



Town Shellfish Crier
January 11, 2021

1. Grant Holder Reminders:

a. Overwintering Agreements Due on Friday (Jan. 15)

If you are leaving any metal racks out on your grant, you need to submit an overwintering agreement to the Shellfish Department by this Friday. You are allowed to leave racks not pumped down as long as you can document being able to get them off your grant in a specific number of tides or have them pumped down to between 2-4" from the bottom **before ice comes**. Once your agreement is turned in, the Shellfish Department will come inspect, so please make sure that your agreement matches what your farm looks like. You can download the agreement [here](#) or stop by our office at the pier to pick one up. Thank you.

b. Annual Reports Due February 28

Annual grant reports for 2020 are due on February 28, as are 2021 grant fees. You can download the form [here](#) or come pick one up from our offices at the pier.

Mass. General Law, Chapter 130, Section 64 states:

"Every such licensee or transferee shall pay to the city or town, on or before a date to be fixed by the aldermen, city council or selectmen, an annual fee of not less than five nor more than twenty-five dollars **per acre, or part thereof**. If any such fee is not paid within six months after it becomes due the license shall thereupon be forfeited."

Please place your reports and fees in an envelope to the attention of Jeanne MacLauchlan in the Tax Payment mailbox behind Town Hall. You can also make an appointment with Jeanne by calling 508-349-0300 ext. 1101.

c. State Q&A about new propagation permit applications and annual report forms scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

DMF has received questions on additions to this year's shellfish aquaculture renewal forms and annual report. The additional questions on these forms are primarily in response to issues that came up during the COVID-19 CARES Relief Program, DMF reporting requirements, and NSSP requirements. In order to answer questions about additions to this year's renewal forms and annual report, DMF will be holding a virtual question and answer session on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Zoom link and call-in information is below.

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82824012722?pwd=M1VaVE5wTG1OYThJaWFISjRuMzQvQT09>

Meeting Call In Number: 1 929 436 2866

Meeting ID: 828 2401 2722

Meeting Passcode: 691866

If you have questions, please contact marine.fish@mass.gov.

2. Commercial Permits on Sale Until January 31 Only

You can buy your commercial permits online [here](#). Online sales are credit card only. PLEASE NOTE: There will be a two-business day turn-around time, so plan ahead. Jeannie Mac will be issuing permits **in person between 9 a.m. and noon on Wednesdays** at our offices at the pier. Payments in person must be made with either a check or cash. Permit applicants that did not hold a commercial shellfishing permit in 2020 or are not listed on the 2020 census will still have at least a two-day turn-around time even if they apply in person, so that we can make sure they meet the domicile requirement. If not doing online, you can download the application [here](#).

Town permits will be on sale through January 31, 2021 ONLY. Permits are valid January 1 – December 31, 2021. You currently need a 2021 Town commercial shellfishing permit in order to harvest shellfish. Beginning Feb. 1, you will also need a valid 2021 state commercial shellfishing permit and seller's card to go to market.

Applicants who did not hold a commercial shellfishing permit in 2020 will be required to attend an orientation, which will be arranged individually respecting COVID-19 protocols.

3. Watch Recent Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting and Herring River Study Presentations

You can tune in [here](#) to listen to last week's Shellfish Advisory Board meeting. The beginning is a presentation from the Woods Hole Group about its recent Herring River expanded sediment study conducted last year followed a little later by details about a newly funded Herring River sediment study that the Center for Coastal Studies will be undertaking. The meeting also covered the following items on its agenda: Harbor Management Plan update, Plastics in Harbor grant update, 2020 Annual report vote, Shellfish Department update, including discussion of the Shellfishermen's Farmers Market and ideas for participation moving forward, a proposed increase in shellfish permit fees by \$5.00 and a review of proposed WSD tax insert promoting sale of recreational shellfish permits. Keep up with the shellfishing community's work by listening in after or attending via Zoom.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you!

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