



**Town Shellfish Crier
December 18, 2023**

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Wellfleet Shellfish Department Comprehensive Cultching Report 2020-2023

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department has been hard at work cultching many different areas of the harbor for the past six years. We began tracking our cultching efforts in 2020. Click [here](#) to view the WSD comprehensive cultching report for the years 2020 through 2023.

4. Soft Shell Clam Seed Available

Anyone who is interested in purchasing soft shell clam seed in 2024, please read the following information provided by DMF: Park City Seafood will be growing soft shell clam seed for early Summer 2024 based on demand. Please note the following details:

- Seed will be grown to a range of approximately 20 to 28mm with an average size of +/- 24mm.
- The cost will be \$40/1,000, and the minimum order will be 10,000 seed.
- Seed will be available to be picked up at their facility in Bridgeport, CT at the Pequannock River.
- Orders must be picked up from Mid-June to Early July 2024.
- A 25% deposit must be provided by 1/15/24 to secure the order.

Based on demand, they will be upwelling this seed next Spring at their Bridgeport facility.

5. The Fundamentals of Shellfish Farming Class

The Fundamentals of Shellfish Farming Class will be offered again in 2024 by Barnstable County Cape Cod Cooperative Extension/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant. The class will take place mostly via Zoom on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. If you are interested in taking the course, please email Abigail Archer at aarcher@capecod.gov. She will include you in her list and send updates as it gets closer.

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

Nancy Civetta	John Mankevetch	Chris Manulla
Shellfish Constable	Assistant Shellfish Constable	Deputy Shellfish Constable
617-901-7193	508-962-0691	508-962-8934