



Town Shellfish Crier
January 27, 2021

1. Commercial Permits on Sale Through THIS FRIDAY Only

Jeannie Mac will be issuing permits **in person, TODAY, Wed., Jan. 27, between 9 a.m. and noon** 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. You can download the application [here](#). You can also 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.

On Friday, Jan. 28, Jeanne Mac will be issuing commercial shellfishing permits in person in her office at Town Hall between **9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.** She will leave the back door open, so you can come in and go up to her office in the second floor.

Grant holders: If you will be using spat collectors to collect oyster seed in 2021, you need a Town commercial shellfishing permit. See Section 7.15.3. Use of Spat Collecting Devices
"The use of spat collecting devices such as Chinese hats to catch oyster larvae in areas not licensed for aquaculture, may only be done by commercial permit holders who also hold a seed permit..."

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. New applicants will not be able to use their Town permit until they show their State seller's card to Nancy or Jeanne Mac.

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

2. Grant Holder Reminders:

a. 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.”

This means that if your name is on a lease for two grants and one is 1.33 acres, you owe \$50 for that grant, and if your grant is 1.67 acres, you also owe \$50 for that grant, not \$75 combined because they are two separate leases. 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.

b. Overwintering Agreements Were Due on Friday (Jan. 15)

If you have any metal racks out on your grant, you needed to have submitted an overwintering agreement to the Shellfish Department by Jan. 15. 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. If you do not have an agreement turned in to the Shellfish Dept., you are out of compliance and subject to a citation.** 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.

3. COVID-19 VACCINES

Shellfish harvesters, including wild commercial, and farmers and their employees, are included in Phase 2, Step 3 for the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. However, there is a massive shortage of vaccine in the Commonwealth, and Cape Cod hasn’t been able to finish vaccinating Phase 1 yet, so we know that vaccinating our group is going to be quite delayed. Once we get to Phase 2, Step 3, there will be an online scheduler through Barnstable County through which you will sign yourself up for a vaccine timeslot. You will be able to go to Stop & Shop Pharmacies, CVS Pharmacies or to one of two mass vaccination sites on the Outer Cape. If you are interested in getting the vaccine, we urge you to sign up quickly as there may be a backlog. **As soon as we have more details, we will share them with you.**

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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