



Town Shellfish Crier
February 15, 2024

1. Summary of Shellfish Department meeting about driving at Chipman's Cove

The Shellfish Department held an in-person meeting for commercial shellfishermen on Tuesday this week to discuss driving at Chipman's Cove. The Conservation Commission will take this up at its February 21 meeting at 4 p.m. (*But, stay tuned as this may change due to low tide.*) Meeting materials for that meeting have been uploaded [here](#). More will be posted as they become available, so keep checking the link. Tim Hughes, Adrien Kmiec, Nick Krsmanovic, Shea and Lek Murphy, Becca Taylor and Melissa Yow attended. Please speak with them for more details, but here is a summary of what this group thought could be the main messages to communicate clearly, respectfully and concisely to the Conservation Commission.

- This is a decision for our community and what we want it to look like. This is not us against them.
- Shellfishermen fully recognize the importance of the ecosystem and do take care of the environment.
- The ongoing loss of access experienced by shellfishermen is real.
- Reducing access has the unintended consequence of cutting people out of the industry.
- Old Pier Rd. is a town landing.
- Access to the left is necessary due to safety concerns with the mud.
- This access is important to people's livelihoods in the winter when no other jobs are available.
- Grasses are dormant when the Cove is open (Nov-Apr).
- We need to find a balance between people and the environment.
- This area is and has always been multiple use, and as such, there are multiple impacts, including walking paths with grasses bordering both sides.
- We are amenable to snow fences or posts with strings delineating access routes.
- We are amenable to signing an affidavit for driving on the beach when we get our annual commercial shellfishing permits.
- Before we initiate new changes, we should adhere to the original agreement from 2008/2009 (including no driving to the right), and the Shellfish Department should enforce it. We should have a third party like the County monitor any changes for a period of 5-10 years.

- In the Climate Report, it stated that the Town should be finding ways to help shellfishermen adapt. With the addition of a Town Planner to staff, the time is right to begin that stated work.

2. Grant Holder Reminders:

- **Please tag your gear.**
We noticed untagged gear during our summer grant inspections and our more recent overwintering inspections. This is a reminder to please tag all gear that has been left out on grants for the winter, as well as all gear that is currently out of the water before you move it back to onto your grants. Thank you!
- **2024 Grant Fees and 2023 Annual Grant Reports are due in eight business days.**
Grant fees and annual reports are due on February 28. You can bring them to the Shellfish Dept. office at the pier or to the Principal Clerk in Town Hall.

3. Shellfish Advisory Board hybrid meeting, tonight at 6 p.m. at the Adult Community Center and on Zoom

Yesterday, the SAB added the following agenda item this meeting:

- **Discussion re: Conservation Commission review of Chipman's Cove access, draft letter to Conservation Commission**

Meeting materials can be found [here](#).

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

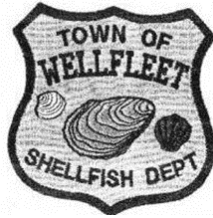
Future Topics

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!



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