



MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2019

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- The state Division of Marine Fisheries allowed us to extend the bay scallop season for 14 extra days through April 15, 2019. This enabled at least one fisherman to significantly increase his landings for the year due to the abundance of the resource.
- Duck Creek and Chipman's Cove closed to shellfishing on April 30.
- This was the Noah's ark of shellfishing month because oysters have not yet started to grow much, and we are still dealing with the winter's ice aftermath, so there was not a lot of legal-sized product. Therefore, fishing effort was spread out in all areas from Lt. Island to the Herring River with fishermen coming two-by-two to each area.
- Boat activity has been on the increase with significant daily landings of oysters and blood clams.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 184 bushels of oysters, 21 bushels of quahogs, 10 bushels of bay scallops and 41 bushels of blood clams landed as tracked on commercial patrol.
- So far, for 2019, we have sold 349 recreational permits, totaling \$19,550. By category: 129 resident, 181 senior resident and 39 non-resident.
- We estimate that more than 9 bushels of oysters and 7 bushels of quahogs were harvested by recreational harvesters this month.

Enforcement

- A few fishermen have expressed concern about the blood clam resource and wondered if we should look at reducing daily limits. We will bring this issue to Shellfish Advisory Board.
- A commercially-permitted fisherman was with his daughter, who had a recreational permit, in the Indian Neck recreational only area. He said he was teaching her. We made him put his basket and rake back in his vehicle.
- We gave verbal warnings to a boat owner about proper tagging, conch regulations, and shellfish storage and delivery.
- We found three commercial fishermen in the recreational only area at Burton Baker Beach and made them throw their catch back and move south.
- We educated two commercial fishermen about proper fishing etiquette regarding other fishermen in the same area.
- We gave a verbal warning to a fisherman who was over his limit in Chipman's Cove.
- We pulled a fisherman's truck out of the sand at the Herring River.

State and Town Relations

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta worked with the Select Board and Town Administrator toward the potential town purchase of the HDYLTA Trust intertidal bottom, creating many detailed documents and participating in meetings to educate the public prior to Town Meeting, such as a Community Forum and a meeting with a member of the Field Point Neighborhood Assn.
- Civetta attended two executive session meetings with the Selectboard regarding the HDYLTA Trust intertidal land purchase.
- Civetta attended two Shellfish Advisory Board meetings.
- Civetta and Asst. Constable John Mankevetch attended the Northeast Shellfish Sanitation Association conference in Plymouth

- They also held a meeting with staff from Barnstable County Extension, Woods Hole Sea Grant and the Center for Coastal Studies on potential scientific collaborations.
- Civetta and Mankevetch presented a grant application to Wellfleet SPAT for financial support for the department's propagation efforts.
- We worked with the Health and Conservation Department on an Americorps application for an Individual Placement member for the 2019-2020 season.

Propagation

- We took delivery of our new cultch barge from Bay Sails Marine and launched it on April 16. We are grateful to the DPW for all its help getting the spreader onto the barge and making test runs.
- The department updated its draft propagation plan and worked with the Conservation Agent, the Conservation Commission and the National Seashore on its cultching plans for 2019.
- Civetta and Mankevetch presented the department's propagation plan to Shellfish Advisory Board and solicited feedback on siting of potential rotational closed areas for draggers.
- We hosted an AmeriCorps day where they cleaned and painted our boat and helped with other propagation projects with the new barge and making oyster grow bags.
- We brought the boat to Bay Sails for maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable