



**Town Shellfish Crier
December 2, 2020**

1. CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS in Wellfleet Shellfish “Farmers’ Market”

We thank all of you who responded to our email last Friday about the initiative to run a Farmers’ Market featuring Wellfleet’s shellfish (both wild and farmed) on Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m., beginning (hopefully) Dec. 12 through May 1, 2021. We need to know how many people are interested, so please reply to this email or leave us a message at 508-349-0325 if you are.

We will be having a meeting at 1 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 4 outside of the Harbormaster’s Building at the pier to go over the proposal we sent to MADMF and MADPH and discuss the program in more detail. All who are interested or want to learn more to see if they’d be interested, are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be outside to follow COVID protocols.

In the meantime, check your calendars and the tides for the following Saturdays so we can discuss ideas and feedback together: Dec. 12, 18, 26; Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1. Thank you!

2. Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative Task Force Meeting This Friday, Dec. 4 at 9 a.m.

The [Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative](#) (MSI) Task Force is holding a virtual public meeting on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar. The purpose of the meeting is to review recent work by the Steering, Scoping, and Assessment Committees and to begin process to develop a strategic plan.

Over the past two years, the MSI’s Assessment Committee and Scoping Committee have produced extensive reports on the state’s shellfish resources, shellfish fisheries, and other shellfish related activities in the Commonwealth. These reports were recently published and are available on the [MSI’s website](#). With the completion of these reports, the MSI is convening its Task Force to begin developing a strategic plan.

MSI Task Force Meeting Webinar Login Information

9:00 AM December 4, 2020

Held Virtually Via Zoom Webinar Link: <https://bit.ly/3fOSzrS>

Dial In: 1-929-436-2866

Webinar ID: 828 1205 7439

Webinar Passcode: 575248

~more~

3. Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Update

Shellfish farmers, you still have a few days to apply. The deadline is next Friday, Dec. 11. We have been hearing that this is a great program, and there is no reason not to take advantage of it. If you had crop sales (seed or market size) in 2019, you are eligible to receive a check for about 10% of your 2019 sales. You need to go to your county Farm Service Agency office ASAP (see contact info below) and fill out the forms. Then, you should receive a check in 7-10 days. There is even a way for new growers with no 2019 sales to qualify.

You can find Service Center phone numbers at: farmers.gov/service-center-locator
For more info: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap/aquaculture>

Just a reminder that if you have already applied and have not received support- check with: Francine Kealey, Program Technician, FPAC-FSA, Wareham, MA, Francine.Kealey@usda.gov

After you submit your online application, the FSA office will generate and send you additional documents that need to be completed. Be sure you reach out to Francine Kealey ASAP if you have not heard from her office.

4. Commercial Shellfishing Permits on Sale

Due to the coronavirus, all shellfishing permits are being sold online this year. Click [here](#) to buy. PLEASE NOTE: There will be a two-business day turn-around time, so plan ahead. Permits will be on sale through January 31, 2021. Permits are valid January 1 – December 31, 2021. As always, you will need to renew your state commercial permit and obtain your seller's card before the end of January.

If you buy your permit in January, please remember that there will be a waiting period for us to turn it around for you, and you will not be able to shellfish during the waiting period. Once approved, permits will be put in the open slot in the back of the tax payment mailbox to the right of the back door to Town Hall. Please call the Shellfish Department with any questions or for assistance: 508-349-0325. For those who do not have a computer, Principal Clerk Jeanne MacLauchlan will be issuing permits at the Shellfish Dept. Office on the pier from 9 a.m. – noon on Wednesdays until the end of December. 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.

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!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable
617-901-7193

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable
508-962-0691

Chris Manulla
Deputy Shellfish Constable
508-962-8934