



**Town Shellfish Crier  
December 26, 2023**

**1. Grant Report Forms Available – 2023 Reports and 2024 Fees due February 28, 2024**

2023 grant reports are available for download [here](#) and are printed out in the Shellfish Dept. office at the pier. We have included an extra page this year for you to list your employees. Multiple grants that are operated as one farm, such as original grants and extensions, may submit one report. However, grants that are not contiguous, and/or that are in different areas of the harbor, and/or that you are named to with different grant holders, need to have separate grant reports filled out. Don't hesitate to ask us if you have any questions.

**Grant reports are due February 28, 2024. 2024 grant fees are also due on February 28, 2024.** Please turn your reports in and pay your fees at the Shellfish Dept. office at the pier: Principal Clerk Christine Young will be here from 9 a.m. to noon, Mondays through Fridays. Feel free to call or text Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta at 617-901-7193 at any other time.

**2. Reminder: Commercial Shellfishing Permits are on sale now through January 31, 2024.**

Commercial shellfishing permits for 2024 are on sale online and in person NOW. If you would like to purchase your permit online, click [here](#). The Shellfish Department is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon to sell commercial permits in person should you prefer. **All grant holders are required to purchase a Town commercial shellfishing permit as well as a State commercial shellfishing permit by January 31, 2024.**

To receive a commercial permit, you must provide a copy of your driver's license with a Wellfleet address, a copy of your vehicle registration with a Wellfleet address, and your 2023 State seller's card. Town permits will be on sale ONLY through January 31, 2024.

If you did not get a 2023 State seller's card, we will not issue your Town commercial shellfishing permit per regulation [6.1.3. Commercial Permit Requirements](#) until you come in with your 2024 seller's card. Please plan ahead to get your State permit ASAP. For your convenience, we have State applications printed out in our office.

First-time permits holders and those who did not hold a permit in 2023 will need to prove Wellfleet domicile for one year prior to their application date, and their application will need to be approved by the Shellfish Constable. This could take up to, but no longer than, 30 days. First-time permit holders may pay for their 2024 Town permit in advance but will not receive it nor be able to shellfish until they show their 2024 State seller's card to the Shellfish Constable. The Shellfish Department will be holding orientations for first-time permit holders in December and January.

**PLEASE NOTE: You must have 2024 commercial shellfishing permits to shellfish on January 1, 2024. Commercial shellfishing permits are sold only through January 31, 2024.** Once

approved, permits will be put in a plastic box in alphabetical order outside our office at the pier; the box will be placed inside our office at night. Permits are valid January 1 - December 31, 2024. If you buy your permit in January, please remember that there could be a waiting period for us to turn it around for you, and you will not be able to shellfish during the waiting period. Please call the Shellfish Department with any questions or for assistance regarding your permit: 508-349-0325.

3. **Shellfish Grant Overwintering Agreements Due January 15, 2024, or before ice: see details**  
Per Wellfleet's Shellfishing Policy and Regulations, Section 7.19.5, grant holders may leave certain types of gear on their grants during the winter but will need to pump racks down and submit an overwintering agreement by Jan. 15, 2024, or before the ice comes, whichever comes first. **Condos are NOT allowed to stay on grants in the winter and must be removed by Jan. 15, 2024, or before ice, whichever comes first. The overwintering agreement is for racks only.** Please plan accordingly. Download a form [here](#) or pick one up at our offices at the pier. **ALL gear left out must be tagged, and inspections will be done.**

7.19.5. Overwintering of Equipment on Grants: Racks, rebar or u hooks used to secure nets on a licensed area must either be securely fastened to within two-four inches (2-4") of the bottom or removed by January 15, or before ice prevents removal, whichever comes first, as specified in overwintering agreement. Any licensee who wishes to overwinter racks on their grant must obtain and sign an agreement form available from the Shellfish Department. All gear left on any grant must be tagged as per Section 7.19.3. In parts of the harbor where there may be a risk of silt covering overwintered racks on a licensed area, the Constable may waive the height requirement in 7.19.5 after a visit to the specific site and documenting the adjustment on the Agreement Form.

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!

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