



Town Shellfish Crier
July 25, 2019

1. WSD Propagation Summary

Wellfleet Shellfish Department is pleased to report the following propagation efforts between May and July:

- We put 250 bushels of quahogs from the contaminated relay in Chipman's Cove and another 150 at the Indian Neck recreational only area.
- We planted 335,000 R8 oysters on our propagation bed.
- We planted 200,000 quahog seed under nets.
- We distributed more than 500,000 pounds of whole sea clam shell as cultch around the harbor with our new barge.
- We broadcast tens of thousands of overwintered oysters around the harbor.
- We placed sepa bags filled with whole sea clam shell in Chipman's Cove as a spat collecting experiment.
- We engaged eight recreational shellfishing permit holder volunteers on multiple occasions and held four AmeriCorps project days to help us execute this work.
- We received 10 truckloads of whole sea clam shell for next year's cultching efforts at \$1,000 a load, and then the sea clam company offered to give us another nine loads for FREE if we paid for one additional load, so we will be getting 10 more (thanks to our SPAT grant)!

We have more initiatives that we'll be undertaking later in the season, so stay tuned.

2. South Lieutenant Island Open to Clam Harvesting

The Selectboard approved opening South Lt. Island to the harvest of clams, while it will remain closed to the harvest of oysters from June 1 through September 30.

3. Definition of Domicile Changed in Regulations

The Selectboard approved adding in a one-year domicile requirement in order to be eligible for a commercial shellfishing permit or to be added onto a shellfish grant license.

4. Grant Inspections Starting Next Week

Please remember: Per our regulations, all buoys should be fluorescent yellow balls at least 20 inches in circumference marked with 2" high numbers and placed in correct GPS boundaries of your lease. All gear should be tagged; tags should be in your name, even if you got gear from someone else. With the exception of spat collecting devices, all metal gear should be no more than 18" from the bottom and plastic (or another equally flexible material) gear no more than 24" from the bottom. Grant holders found to be in non-compliance will be given two weeks to remediate. We'll bring paperwork for you to register your employees.

5. WSD Needs Your Feedback on Transferring Oysters at Indian Neck Parking Lot

At the last Shellfish Advisory Board meeting, some grant holders expressed interest in adding the Indian Neck parking lot as another location for transferring oysters besides the town pier. This will require another variance from the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, just like our pier transfer variance. Together with the Beach Dept. director, WSD came up with two parameters:

- 1- that it would be preferable, given other constituent users, that the oyster transfers happen between two hours before and two hours after low tide only
- 2- that Wednesdays and Sundays would not be good for oyster transfers at Indian Neck between June 1 and Sept. 30 due to the high use by recreational shellfishing community.

All grant holders except for those whose landing is the Indian Neck parking lot will be required to fully ice their oysters before leaving their landing and traveling to Indian Neck. We would like to hear if you are interested in transferring oysters at the Indian Neck parking lot during vibrio season. Please let us know ASAP your interest, potential frequency of transfers and any other details that might help inform our research into this possibility.

6. WSD Needs Your Feedback on Overwintering Agreements/Changes

The Marina Advisory Committee is recommending to the Selectboard and the Shellfish Advisory Board that all shellfish apparatus be removed for the winter due to safety and navigation concerns, as well as issues in the mooring basin with gear moved by ice winding up stuck in Chipman’s Cove. The Shellfish Advisory Board will be taking this issue up at its August meeting. In the interest of making sure all voices are heard, the Shellfish Department would like to hear your ideas on this topic before the SAB meeting so we come to the table with initiatives to discuss. Please contact us with your feedback.

7. Join Us in Thanking our AmeriCorps member Adrienne Tardiff

We are so grateful to have been able to work with a star AmeriCorps member for the past year. Adrienne Tardiff has been Johnny Clam’s right hand woman on propagation and a real asset to our whole team in many ways. From learning the ropes on patrol to helping put together our monthly report to the town, and everything in between, she tackled every project with enthusiasm, a passion for learning and a sunny, positive attitude. We are sad to see her go, but happy that she is pursuing her B.S. in Public Health at UMass Amherst. We hope our paths will cross again!

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 617-901-7193 with ideas for information to include in these communications. 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