

Town Shellfish Crier
September 21, 2021

1. Volunteers Needed!

On October 1, we are scheduled to begin the daunting project of dredging our inner harbor. Johnny and I have been keeping our eyes on Chipman's Cove, and last week the sea lettuce finally dispersed enough to allow us to get a good look at it. What we saw is that there is a very large crop of sale-able and seed oysters on the outer bar. The dredging operation will produce copious amounts of silt. In order to avoid significant mortality, the Shellfish Department believes that we need to relay these oysters to an area that we deem safe from dredging-related impacts.

Last Friday, we held an AmeriCorps project day with 15 members plus our staff and began the oyster relay endeavor. We are so grateful to them as we made incredible progress with so many hands on deck. Today, we continued with five recreational shellfishermen volunteers (all copied here) and our staff. Again, really hard workers, and we thank them! We are looking for some more volunteers to help us during the morning tides this week. We know that it is a busy season for everyone, but we thought we would ask to see if any of you commercial shellfishermen and farmers might have time to help. Here is the schedule:

Tomorrow, Wed., Sept. 22 at 6:00 a.m.

Thurs., Sept. 23 at 6:30 a.m.

Fri., Sept. 23 at 7:00 a.m.

Meet Johnny at the barge by the boat ramp at that time or park at Old Pier Rd. and walk out to the outer bar. There are many farmers taking hats out of the cove, so please park on the left hand side of Pier Road and not on the beach.

In addition, we are presenting our plans to the **Shellfish Advisory Board on Monday, September 27 at 6 p.m.** to ask them to weigh in on the possibility of us opening the potentially affected areas of Chipman's Cove early to COMMERCIAL HARVEST ONLY. We are bringing this to the **Selectboard for a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m.** The Shellfish Department will host BOTH of these meetings at our offices if you prefer to come in person.

Shellfish Advisory Board – Mon., Sept. 27, 6 p.m. – Agenda:

-July minutes

-Vote on potential early opening of Chipman's Cove due to dredging of harbor

-Decide date of October meeting

Selectboard, Tues., Sept. 28, 7 p.m. – Public Hearing:

In accordance with MGL Chapter 130 Sections 52, 57, 58, 60, and 68 and all applicable Town Shellfish Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

-Discussion and vote on potential of opening up specific areas of Chipman's Cove on September 29 for commercial harvest only in order to mitigate potential silting over and mortality of shellfish resources due to dredging-related impacts.

2. Apologies, but Nancy without a cell

I am sorry to inform you that my cell took a dunk on Egg Island last Wednesday, and I have been without it ever since. If you have called or texted me since Wednesday, Sept. 15, could you please resend me an email about it so I can be back in touch with you? **This also means that I will not be sending out my usual text messages with this Crier information, so please spread the word on the flats, too, about the volunteer opportunity and the potential of Chipman's Cove opening early.** I am working on getting a new cell phone, but it seems these things are not always easy. You can also leave me a message on the office line: 508-349-0325. Thanks for your understanding.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 617-901-7193 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

Halloran	Nancy Civetta	John Mankevetch	Chris Manulla / Jordan
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	617-901-7193	508-962-0691	Deputy Shellfish Constables
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