



## MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

### Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- We observed approximately 246 bushels of quahogs, 38.25 bushels of oysters and 119 bushels of blood clams harvested in the commercial fishery this month.
- The recreational fisheries had approximately 10.5 bushels of quahogs and 21 bushels of oysters harvested for the month of September.
- We are happy to report, as of the end of this month, there have been no vibrio cases from Wellfleet.
- Generally, wild commercial harvesting is down and recreational harvesting is up.

### Enforcement

- A written warning was issued to a recreational harvester for repeatedly fishing on non-designated harvest days.
- A few verbal warnings were given to recreational harvesters for having seed shellfish and exceeding limit amounts.
- A formal written complaint was filed by a shellfish grant holder against a commercial dragger who he accused of dragging over his grant.
- We received complaints about an unlicensed commercial fisherman running a boat in the harbor. The wording of regulation 8.6 allows this action to take place as long as the **owner** of the boat has valid license and a **crew member** of the boat has a valid commercial license, which was the case in this incident.
- The department continued grant inspections throughout the month. As of this posting, there are only five grants that have not undergone their annual inspection this year.
- We followed the advice of Shellfish Advisory Board and updated the overwintering regulations and agreement and communicated the details to the shellfishing community with a link to the new agreement.

### State and Town Relations

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta started looking into regulation 8.6 boat operation regulation. She went through 10 years of SAB and BOS meeting minutes, but found nothing of pertinence to complaints from the fleet about quahog blade size, ring sizes or owner/operator rules.
- Civetta worked with the health and assessors' departments on a new position for GPS mapping services for the Town, and with Shellfish Advisory and Selectboard on recreational shellfish license fee updates for veterans and town employees.
- The Department assisted the state with their monthly collection of water quality samples from around the harbor.
- Civetta collected oyster samples from three growers for disease evaluation by the County.
- Deputy Constable Chris Manulla had a meeting with an Environmental Police Officer.
- Civetta had a meeting with a landowner discussing Indian Neck and Field Point vehicle access.

- Civetta attended meetings with the Conservation Commission about boat storage at landings, Open Space Cmte about properties where we should be protecting shellfishing access, Rights of Public Access Cmte and a joint Shellfish Advisory Board/Natural Resources Advisory Board as NRAB is updating its harbor management plan.
- Civetta and Manulla attended a meeting with the Lieutenant Island Association, Mass Audubon, Jim Falcone and John Riehl regarding the southwest corner parking issues at end of Meadow Ave.
- Civetta attended an AmeriCorps meeting in preparation for the current class to assist in Department projects.
- Civetta worked with state on CARES ACT assistance for local commercial shellfishermen.
- Civetta and Assistant Constable John Mankevetch attended a Barnstable County Shellfish Officers Assn. meeting.
- Civetta presented WSD CIP truck to the Finance Committee.
- Civetta presented a \$10,000 increase in FY21 expenditure for WSD's Revolving Fund for Shellfish Propagation at ATM for COVID relief for shellfish farmers and propagation for Indian Neck Rec Only Area. It passed.

### **Propagation**

- During September, the department stocked more than 30,000 oysters in Chipman's Cove with 2019 seed we have been growing on the Town propagation bed.
- The department received a few more loads of sea clam shell for our cultching program.
- We continued our study to document the existence of a late September oyster set in the Harbor. In this study, sea clam shells were placed in Chipman's Cove as spat collectors. Samples were taken and inspected on a weekly basis for signs of an oyster set. As of this posting, no indications of a set in September have been observed over the course of the study.
- Hatchery seed was ordered for the 2021 season from County funding.
- At the beginning of the month, the Department planted 150,000 quahog seed on the town propagation bed.
- Shellfisherman Justin Lynch gave a sizable donation of oyster hat seed that was placed on the Town propagation bed to grow for future distribution in the harbor.
- The department gave samples of quahogs from the contaminated relay project areas in Chipman's Cove and the Indian Neck Rec Only Area to the state for testing. All came back clean!
- AmeriCorps did a training and project day with the Department, assisting with propagation efforts by getting oysters from our Town bed and distributing them to Chipman's Cove and Indian Neck.
- Civetta and Mankevetch met with town wastewater consultant on how shellfish might be included in the Town's Watershed Permit Application to the state.

### **Education and Public Relations**

- We distributed two commercial Criers and one recreational Crier and continued with our Welcome emails to new recreational permit holders.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable