

annual report



town of  
**Wellfleet**  
massachusetts 2008

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## BOARD

## SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Shellfish Advisory Board met 13 times in 2008, including site visits. John Duane, formerly an alternate, became a regular member and we welcomed a new, regular member, Rebecca Taylor to our committee.

We worked successfully with other agencies on matters assigned to us by the Selectboard or that came to our attention and which impact the fishery, making recommendations as well as drafting new language for regulations.

Most notably, working with the Constable and the Division of Marine Fisheries, we drafted an historic new regulation that would permit the harvest of aquaculturally grown oysters under 3" in length, under certain circumstances, with a special permit. The Selectboard voted to approve it on October 28th.

At the request of the Selectboard we spent many hours working on the Beach Regulations that deal with the problems of animal waste on the Town's beaches and landings, in collaboration with the Animal Control Office, the National Park Service, the Health/Conservation Agent, the Beach Administrator and a number of dogs. We submitted them to the Beach Administrator and the Selectboard on November 28th.

In response to a memo from the Health/Conservation Agent regarding aquaculture debris, we drafted an amendment to 10.1.10 of the Shellfishing Regulations which was passed by the Selectboard on February 26th.

We researched horseshoe crabs and discussed the need for their sustainable harvest. We met with Brenda Boleyn of the Committee for the Preservation of Horseshoe Crabs and Robert Prescott from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, to learn more. Mass. Audubon has begun a three year study of the crabs in Wellfleet harbor to establish baseline data. Following these meetings, we drafted a letter to the Department of Marine Fisheries, requesting a moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs in Wellfleet waters until the population status of the species can be assessed.

After some comparative research and discussion, we voted to raise the Town's shellfish license fees and drafted some related requirements, at the request of the Selectboard. They voted to raise the fees for the first time in 23 years, on May 27th.

The committee, the Constable and the Health /Conservation Agent met several times with some members of the shellfishing community who use vehicle access to Chipman's Cove from both Indian Neck and Old Pier Road, regarding the recent degradation of those areas. A plan was developed to improve the situation, which is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Department.