



**Town Shellfish Crier  
November 10, 2021**

**1. Shellfish Department Awarded \$10,000 Grant from National Sea Grant and \$5,000 from Mass Oyster Project**

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department put together another grant proposal to help local shellfish farmers stuck with excess supplies of legal sized oysters due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. National Sea Grant awarded our proposal with the full \$10,000 (through MIT Sea Grant and Woods Hole Sea Grant), and the Mass Oyster Project (MOP) will supplement that with an additional \$5,000. The Shellfish Department will make up the remaining money (up to \$10,000) from the Shellfish Revolving Fund for Propagation to make sure we are helping as many oyster farmers as possible.

Many restaurants around the country did not return to full capacity, and many farmers had ordered and planted this year's crop in 2019 before the pandemic began. This grant will allow the Shellfish Department to buy oysters from farmers for 50 cents apiece and distribute them in the Indian Neck recreational shellfishing only area.

The oysters we buy with the MOP monies will be used to propagate the deeper water area that exposes only at significant negative tides, which would keep the oysters safe from ice mortality in the event of a hard winter. Placing them here will also provide the ecosystem services of a deep-water spawning sanctuary as it is unlikely they could all be harvested before July's spawning period. We are so grateful to these organizations for seeing the value in our ideas for helping Wellfleet's oyster farmers recover a bit from their losses.

Shellfish farmers: We are still working on when we will schedule to run this program, but it will likely be December. For now, we would ask you to please email [chris.manulla@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:chris.manulla@wellfleet-ma.gov) to confirm your participation. The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries will need to issue you a LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION, so please let Chris know immediately should you want to participate. We need to send the list to MADMF ASAP.

**2. Dr. Roxanna Smolowitz Discusses Quahog Neoplasia on Mon., Nov. 29 at 4 p.m., downstairs at Preservation Hall, in person**

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department has invited Dr. Roxanna Smolowitz to share her research on quahog neoplasia with local shellfishermen.

Title: **"What research and annual monitoring have taught us about hemocytic disease in hard clams."**

Details: Disseminated Neoplasia is a name applied to contagious tumorous disease detected in soft shell clams in the U.S. and cockles in Europe. Approximately 12 years ago, a similar disease termed hemocytic neoplasia (HN) was detected in cultured hard clams in Mass. In Mass., the disease has caused significant disease and mortality. Trends and data from

annual monitoring of cultured and wild clams from Wellfleet and other locations in Mass. (over the last 12 years) and findings from NRAC sponsored research will be presented.

**The Shellfish Department has also signed on as a collaborator for another NRAC proposal that Dr. Smolowitz is submitting for a further two-year study of this disease in Wellfleet Harbor and R.I. Fingers crossed we receive that grant funding as well.**

For the health, safety, and well-being of patrons, staff and volunteers, Wellfleet Preservation Hall requires that all event attendees must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours of the event. Attendees will be required to show some form of identification, such as a driver's license, in addition to their vaccination card or negative COVID-19 test results. Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn inside the Hall, regardless of vaccination status. *We may explore a Zoom option for those who can't attend in person. Please let us know if this would be important to you.*

### **3. Omaha Road Access**

Beginning this Monday, November 15, EZ Doze It will be delivering rocks at Omaha Road and transporting them up the beach for a revetment at 11 & 21 Samoset Ave. (north of Sewall's Gutter). Denny O'Connell of EZ Doze It has used this access many times and has successfully been able to access the beach while staying out of the way of working shellfishermen. It is his full intention to complete his work as he has done in the past without disrupting access. They held a meeting with the president of the King Phillip Rd. Association, Anne Fausto-Sterling, and she approved his use of the private road. The work will continue for a few weeks. Please let the Shellfish Department know if you encounter any problems.

Contact Nancy at [nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov) or 617-901-7193 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta  
Shellfish Constable  
617-901-7193

John Mankevetch  
Assistant Shellfish Constable  
508-962-0691

Chris Manulla / Jordan Halloran  
Deputy Shellfish Constables  
508-962-8934 / 508-349-0325