



**Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
November 29, 2022**

1. Recreational Shellfishing Permits Go on Sale Thursday, December 1, 2022 Online Only

Due to the absence of a Principal Clerk in Town Hall, recreational shellfishing permits for 2023 will go on sale ONLINE ONLY on December 1, 2022. Click [here](#) to purchase your permit online. In order to receive a recreational permit, you must upload a photo of your driver's license and a photo of your vehicle registration. We hope to be able to start IN PERSON sales the week of December 12. Stay tuned.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a slower turn-around time than normal, so please plan ahead. Once approved, permits will be put in a plastic box inside the back door of Town Hall, which is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are valid January 1 - December 31, 2023. 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.

2. Local Nonprofits Help Shellfish Department's Cultch Program with Shell Recycling

In 2022, we again partnered with the [Massachusetts Oyster Project](#) on a restaurant shell recycling program. This year, 37,841 lbs. of oyster and quahog shells were diverted from going to a landfill. Instead, once these shells are overwintered at the transfer station, they will be used to support new generations of native oysters in Wellfleet waters through our cultching program. That means cleaner water, enhanced biodiversity and increased economic and recreational harvest opportunities.

We are thrilled that the annual [Wellfleet OysterFest](#) returned in person! Especially because through the work of [NOAA Fisheries](#) and many volunteers, the commitment of the all-volunteer SPAT board, and the help of MA Frazier – they recycled all of the shells served at the 'Fest. It is estimated that 75,000 pieces of shellfish (mostly oysters, but quahogs, too) were consumed during the two-day event. That turned into 2.96 tons of recycled oyster and quahog shells that will overwinter at the transfer station until we use them as cultch in different areas of the harbor in the late spring.

Many thanks to SPAT, NOAA Fisheries and the Mass. Oyster Project for their efforts to keep Wellfleet's wild shellfishery sustainable into the future.

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