



Town Shellfish Crier
January 21, 2024

1. WSD Budget Review at the Finance Committee, January 24, 2024, at 7 p.m. via Zoom

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department will be presenting its Fiscal Year 2025 department budget for review at the Finance Committee virtual meeting this Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Please note that this is a virtual only meeting. You can find the meeting agenda on the town website [here](#). The WSD proposed FY25 budget can be viewed [here](#). You can join the Zoom Meeting by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87099225098?pwd=STBaeEFOZy84QWR6aFRxY3FjbURQZz09>

2. A Message from Wellfleet Oyster Alliance (formerly SPAT)

The Wellfleet Oyster Alliance (formerly SPAT) is hosting a workshop **TOMORROW, Monday, January 22, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Wellfleet Adult Community Center** about the future of the 'Fest. They have been reaching out directly to individuals and groups whom they see as key stakeholders, and they want to make sure that they don't miss out on folks they may not have reached. So, we're sharing this information here in case you would like to join them. The interactive gathering will be facilitated by Sky Freyss-Cole. They will be sharing some of the information from their end on what it takes to put on the 'Fest and what some of the outputs are. Then, they will move into workshop mode to generate ideas and share perspectives. They are looking for collaborators and problem solvers to share their local wisdom and insights. To make sure there is a seat and enough food for all who attend, they are asking folks to register here: <http://tinyurl.com/6w634wn6>. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to WOA at: vendors@wellfleetspat.org

3. Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Article on Quahog Neoplasia

In the January 2024 issue of the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension's Newsletter, an article explores how growers of quahogs (AKA hard clams) in Wellfleet have struggled with mortality in their crop due to a disease called hemocytic neoplasia. While the disease poses no threat to consumers of shellfish, it is a unique challenge and poorly understood. Woods Hole Sea Grant's magazine, *Oceanus*, recently published a story on current local research efforts on this topic, you can read it [here](#).

4. SeafoodWatch Bay Scallop Assessment

SeafoodWatch (from the Monterey Bay Aquarium) has developed a draft assessment for bay scallops landed in Mass. and N.Y. They are soliciting public comment; deadline is February 5, 2024. If you are interested in learning more about the program and seeing why a "yellow" label is proposed, click [this link](#) to read the draft assessment. The summary is on pages 5-7. If you would like to provide public comment, you can access that [here](#). The Wellfleet Shellfish Department has reached out to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries

and the Mass. Shellfish Officer's Association to explore providing public comment. Please share your thoughts with us to inform our efforts.

5. Grant Holder Reminders

- a. You are required to purchase a commercial shellfishing permit by January 31, 2024. You can do that Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at our office at the Pier, or online [here](#).
- b. Overwintering agreements were due on January 15. We understand that gear removal operations are ongoing, but please make sure we have a form from you outlining what you have on your grant currently. You can advise us when you are finished, and we will update your form. You do need to submit it to be in compliance with the regulations. We have copies of the form in our office, or you can download it [here](#). Thank you for your understanding.
- c. 2024 grant fees and 2023 grant reports are due February 28, 2024. You can take care of this in person at our offices at the pier, Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 617-901-7193 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

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