciation for and increase awareness of Wellfleet's shellfishing industry. General grants are also considered to fund programs and projects that enrich the quality of life in Wellfleet, supporting nonprofit organizations that serve the health, social, educational, cultural, and environmental needs of the people who live here.

WOA Community Grant Award Application

Applicant or Organization Information

Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Purpose of Grant (one sentence):

Proposed grant amount (\$5,000 or less): _____

Project Narrative

Please address the following questions, not to exceed more than two pages, and attach a completed application form.

- Project Description
- Describe your interest or involvement in Wellfleet's shellfishery or aquaculture in general.

- Project Goals and Activities
- How will this project benefit you and/or others in the Wellfleet shellfishing community? How will it enrich life in Wellfleet in general?
- Project Timeline
- Describe how you plan to measure outcomes and project success.
- Budget for Expenditures (may be attached as a separate document)

Endorsement

If you are under 18 years of age, please include the endorsement of an adult relative, friend, or teacher who will stand by you in this activity, and who has reviewed this application with you.

Name: _____

Relationship to candidate: _____

Phone number: _____

Signature of endorser: _____

Agreement

I accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided on this application. I understand that if I am awarded a Community Grant, a check will be made out to me or the organization that I represent solely to fund this project. Upon completion of my project, I will submit a project summary with the final budget to the WOA Board. This report may include supplemental materials such as photos, press, or testimonials.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please submit an application packet to:

Wellfleet Oyster Alliance / PO Box 2156 / Wellfleet, MA 02667

508-349-3499 / wellfleetoa.com / vendors@wellfleetoa.org



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

TO: Shellfish Advisory Board Members: Rebecca Taylor, John Duane,
Nick Sirucek, Ethan Estey, Stephen Pickard, Adrien Kmiec, Brad Morse, Chris Merl

DATE: April 10, 2024

RE: Contaminated Quahog Relay

Dear SAB members:

I have spoken with my colleagues Johnny and Chris, as well as with Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) staff about the concerns expressed by the Shellfish Advisory Board concerning the contaminated quahog relay. We at the Shellfish Department believe the quahog relay is a way for us to supply harvestable clams to commercial and recreational shellfishermen each year, as well as provide spawning stock to create new quahog beds. We have received much positive feedback from commercial shellfishermen about seed clams populating Chipman's Cove that directly attribute to our participation in this relay. In addition, the clams at Chipman's Cove are a staple and provide joy for recreational shellfishermen each winter.

With input from DMF, we have put together some updated details about the program for you to review and consider.

- The quahogs are not contaminated per se but come from areas where the water is contaminated with fecal coliform levels that exceed the threshold to allow them to be put in the conditional classification. They come from areas in the Taunton River that are classified as restricted, not prohibited.
- Areas in Wellfleet with a conditional classification are the Herring River and Duck Creek, and MADMF monitors fecal coliform counts to open and close these each year. A relay from the Taunton River is the same as moving shellfish from Duck Creek or Herring River when they are in the closed status.
- MADMF allows municipalities to move contaminated shellfish (from restricted or conditionally restricted areas) to clean waters (approved and conditionally approved areas) for natural depuration and propagation.
- Relays are conducted under stringent NSSP guidelines and are heavily supervised by state and local enforcement authorities.
- Contaminated shellfish must remain at the relay site for a minimum of 60 days and recommended for the duration of one spawning season. If we plant them here by June 15, we can open to harvest in the late summer/early fall.

wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department

Phone (508) 349-0325



Fax (508) 349-0305

- The Taunton River quahogs are disease tested January to March prior to relaying and tested again for fecal coliform levels before they are allowed to be harvested for eating. This is to make sure that they meet NSSP requirements for safety. (See attached testing results from 2024.)
- The test sample size is 60 animals from sites in the Taunton River for disease testing and 20-30 animals and overlying water samples for fecal coliform testing prior to opening for direct harvest.
- Shellfish are analyzed for dermo, QPX and neoplasia. The shellfish also undergo condition indexing where they are opened to look for any abnormalities and make sure they are healthy.
- Several years ago, the shellfish were also tested for PCBs and mercury, two substances in the NSSP model ordinance which have standards; other substances have action levels. For decades, all results have been below the action levels, and there has been no new industry active along the Taunton River.
- The [Town of Westport](#) has five aquaculture grants and purchases 5,000 bushels of relay quahogs a year. Other towns that have aquaculture and conduct relays include Provincetown, Truro, Yarmouth, Barnstable, Bourne, Wareham, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Fairhaven.
- In 2023, 11 towns participated in relays from the Taunton River totaling 9,578.5 bushels.
- There has never been an issue with this program, which has been going on for 100 years. No association of die offs of natural stock or relayed stock has ever been identified.
- Wellfleet participated in the quahog relay in the 1950s, and in the 1980s conducted contaminated oyster relays where the oysters came from contaminated areas within Wellfleet. We have been participating in this program since 2018.
- There is no record of red tide in the Taunton River.
- Rhode Island and Massachusetts monitor for harmful algal species in Mount Hope Bay; when an action level is reached, all shellfish harvesting is prohibited, including relays.

We have created informative signage that we post each year alongside the contaminated closure signs to help educate people with positive information about the program and its safety – and the health and cleanliness of the quahogs once they have had ample time to purge (see attached).

Thank you,

Nancy, Johnny and Chris



Shellfish Health Inspection

Company: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Address: 706 South Rodney French Blvd.
 New Bedford, MA 02740

Report Date: 06-Feb-24
Receipt Date: 24-Jan-24
Accession: M24012401

Site: Taunton River
Species: *Mercenaria mercenaria*
Age:
Size: 85 mm

Collected By:
Date Collected: 23-Jan-24
Witnessed by:

Agent	Common Name	Results	Prevalence	Comments
<i>Perkinsus marinus</i>	Dermo	not detected		
<i>Haplosporidium nelsoni</i>	MSX	n/a		
<i>Haplosporidium costale</i>	SSO	n/a		
Quahog Parasite Unknown	QPX	not detected		
<i>Roseovarius crassostreae</i>	JOD/ROD	n/a		
Hemic neoplasia	Neoplastic cells	not detected		
<i>Bonamia ostreae</i>		n/a		
<i>Bonamia exitiosa</i>		n/a		

n/a = not applicable or not requested

Methods:

Hard-shell clams > 5 mm in size were inspected at an assumed pathogen prevalence level of 5% (60 individuals tested), according to current USFWS AFS-FHS or WOA (OIE) protocols. Shellfish were examined for any external or internal morphological abnormalities and fouling organisms. Cross-sections and additional tissues collected were screened for targeted etiologic agents by RFTM and/or applicable PCR assays, plus histology; agent-specific PCR was used for any confirmatory testing.

Comments:

External and internal examination did not indicate any significant presence of fouling or parasitic agents or abnormalities. Testing results for targeted agents are summarized above.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns. Thank you for working with Kennebec River Biosciences, Inc.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Merrill, D.V.M., Staff Veterinarian

Marcy Nelson, Shellfish Health Coordinator

NO SHELLFISHING CONTAMINATED AREA

PER ORDER OF MA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

- **This is a state-run program that allows towns to move contaminated quahogs to our waters for natural purification.**
- **The quahogs are stringently tested before they are allowed to be harvested and eaten by the public.**
- **Quahogs are filter feeders, and they will clean the surrounding waters while they are purging themselves.**
- **Quahogs will spawn here this summer, adding a big increase to the quahog babies that will be born.**
- **The clams will be tested by the state to ensure public safety.**
- **Our waters are not contaminated; the clams are lightly-contaminated and able to purge themselves completely.**
- **This does not affect the surrounding water; in fact, clams purify the water as they feed.**

FOR INFORMATION CALL

TOWN OF WELFLEET SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

(508)-349-0325

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION (FORM 2) FOR
A MUNICIPAL CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH TRANSPLANT PERMIT

Municipality: Wellfleet
Responsible Party: JOHN MANKEVETCH Title: ASST. SHELLFISH CONSTABLE
Mailing Address: 500 MAIN ST. Street: _____
City: WELLFLEET State: MA Zip Code: 02667
Email Address: nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov
Office phone #: 508-349-0325 Mobile phone #: 508-962-0691
Who will supervise the transplanting in the receiving municipality? JOHN MANKEVETCH
Title: _____ Office phone #: _____ Mobile phone #: _____
Email Address: _____ ALL SAME AS ABOVE

1. What species will be transplanted from a contaminated area:
a. Species: ___ Soft shell clams Quahogs ___ Oysters ___ Other (_____)
b. Size of shellfish to be transplanted: ___ Seed ___ Adult Both
c. The proposed transplant site will be clearly posted as closed on APRIL 30, 2024

2. For sources of contaminated shellfish other than the Taunton River* indicate the municipality, exact location of harvest site(s) and a map must be included.
Name of Harvest site: _____ DSGA number: _____
Description of harvest site:

*If the source of the contaminated shellfish is the Taunton River, the supervising authority of the harvest and landing of shellfish prior to transport to the transplant site will be the Swansea Shellfish Department.

3. Location of receiving area including town, exact location and detailed description of transplant receiving site (must include map). RECREATIONAL AREA
Name of Relay Site: INDIAN NECK DSGA number: CCB11
Detailed description of Relay Site:
3 CHIPMAN'S COVE SOUTH SIDE MARINA CCB13.2
2 CHIPMAN'S COVE WEST SIDE CCB13
1 CHIPMAN'S COVE EAST SIDE CCB13

SEE ATTACHED MAPS

4. If non-Taunton River transplants, has a shellfish pathology been completed? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please attach a copy of the report.

5. Number of bushels or other units to be transplanted: 1000 bushels
Other units (describe): _____

6. Anticipated transplant dates MAY 1 - JUNE 14, 2024

7. Expected date of harvest after natural depuration in receiving area: INDIAN NECK: 60 DAYS FROM DEPLOYMENT DATE / CHIPMAN'S COVE AREAS: OCT. 27, 2024

8. The permit holder shall maintain a daily list of individuals involved in the contaminated transplant. The following boat(s) are to be used for the harvest operation:

Name	Registration #	Hull color	Owner & Address
<u>F/V OCEAN RANCHER</u>	<u>595899</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	<u>BRUCE WELHAM POB 291 FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719</u>

9. How will the shellfish be conveyed from the harvest site to the transplant site?

VEHICLES

Make & Model	Registration #	Color	Owner & Address
<u>FORD F450 DUMP TRUCK</u>	<u>TOWN OF WELLFLEET DPW</u>	<u>GREEN</u>	<u>TOWN OF WELLFLEET DPW 220 W. MAIN ST. WELLFLEET MA 02667</u>

Vessel Name	Registration #	Hull Color	Owner & Address
<u>BARGE</u>	<u>MS2019TW</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>TOWN OF WELLFLEET SHELLFISH DEPT. 300 MAIN ST WELLFLEET MA 02667</u>

10. Have you ever been convicted of any violation of the laws relating to Marine Fish or Fisheries within one calendar year preceding the date of the application? Yes No

I AM ACQUAINTED WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE USE OF THIS PERMIT AND AGREE TO COMPLY THEREWITH AND WILL NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE FISHERIES OR THE SHELLFISH SANITATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BIOLOGISTS IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CHANGES. ALL INFORMATION FURNISHED FROM THIS FORM IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature of applicant: [Signature] Title: ASST. SHELLFISH CONSTABLE
Date of application: 4.2.2024

****FORWARD APPLICATION TO:

Matt Camisa
Division of Marine Fisheries
706 South Rodney French Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02740

TELEPHONE INQUIRIES: 508-990-9743 ATTN: Matt Camisa
SPECIAL SHELLFISH SUPPLEMENTAL FORM 2 (Revised 3/15/2024)

*Taunton River relays: Harvest site and pathology testing is determined by Mass. DMF. Regulations governing Taunton River relay Contaminated Shellfish Transplant Fees are found at 322 CMR 16.08 (6). The receiving municipality shall remit to the Division a fee of \$1.00 for each bushel harvested to be transferred by the Division to the source municipality.

2024 WELLFLEET HARBOR QUAHOG RELAY AREAS

AREA 1 Chipman's Cove East - CCB 13	-70.024426, 41.926777; -70.025373, 41.923242; -70.024581, 41.923113; -70.023608, 41.926589
AREA 2 Chipman's Cove West - CCB 13	-70.030138, 41.925533; -70.030026, 41.924468; -70.029537, 41.923406; -70.029128, 41.922093; -70.028393, 41.921294; -70.028043, 41.921427; -70.029110, 41.923768; -70.029832, 41.925721
AREA 3 Chipman's Cove South Side of Marina - CCB 13.2	-70.028684, 41.929451; -70.026737, 41.928974; -70.025233, 41.929042; -70.024632, 41.929402; -70.028579, 41.929712
AREA 4 Indian Neck Recreational Area - CCB 11	-70.035288, 41.925449; -70.035959, 41.923977; -70.032601, 41.923963; -70.033324, 41.924781





AREA
1

DUCK
CREEK





CHIPMAN'S COVE

AREA 3

AREA 2

4/2017

Chequessett Neck Rd

Chequessett Neck Rd

HERRING RIVER

AREA CC

AREA 5





BLACKFISH CREEK



Wellfleet Shellfish Department



300 Main Street, Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

TO: Jennifer Flynn, Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore
Leon Shreves, Chair, Wellfleet Conservation Commission

CC: Sophia Fox, Research Manager, National Park Service
Geoff Sanders, Chief of Natural Resource Management and Science, Cape Cod National Seashore
Lauren McKean, Park Planner, National Park Service
Tom Guerino, Interim Town Administrator, Wellfleet
Beth Pyles, Interim Conservation Agent, Wellfleet
Jennifer Elsensohn, Conservation Secretary, Wellfleet

DATE: April 1, 2024

RE: 2024 Wellfleet Harbor cultching activities including Herring River area

Dear Superintendent Flynn and Mr. Shreves:

First, we would like to thank the Conservation Commission for renewing our permit and for the educational discussions both at meetings and on a site visit that will help us do a better job moving forward. We would also like to thank the National Park Service (NPS) staff who came on a site visit and shared NPS objectives, which will help us fine tune our cultching efforts.

As you know, we are badly constrained by our current permitted areas. Regardless, we are absolutely committed to remaining within our permitted bottom at all costs. This may mean that we are unable to use all of the shell that we currently have stockpiled, and we accept this.

As you are aware, we are planning to expand our permit and have met with our consultants Coastal Engineering (now Tighe and Bond) to lay a framework for moving forward. We have received a grant award from Wellfleet Oyster Alliance for \$25,000, towards the engineering and permitting costs, and we are confident that our permitting process will begin soon. Our first steps will be to prepare documents for Conservation Commission and National Park Service to review – as well as to present to the Shellfish Advisory Board for input.

We met the Shellfish Advisory Board last week, and they provided us with suggestions on which of our limited permitted areas we should concentrate our cultching efforts for 2024. We will also walk all of our permitted areas to see if there are opportunities in

wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department

Phone (508) 349-0325



Fax (508) 349-0305

other locations. As referenced above, we are short on space. This will likely result in shorter strips and generally less volume of aged sea clam shell deposited in 2024. As of the writing of this memo, the water temperatures are not conducive to oyster metabolic activity, and indeed, many wild oysters are still covered with sediment accumulated over the winter. This means we are currently unable to accurately survey the existing wild oysters, and providing a detailed accounting for cultch deployment puts us at risk of covering live shellfish with dead shell, which we know the state does not want us to do, nor do we.

Therefore, in the attached maps, you will see shaded areas indicating where we will explore laying cultch in June of 2024 in each of the permitted areas. We are planning on focusing our efforts on Areas 1 (Duck Creek), 2 and 3 (Chipman's Cove), 5 (Herring River near the town propagation bed), 6C (Herring River) and 8A (Blackfish Creek).

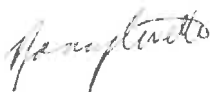
We expect to begin cultching the first week in June and continue until we run out of space due to current limitations, or until we run out of shell (less likely). We will buoy off the areas prior to application as we are careful not to place the cultch on top of live oysters. We use a barge with a five-foot opening to distribute the shell, and we work in strips spreading the shells out.

The strips are about 100 feet long, although this year we may be forced to squeeze in two 50-foot lengths instead, depending on bottom characteristics. *This does not apply in the Herring River area, however, where we expect to be able to deposit 100-foot strips per usual.*

Usually the width of the rows on the bottom is about two feet wide, and our goal for relief height is six inches. This relief settles down over time. We sourced the cultch from Atlantic Capes Fisheries and donations from the Wellfleet OysterFest and Mass. Oyster Project's restaurant shell recycling program. All shells are very well aged.

We welcome your ideas and please let us know if you would like to schedule a site visit with Assistant Shellfish Constable for Propagation Johnny Clam Mankevetch to further discuss and place buoys to lay out our cultching plans and activities. We are committed to providing nursery substrate to enhance Wellfleet Harbor's wild oyster populations, which also creates benthic habitat for a multitude of species and improves our water quality.

Sincerely,



Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable



Johnny Clam Mankevetch
Assistant Constable for Propagation