



**Town Shellfish Crier**  
**April 2, 2020**

**1. Bay Scallop Season Extended Through April 30, 2020**

Yesterday, in order to provide additional revenue opportunities for fishermen during the COVID-19 crisis, the Town of Wellfleet Selectboard requested to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries that the bay scallop season be extended because there is an abundance of adult bay scallops not harvested prior to the termination of the normal scallop season on March 31, 2020. The state agreed and further stated that it is believed that most of these adult scallops will not live long enough to spawn again this coming summer. No "seed" scallops as defined in MGL Chapter 130, Section 70 and 322 CMR, Section 6.11, may be taken under any circumstances, and scallops landed during this extended season will be inspected by the Wellfleet Shellfish Department under state social distancing guidelines.

**2. WSD to Buy Quahogs from Inner Federal Channel for Relay to Other Harbor Areas**

Wellfleet Shellfish Department is going to redirect its budget for participation in the state-run contaminated quahog relay toward paying dragger shellfishermen to remove quahogs from the federal channel in Wellfleet's inner harbor. Quahogs will be redistributed to both commercial and recreational harvesting areas around Wellfleet Harbor. This program will mean that the quahogs are not stranded there before the area gets dredged, and shellfishermen can make some money since so many shellfish markets have collapsed in the wake of restaurant closings because of the COVID-19 health emergency. The contaminated relay budget is \$23/bushel, but the Shellfish Department will use funds from its Revolving Fund for Propagation to pay fishermen \$30/bushel. We apologize because we know it is a far cry from market rate, but we would rather spend these funds in our community if it could help a little during this tough time. Please contact Nancy for details on how to participate: 617-901-7193.

**3. Opportunity for Shellfishermen**

The Shellfish Department has heard that our local shellfish harvesters would like to be able to provide their shellfish to friends and neighbors during this public health emergency. Current regulations require product to be processed through a distributor to be sure the shellfish is safe (giving consumers confidence in your product) and accounted for as Wellfleet landings (ensuring that our first place for value of our shellfish landings in the Commonwealth continues). The Wellfleet Shellfish and Health Departments are working with a couple of seafood dealers so shellfish harvesters can run their product through dealer facilities, to be properly tagged, processed and certified. The shellfish would then be returned to the harvester with dealer tags. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Nancy at 617-901-7193 for details.

**4. Marine Debris Dumpster on the Pier next Tuesday-Friday, April 7-10, 2020**

Given the big tides beginning next week, we know that there will be a lot of clean up of old aquaculture gear and changing and/or stripping of clam nets taking place on grants. Therefore, due to the fact that the Transfer Station is running limited operations, we have arranged for a marine debris dumpster to be placed on the pier from Tuesday through Friday next week (April 7 – 10) so that you can easily get rid of old gear and nets. It will probably be picked up between 3-4 p.m. on Friday, so plan ahead. Please take advantage of this opportunity to clean up your grants and get rid of old gear and nets as Transfer Station operations will likely continue to be limited due to the impacts of COVID-19 protocols. We would ask that you not put anything besides marine debris in the dumpster as this is part of a grant program the Transfer Station participates in for the benefit of the shellfishing community. Many thanks to Barbara Austin for this great idea!

**5. Resources: Food, Financial, Fisheries and more**

Wellfleet SPAT is compiling a list of food and other valuable resources for the shellfishing community during the COVID-19 crisis. Check the link often as it is updated regularly.

<https://wellfleetspat.org/community-resources/>

Thank you!

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