



Town Shellfish Crier
February 11, 2024

1. Shellfish Department meeting this Tuesday, February 13, at 11 a.m. at the Shellfish Department office at the pier

The Shellfish Department will hold an in-person meeting for all commercial shellfishermen at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, at the Adult Community Center to discuss driving at Chipman's Cove. The Conservation Commission will take this up at its February 21 meeting at 4 p.m. Meeting materials for that meeting have been uploaded [here](#). More will be posted as they become available, so keep checking the link. The WSD would like to hear your thoughts and ideas in the hopes we can find some consensus as a group to bring to the Conservation Commission regarding driving at Chipman's Cove.

2. Reminder: Please tag your gear

We noticed untagged gear during our summer grant inspections and our more recent overwintering inspections. This is a little reminder that while your gear is out of the water and on these negative tides for gear left out is a great time to please tag your gear.

3. Wellfleet spearheads comment letter from Mass. Shellfish Officers Association against proposed Yellow rating for Mass. bay scallops

Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch is proposing a Yellow rating for Massachusetts bay scallops. Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta reached out to the Mass. Shellfish Officers' Assn. to propose sending in a comment letter opposing this. She worked with Shellfish Constables from Chatham, Oak Bluffs, and Nantucket among others, to write and submit a comment letter calling for a Green rating. It was submitted before the comment deadline. Read the letter [here](#).

4. MADMF regulation revisions coming this spring

The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries has published some revisions to its regulations that are scheduled to take effect this spring. See the memo regarding shellfishing changes [here](#). The proposed shellfish changes are [here](#), on pages 40-46. The highlights are: changes to tagging that will now require sub-area numbers to be used (see map as part of the memo link above that uses Wellfleet Harbor as an example), a new description of required ice necessary for vibrio compliance to now be "continuous" without any ice gaps between bags or oysters, and a more specific regulation added to prohibit the harvest of shellfish before a half hour before sunrise and after a half hour after sunset.

DMF will accept written comment on these proposals through 5 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024. Written comment should be submitted by e-mail to marine.fish@mass.gov and addressed to the attention of Director McKiernan. In addition, DMF will host an in-person public hearing on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at Admiral's Hall at Mass. Maritime Academy, 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay. Agenda timeline is:

5 p.m. – 6 p.m.: Horseshoe crabs

6 p.m – 7 p.m: Whelk, summer flounder, groundfish, smooth dogfish

7 p.m – 8 p.m: Striped bass, menhaden, mackerel

8 p.m – 9 p.m: Shellfish and permitting.

5. Shellfish Department 2023 Annual Report

The Shellfish Department submitted its annual report to the Town last Friday. It should be posted on our website on Monday. If you would like to read about the Shellfish Department's activities in 2023, click [here](#) to view the report.

6. Shellfish Advisory Board hybrid meeting, Thurs., Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Adult Community Center and on Zoom

Agenda:

Announcements and Public Comment

Review Minutes

Town Ice Machine

Draft letter re: Communications with Select Board

Letter from Finance Committee

Review/discuss Town Counsel's legal determination regarding Shellfish Department reorganization process (continued from last meeting)

Shellfish Department FY2025 Budget

Shellfish Department Capital Improvement Plan

Shellfish Revolving Fund

Future Topics

Meeting materials will be posted by 4 p.m. on Tuesday [here](#).

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94214261094?pwd=NW5FbVFCUTZZVzZaUldydjNMZ1lYZz09>

Meeting ID: 942 1426 1094 ~ Passcode: 136251 ~ Phone: 929 205 6099

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!

Nancy Civetta

John Mankevetch

Chris Manulla

Shellfish Constable

Assistant Shellfish Constable

Deputy Shellfish Constable

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