



MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- On October 1, all areas south of the breakwater opened to recreational fishing 7 days/week.
- Also on October 1, bay scallop season opened for commercial harvest.
- On October 28, Chipman's Cove opened to both commercial and recreational harvest.
- The state preemptively closed shellfishing in Mass. from sunset on Oct. 11 to sunrise on Oct. 13. The department communicated with commercial and recreational harvesters via email and text messages, as well as on our website, Facebook page and by putting the ball at the pier up.
- The vibrio control plan season ended on October 19. To date, we have not had any single source cases of vibrio traced back to Wellfleet, although the state has identified some multi-source cases (oysters from different areas on the same plate), and we are awaiting more details. We are appreciative of all the hard work shellfishermen did to comply with the plan and bring the coldest, freshest, best quality oysters to market.
- Boats have been having good lucrative days on the water getting great mixes of oysters, bay scallops, blood clams and quahogs.
- Recreational catches as tracked on commercial patrol were documented as more than: 11 bushels of oysters, 2.5 bushels of quahogs and a half a bushel of razor clams.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is 23 bushels of quahogs and 172.5 bushels of oysters.
- On Oct. 4, a shellfisherman who was fishing for bluefish in a boat near the jetty reported he saw a 7-foot great white shark breach.

Enforcement

- Through boat patrol boardings during bay scallop season, we have learned that the meats started small, but began plumping up toward the end of the month.
- We received a complaint about an Eastham commercial vessel fishing over the Wellfleet line. By the time we arrived, it had moved well south.
- One verbal seed warning and a verbal tagging warning was given to commercial handpickers.
- Grant inspections continued, but we are running behind due to the fact that we "lost" Assistant Constable Johnny "Clam" Mankevetch to propagation activities this year and due to the rigors of vibrio patrol from mid-May through mid-October.
- Two recreational fishermen were given verbal warnings and made to dump all catch back at Old Wharf Road because they had already taken their limits earlier in the week. They were instructed that the new week begins on Sunday. Later in the month, these same two were found with their truck on the beach at Chipman's Cove on the Indian Neck side. They were instructed that only commercial permit holders are allowed to drive on the beach.
- A few verbal seed warnings and one warning to someone who had too many people "helping" were given to recreational permit holders.
- Two people were stopped while shellfishing without a license. Catch was confiscated, and they were told they could buy go a permit. They did. Catch was inspected, seed returned and rest of catch given to new permit holder with a lecture and a tour of fishing areas.

State and Town Relations

- Constable Civetta attended a lunch and gave a grant tour for Senators Cyr and Tarr and a delegation from Barnstable County Extension as part of the county's effort to thank them for their support of the important aquaculture work the extensions provide.
- Barbara Brennessel and John Portnoy concluded a first year spat on shell study in Chipman's Cove. Conclusions: A total of 8 spat were observed on 140 shells. Not more than one spat was ever observed per shell. No spat were observed on shells deployed after Sept. 13.
- We applied for a Community Preservation Act grant to buy oyster and clam seed, relay quahogs and oyster measuring rings to be given out for free to support recreational shellfishing.
- Constable Civetta met with the Beach Dept. Director and a vendor for a new permitting system.
- Constable Civetta met with Animal Control Officer and Beach Dept. Director about dogs on bay beaches enforcement of no dog rule moving forward.
- Constable Civetta attended a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting.
- Constable Civetta attended SelectBoard meetings for a grant transfer and permit fee reviews.

Propagation

- Our Individual Placement Americorps member, Adrienne Tardiff, began working with us every Tuesday to help with our propagation efforts and other activities. She is amazing!
- Assistant Constable Johnny "Clam" had an idea to ask grant holders who collected wild oyster seed in Chipman's Cove to donate some to the shellfish dept., and it was a great success. A dozen fishermen have donated more than 150,000 juvenile oysters for our propagation efforts – and a couple have donated close to 100 bushels of legal size oysters they could not store or sell. It shows the good will of our community toward our efforts! Check out our [Facebook page!](#)
- With the generous assistance of the DPW, our old cultch barge was decommissioned and scrapped. We are grateful for their assistance, which saved us considerable expense.
- On October 12, we held an Americorps Project Day with 12 members, who dug up 26 bushels of our relay quahogs and moved them to Indian Neck recreational area in the pouring rain and wind. Kudos to them for a job done like true shellfishermen!
- Buddy Paine donated many oyster bags to the department, which we have stored at the pit.
- We planted 47,000 oysters and 95,000 clams on our propagation bed. The oysters will be overwintered in our pits at the Transfer Station.
- We began moving June oyster seed to Chipman's Cove because most of it is between 2-3 inches already. We also dumped legal size oysters donated by grant holders into Chipman's Cove.

Education & Outreach

- Asst. Constable Johnny Mankevetch gave another talk to Advanced Placement Environmental Science students from Nauset Regional High School who are conducting an oyster growth study.
- The department participated in the annual Wellfleet OysterFest: Constable Civetta produced the Shuck Off contest, Asst. Constable Johnny "Clam" conducted a tour on the flats both days for a hundred people, and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla played with his band Sacred Mounds.
- Asst. Constable Johnny "Clam" gave a talk for Wellfleet Open University about the importance of the shellfishing industry in the past and today.
- The Shellfish and Harbormasters Departments hosted a two-day Fishing Partnership Support Services Safety and Survival training for commercial fishermen. Many local fishermen attended.
- One commercial and one recreational Shellfish Crier were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable