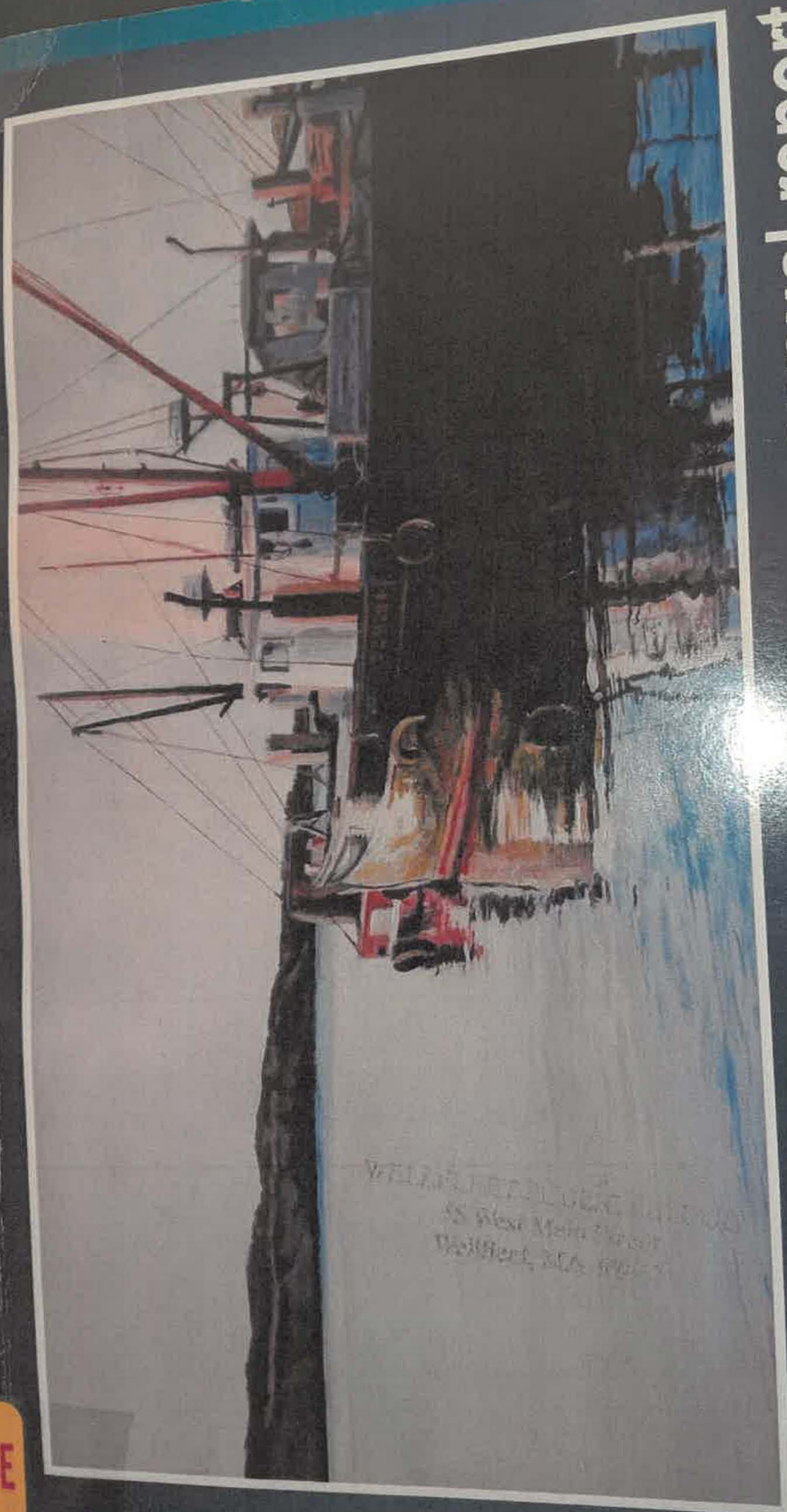


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WELLFLEET MARINA  
45 West Main Street  
Wellfleet, MA 01987

annual report  
2009

Wellfleet

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission is charged with the protection of wetlands under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Wellfleet Environmental Protection By-law. It also has the responsibility of managing town-owned lands used for conservation and recreation. The commission consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a term of three years.

The WPA prohibits any filling, excavation, dredging or other alteration of any wetland areas, including vegetated wetlands, floodplains and riverfront areas. In addition to these, the Act also protects banks, dunes, beaches, vernal pools, and land under designated waters.

Why is this important? Over half of this country's original wetland acreage has been lost. The cost of this loss in degraded water quality, increased storm damage, and depleted fish, wildlife and plant populations has been well documented. Directly or indirectly, wetlands are often sources of public or private drinking water supplies. Moreover, floodplains provide storage for floodwaters; any alteration of the land that reduces this storage capacity will displace floodwaters and cause greater flooding elsewhere. Beaches and dunes are dynamic systems that are continually shifting; in addition to preventing storm damage, coastal banks and dunes can naturally replenish beaches the same as truckloads of sand, but at much less cost.

Addressing applications for projects within these natural resource areas and buffer zones, the Commission held 224 hearings including hearings for Notices of Intent, Requests for Determination of Applicability, Amended Order of Conditions, Extension to Order of Conditions, Certificates of Compliance, Jurisdictional Opinions, shellfish grant access permits and Conservation Restrictions.

This year the Commission continued the ongoing assessment of the bay side beaches with the Woods Hole Group to evaluate renourishment options, sand drift patterns, dredging opportunities, and obstacles to overcome prior to any actions. This project has taken a bit longer than expected to reach completion however, We are hoping to have a draft report available during the upcoming year.

In June, notification was received from the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment that the grant application submitted was approved for the amount of \$35,000.00 to conduct a salt marsh restoration feasibility study in Mayo Creek. We eagerly await the results of the modeling to assess whether a restoration is

ATE, AS

DOGS

p Clinic - 1

g Check - 4

Owner - 21

al Calls - 39

antines - 12

ections - 15

ransport - 1

m Calls - 1

ish Calls - 3

deal Calls - 5

hin Calls - 4

& Killed - 4

s (Other) - 3

ck Calls - 11

rel Calls - 3

obbit Calls - 6

orse Calls - 2

at Calls - 12

on Calls - 14

ox Calls - 26

yote Calls - 4

urtle Calls - 5

nake Calls - 4

Bee Calls - 2

us Calls - 779

possible at this site. We also continue to monitor the progress of the Herring River Restoration Committee and see this as a very unique opportunity to restore many acres of salt marsh.

In an effort to further protect resource areas from unnecessary destruction the Commission along with support staff created vehicle access maps for the shellfishing community. Several maps were created and mailed to all commercial shellfishermen and grant holders. We continue to struggle with this issue and will try varying solutions during the upcoming year.

We wish to again offer thanks to the many individuals and organizations who support our goals and for the energy and resources of AmeriCorps and the Wellfleet Conservation Trust in assisting us with development of our town conservation lands and trails.

The Commission welcomed new members Lauren McKean, Edward Simpson, and Trudy Vermehren who bring great expertise and experience to our board.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia (Ginie) Page, Co-Chair  
Terry Gips, Co-Chair