



**Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
December 1, 2021**

1. Shellfish Department Awarded \$10,000 Grant from National Sea Grant and \$5,000 from Mass Oyster Project

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department put together another grant proposal to help local shellfish farmers stuck with excess supplies of legal sized oysters due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. National Sea Grant awarded our proposal with the full \$10,000 (through MIT Sea Grant and Woods Hole Sea Grant), and the Mass Oyster Project (MOP) will supplement that with an additional \$5,000. The Shellfish Department will make up the remaining money (up to \$10,000) from the Shellfish Revolving Fund for Propagation to make sure we are helping as many oyster farmers as possible.

Many restaurants around the country did not return to full capacity, and many farmers had ordered and planted this year's crop in 2019 before the pandemic began. This grant will allow the Shellfish Department to buy oysters from farmers for 50 cents apiece and distribute them in the Indian Neck Recreational Shellfishing Only Area.

The oysters we buy with the MOP monies will be used to propagate the deeper water area that exposes only at significant negative tides, which would keep the oysters safe from ice mortality in the event of a hard winter. Placing them here will also provide the ecosystem services of a deep-water spawning sanctuary as it is unlikely they could all be harvested before July's spawning period. We are so grateful to these organizations for seeing the value in our ideas for helping Wellfleet's oyster farmers recover a bit from their losses.

We'd very much appreciate it if you could email us with your oyster harvests (full basket, half basket, quarter basket, etc.) from the Indian Neck Rec Only Area starting December 8, 2021 and through May 31, 2022 for our grant report. Of course, we patrol Indian Neck every day, but during this time period, the entire harbor is open to recreational shellfishing, so we are not always at Indian Neck when you are coming off with your catch. Send to Deputy Shellfish Constable Jordan Halloran at jordan.halloran@wellfleet-ma.gov with the SUBJECT: REC OYSTER HARVEST.

Please, also continue sending catch reports from other areas throughout the harbor if you are not checked by a constable. Thank you very much and buon appetito!

2. 2022 Shellfishing Permits Go on Sale Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Shellfishing permits for 2022 go on sale ONLINE and IN PERSON on December 1, 2021. Click [here](#) to purchase your sticker online or bring your application materials to Jeanne Maclauchlan at Town Hall Monday – Friday 8am – 3pm.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a 48-hour turn-around time, so please plan ahead. Once approved, permits will be put in the open slot in the back of the tax payment mailbox to the right of the back door to Town Hall. Permits are valid January 1 – December 31, 2022. If you buy your permit in January, please remember that there will 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 Jeanne Maclauchlan with any questions or for assistance: 508-349-0300 ext 1101.

3. Recreational Shellfishing Survey from County

The Barnstable County Cooperative Extension in combination with National SeaGrant and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution are conducting a survey of recreational shellfishers on Cape Cod. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes and will help to identify areas of opportunity, growth, and concern for recreational shellfishing. This survey will be open until March 31, 2022. You can complete the survey using this [link](#)!

4. Dr. Roxanna Smolowitz Hemocytic Neoplasia Talk Recording

On Monday, November 29, 2021, the Shellfish Department hosted Dr. Roxanna Smolowitz to speak about hemocytic neoplasia in quahogs. The talk was recorded via zoom. If you are interested in viewing this talk, it can be found [here](#) – it's the .mp4 file.

5. Cold weather reminder

When the temperature goes below 28 degrees F, no shellfish harvesting is allowed in the wild. Keep your eye on the big pink buoy (the ball) to the right of our office door. Up = closed; down = open.

This is the weather station we use to determine air temperature:

<https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ma/wellfleet/KMAWELLF8>

Please note that when the Marina station goes down, Weather Underground defaults to the Provincetown Airport, which we do not use. If this happens, we ask the Harbormasters to reboot their station, so we get an accurate read for Wellfleet.

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
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla / Jordan Halloran
Deputy Shellfish Constables