



MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Chipman's Cove has been busy with both commercial and recreational harvesters for oysters and quahogs. We have focused our propagation efforts here, and people are very excited about how good it is.
- Boats continue to bring in oysters, bay scallops, blood clams and quahogs. Bay scallop meats have increased, returning a better price to fishermen.
- Recreational catches as tracked on commercial patrol were documented as more than 16 bushels of oysters and 4 bushels of quahogs. It was a Happy Thanksgiving!
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is 208 bushels of oysters and 59 bushels of quahogs as tracked on commercial patrol.
- Shellfish harvesting was closed on Thanksgiving Day because the temperature was below 28 degrees. This is because when it gets that cold shellfish can be damaged during harvest and die. We put the ball up at the pier, posted it to our public Facebook page, put it on our outgoing office voicemail message and sent emails to commercial and recreational harvesters, as well as grant holders and employees.

Enforcement

- Grant inspections continued and overwintering agreements have been coming in.
- We have been doing spot limit checks on commercial harvesters to make sure we understand different types of harvest bags in relation to our bushel basket limit.
- We gave three verbal warnings about tags to commercial harvesters, and we have been educating them about going directly to market.
- We received one complaint about a boat fishing north of the no drag line. We conducted a boarding and issued a verbal warning. We followed up with an educational email including maps with points and lines outlining the area.
- Thanksgiving week brought many recreational harvesters to the flats all over town.
 - Verbal warnings were given to two recreational permit holders for being over limit in Chipman's Cove. We made them put some clams back.
 - A few verbal seed warnings with education and confiscations returning product to the flats were given to recreational permit holders.
 - One warning was given to someone who did not have permit on them. We were able to verify that the person was a permit holder by checking our database from our phone.
 - Spoke with another recreational permit holder about how only *he* could harvest shellfish, not the person with him who was way far away from him on Lt. Island South.
 - One person was stopped from shellfishing on Lt. Island West without a permit. He said he was a Native American, but did not have a card on him. We are following up with the EPOs about this.

State and Town Relations

- Constable Civetta spearheaded a letter writing campaign to get commercial and recreational shellfishermen to write letters to the Army Corps of Engineers explaining why it was so important that Wellfleet Harbor get dredged. More than 110 letters were submitted. To everyone's disappointment, the ACOE did not choose Wellfleet for 2019 dredging funds.
- Civetta attended a Wellfleet SPAT meeting for shellfishermen where it explained the results from its marketing research project. Key information was shared that could help in business planning, but not many attended, so Civetta suggested holding it again in the winter months. She will continue to work with SPAT on marketing efforts.
- Civetta presented at the annual State of the Harbor conference on November 3. She went over the accomplishments of the Shellfish Dept. under her tenure and gave a look ahead to what will be happening in the future. Asst. Constable Johnny Mankevetch participated in the Question and Answer section.
- Civetta met with Health and Conservation Agent Hillary Greenberg about the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grant.
- Civetta met with the Beach Director Suzanne Grout about eligibility criteria for mobile home owners for resident beach and shellfish permits. We decided that the new Sticker Tracker system will provide better data, and staff will refer to the mobile home lists to ensure that resident permits and stickers are sold only to those who are eligible. We will reach out to the three property owners with a communication to pass along to the mobile home owners.
- Constable Civetta attended a SelectBoard meeting for a grant transfer and discussion of the old Shellfish Shack.
- Our trucks continue to break down or have been subject to recalls, and we have been forced to do patrol in our own vehicles while they are in the shop.

Propagation

- We received our first three loads of sea clam shells, which will overwinter at the transfer station and be used for cultch around the harbor in late spring.
- Bay Sails Marine received delivery of our two new barge pontoons and Mankevetch began sanding and painting them.
- The department continues to receive large donations of legal size oysters from grant holders, which we are placing in Chipman's Cove.
- We have moved many oysters that are legal-size (3 inches) as well as predator-resistant size oysters from our propagation bed to Chipman's Cove.
- We have begun moving aquaculture gear from our propagation bed to the sand pit.

Education & Outreach

- Constable Civetta did a radio interview on the Sports Hub 98.5 FM for a podcast called "[Sports Hub Grub: Talking Oysters.](#)"
- Asst. Constable Mankevetch gave a talk for an Audubon program with students from Penn State University as part of an "Adventure Literature" program about the importance of the shellfishing industry in the past and today.
- One commercial and one recreational Shellfish Crier were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable