



TOWN OF WELFLEET

300 MAIN STREET WELFLEET MASSACHUSETTS 02667

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May 8, 2024

Amanda Meli
Grant Coordinator
Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries
836 S. Rodney French Blvd.
New Bedford, MA 02744

Re: REQUEST FOR RESPONSE # 24029: Climate Change Resilience in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Grants for providing community ice.

Dear Amanda:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal to provide our community with ice. The Town of Wellfleet is investing in ice machines to ensure that there is enough easily accessible ice for shellfish harvesters to comply with Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries' (MADMF) Vibrio Control Plan, which runs from May 19 to October 19, each year. Ice has been shown to slow the growth of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp), a bacteria that can cause gastrointestinal illness and more. Shellfish harvesters have great pride in their product and care deeply about providing the best oysters for their markets. They work in painstaking detail to adhere to the requirements of the plan to protect their customers and the general public. At today's vibrio training held by MADMF in Eastham, shellfish growers spoke out about how procuring ice is already a hardship for them.

The commercial shellfishing industry in the Town of Wellfleet brings in more than \$10M annually and supports 300 wild harvesters, family farmers and employees. We are the oldest and largest aquaculture town and also have one of the only year-round wild oyster fisheries in the Commonwealth. Close to 100 shellfishermen depend on wild oyster populations to make their living. Shellfishing is the town's number one year-round industry, functioning as both the economic engine and the cultural identity of our community. The addition of these ice machines will help our industry and community.

The Town of Wellfleet has purchased one ice machine already and is in the process of locating funds for a second (proposal already submitted to Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources [MDAR]). In this way, we will always have one operational, even when one is being cleaned or serviced. This will also ensure that we have ample supplies.

What we are currently missing is the ice machine installation, including electrical upgrades and connections, water connections, and the housing needed to protect them. Fulfilling these is our intention with the application for the MADMF ice machine grant. These ice machines are important pieces of infrastructure and will not only provide a convenient and needed element for shellfishermen's harvest plans but will also go a long way toward protecting consumers, as well.

Evaluation Criteria

Relevancy (50%)

1. Show the location of the proposed ice machine(s). Include a map if necessary.
 - a. Currently, the Town is evaluating the best location to situate the ice machines. In its current planning, the Town is proposing to locate them at 35 Kendrick Ave. in Wellfleet. Other potential options are the Town Marina or another parcel of town-owned land. Our application estimates costs associated with 35 Kendrick. See two attached maps.
2. Describe the estimated number of aquaculture operations and estimated number of commercial fishers and their proximity to the proposed ice machine location.
 - a. There are 228 commercially permitted shellfish harvesters and farmers in Wellfleet in 2024. This is a consistent number year-in and year-out. Represented herein, Wellfleet has approximately 120 family farms, 162 shellfish aquaculture grants and 139 grant holders farming 213 acres.
 - b. In the attached birds eye view map, you will see grants outlined in light blue. There are close to 40 farms (more than 70 grants) and 44 growers operating in the area immediately adjacent to the ice machine location – or that use the boat ramp at the marina to access their farms on Egg Island (approx. 25 farms of the 40 above).
3. Comment if all growers and commercial fishers described here will have access to use the proposed ice machine(s).
 - a. All growers and commercial shellfishermen in Wellfleet will have access to use the ice machines.
4. Comment if any others (non-aquaculture growers or non-commercial fishers) will have access to the proposed ice machine(s).
 - a. We are planning on having this be a public ice machine serving other seafood harvesters, such as commercial lobster boats and scallopers, charter boat fishermen, recreational seafood harvesters, and other members of the public, if available.
5. Describe the ice production during different times of the year and how the proposed ice machine's capabilities will fulfill aquaculture and commercial fishing needs.
 - a. The ice machines will be in service during the state's vibrio control plan season from mid-May to mid-October each year. We are unsure if they will remain in service during the winter months when ice is not required for oysters, but we are still determining this through discussions with the town's Shellfish Advisory Board. In the six months of the vibrio control plan season, the ice machines will be at peak production in order to fulfill

the icing requirements that all oyster harvesters, whether growers or wild harvesters, need to meet.

The state updated its vibrio control plan in 2024 so that oysters, or bags thereof, be “continuously and completely covered” with ice within two hours of exposure. This is less prescriptive than it was in the past, however, the fact that MADMF updated its regulations to specify exactly the ice conditions required by the plan shows how seriously they (and the Mass. Dept. of Public Health) take the Vibrio Control Plan to ensure consumer safety. There are various scenarios in which Vibrio illnesses traced back to a single growing area in Wellfleet Harbor could shut down the town’s entire shellfishing industry for seven to 21 days. This would be devastating to shellfish harvesters during the busy summer season.

6. Describe the need for ice at this location compared to other ice sources nearby.
 - a. While some Wellfleet growers have ice machines at their homes or shops, we believe that most harvesters currently have to rely on dealers for ice. During the peak of summer tourist traffic, this often entails driving 1-1.5 hours roundtrip, additional transit time for shellfishermen, and the ice.

7. Provide information on the energy efficiency of the proposed solution.
 - a. The Town has already purchased one low ambient control five-ton ice machine to allow it to work in colder temperatures when ice is still necessary to protect the daily harvest of shellfish. Having a central location for those in the industry to acquire ice means there will be less vehicular traffic to adjoining communities, such as Chatham and Provincetown, and thus less gasoline used to procure ice daily. This seems to meet the intention of the Massachusetts Executive Order No. 515: Establishing an environmental purchasing policy.
 - b. We will use spray foam insulation, which is part of the state’s Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) Procurement Program.

Execution (50%)

1. Provide a detailed budget showing the cost of the ice machine(s) and the associated costs to install the ice machine(s).

Description	Amount	Quantity	Total Costs
20 ft. storage container	\$3,900	2	\$7,800
Spray foam insulation of containers	\$3,400	2	\$6,800
Three-phase electrical estimate			\$31,500
Water connection			\$11,425
TOTAL			\$57,525

2. Assert that there is permission from the land or facility owner to install the proposed ice machine(s); if this is not applicable, state this.
 - a. The Town of Wellfleet owns the properties where it is looking to situate the ice machines.

3. Provide a timeline showing the installation will be complete within a 12-month period.
 - a. It is anticipated that at least one ice machine and all accessories will be up and running by the end of August, or at the very latest, before the close of the vibrio control plan, October 19, 2024.
 - i. The first ice machine has already been purchased and delivery is expected in mid-July.
 - ii. Pending the outcome of this grant, the Town will immediately move forward with electrical and water service connection procurements.
 - iii. Once the ice machine has been delivered and pending the outcome of this grant, storage containers and insulation services will be contracted.
 - iv. If funded through MDAR, the second ice machine will arrive in approximately four months from the date of the award.
 - v. At that point, installation of the second ice machine will begin.
 - vi. Our plan is to have both ice machines operational this season.

4. Describe how growers and commercial fishers will access the ice machine, the proposed fee schedule, and how those fees will be used.
 - a. Growers and commercial harvesters will access the ice machines by driving their trucks up, so the ice is easy to dispense or load into their xactic coolers, etc. We are in the process of determining fees. The Town is conducting a survey of other municipalities' ice charges to fishermen and the public and will determine its fee structure accordingly. We are happy to collaborate with the state on setting the most reasonable costs. The fees will go into the General Fund of the Town's operating expenses.

To measure our performance, we will keep a yearly tally of all the shellfish growers, wild oyster harvesters, other commercial seafood harvesters, charter businesses and recreational seafood harvesters, who use the ice machine services. Thank you for your consideration of our proposal. We agree to the Commonwealth's Terms and Conditions.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Guerino, Town Administrator



Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable