



## **MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- The Town has provided an immense value to residents and visitors alike with its recreational shellfishing program:
- The seasonal recreational fishery closed on September 30. It opened on June 1. In four months, approximately **200 bushels of oysters** (about 80,000 pieces), **50 bushels of quahogs** and a few bushels of steamers and razor clams combined were harvested by recreational fishermen.
- The retail value of 80,000 oysters is conservatively between **\$140,000 (~\$1.75/ea. at a seafood market) and \$200,000 (~\$2.50/ea. at a restaurant)**.
- A total of **1,237 recreational users** were tracked during the June-September time period, when shellfishing was allowed on Sundays and Wednesdays only at the Indian Neck recreational area.
- So far for 2018, a total of **683 annual recreational permits** have been sold, totaling **\$31,450**, and **158 seasonal recreational permits** were sold, totaling **\$10,425**.
- A handful of boats are doing well with quahogs, blood clams and oysters.
- There has been much consistent effort by commercial hand pickers inshore of the grants on Indian Neck, which the department has well documented over the course of the past year or more. It is a bountiful area for oysters, quahogs and steamers.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is 13 bushels of quahogs and 60 bushels of oysters.

### **Enforcement**

- We received two complaints about a commercial fishing vessel left in Chipman's Cove all summer that became a favorite spot for cormorants. People were worried about the amount of fecal matter going into the cove during all the heavy rains we had. We advised the health agent and harbormaster. The boat left Wellfleet Harbor before the end of the month.
- We continue to receive complaints about dogs on bay beaches where shellfish is harvested. Constable Civetta reached out to Beach Dept. Head and Animal Control Officer about meeting.
- Spot seed checks on wild harvesters continue with no infractions.
- Verbal warnings were given to a few fishermen about proper tagging requirements.
- The department continued monitoring implementation of vibrio protocols on oyster draggers with mixed results. Ongoing efforts are being made for compliance. A boat meeting will be held next spring before vibrio season begins to establish ground rules and consequences.
- The department moderated a dispute between a dragger and grant lease holder about grant boundaries and buffer zones for a mooring and helped resolve the conflict.
- The Constable attended Orleans District Court for a ticket appeal. The Clerk Magistrate dismissed the ticket as the shellfisherman had lost his license, suffering loss of income.
- We continued grant inspections focusing on Egg Island and deep water Indian Neck grants.
- In the recreational fishery, one verbal warning about seed was given and catch confiscated, and another person was warned for not having license with him.

## State and Town Relations

- The Constable invested significant time and effort in researching the benefits and opportunities presented by the possibility of the town purchasing 3 Kendrick Ave. She met and collaborated with other department heads in preparing talking points and a presentation for Special Town Meeting. She attended the Shellfish Advisory Board meeting and presented the 3 Kendrick purchase, which the board officially supported in a vote. She presented the opportunity at STM and answered questions from voters. The article passed with a 2/3 majority.
- Two more town employees came out on WSD patrol ride-a-longs with positive feedback and results.
- The department began a scientific collaboration with Barbara Brennessel and John Portnoy to conduct a study of sea clam shell deployed in Chipman's Cove to determine if there is a late fall set of oyster spat. We are trying to demonstrate to Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) evidence for leaving spat collecting devices in the cove until October 20.
- The DMF approved the October 20 removal date from 2018-2022 while we conduct this study.
- The Constable went on a site visit for a beach nourishment project at Pleasant Point, and spoke out against it at a Selectboard meeting.
- Constable attended SelectBoard meeting for a grant transfer.

## Propagation

- Assistant Constable John Mankevetch has been leading propagation activities four days a week, from cleaning clam nets and separating oysters into lower densities to moving 25 bushels of quahogs from Chipman's Cove to Indian Neck for the recreational fishery.
- It has been an incredible growing year for oysters: Many of the oysters we planted in June are already 3 inches, meaning when we distribute them around the harbor, they will be harvestable.
- Thanks to Mike Cicale from the transfer station, we were able to remove all the old steel from our propagation bed and inspect our "oyster pits," which were clean and in great shape.
- We began receiving oyster seed donations from grant holders who put spat collecting devices in Chipman's Cove and on their grants. We received tens of thousands of baby oysters, which we will put in our pits for the winter months. Check out our [Facebook page](#) to see photos!

## Education & Outreach

- Asst. Constable Johnny Mankevetch worked with Advanced Placement Environmental Science students from Nauset Regional High School (and advisors) who are conducting a study about oyster growth. He spoke with two classes and explained the life cycle of oysters.
- The Americorps Cape Cod Program Supervisor for came on patrol for a site visit to better understand the requirements of the project days we have put in for and the role of the Individual Placement member we are sharing with Conservation Dept.s of Wellfleet and Truro.
- We took a Mass. Shellfish Initiative fellow/DMF intern on patrol so he could learn more about Wellfleet's shellfish industry and the issues important to it.
- Constable Civetta did a brief talk about the importance of shellfishing to the town for a Wellfleet Conservation Trust nature walk.
- All three constables attended the fall Mass. Shellfish Officers Assn. meeting.
- Constable Civetta was quoted in a cover story entitled "[A Portrait of Wellfleet's Shellfishing Community](#)" in the October issue of Cape Cod Magazine, as well as in a story about changes in the seafood industry in the fall issue of [Edible Boston](#).
- Two commercial Shellfish Criers were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable