



Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
July 1, 2023

1. Welcome Seasonal Deputy Shellfish Constables, Erika Smith and Mark Howards

The Shellfish Department is pleased to welcome two new seasonal Deputy Shellfish Constables, Erika Smith and Mark Howards. Both have been part of Johnny Clam's Crew, our core group of volunteers, that help us with our propagation efforts such as planting seed oysters, taking runs with us to get contaminated quahogs and helping distribute them in Wellfleet Harbor, and making our spat collectors. Recently, they were both instrumental in creating bags stuffed with oyster and clam shells from the Mass Oyster Project restaurant shell recycling program that we put in Chipman's Cove to "catch a set!" They are both wonderful assets to our team and will be with us through September. Join us in welcoming them! Watch these TV pieces that they are in which feature the Shellfish Department's collaboration with Mass Oyster Project: [Boston 25](#) and [WBZ TV \(CBS\)](#).

2. Reminders for a Good Day Shellfishing

- The area that the Shellfish Department stocked with lots of oysters and quahogs is closest to the Indian Neck jetty with the beacon on the end. Park at the Indian Neck parking lot.
- Burton Baker Beach is still closed. You cannot shellfish in between those two breakwaters. See map of closed area [here](#).
- Please remember to bring your measuring gauges to the flats with you. You can't be sure you've got a legal 3-inch-long oyster or a 1-inch across the hinge quahog if you aren't measuring!
- There are a few 3" PVC rings hanging at the entrances to the Indian Neck Recreational only area that are free for the taking while they last. Gauges can be bought at Mid-Cape in Wellfleet.
- Non-residents can get parking stickers at the Beach Dept. office at the pier (255 Commercial St.), every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., including holidays. Show your shellfishing permit.
- Do not park on the right side of Nauset Rd. or you will be ticketed.
- You can shellfish on Wednesdays and Sundays only.
- Limit is one 10-quart basket a week. The new week begins on Sundays.

3. Regulation Reminders

- Taking of Seed Prohibited: oysters must measure at least three inches long, quahogs must measure at least one inch across the hinge width and soft shell clams (steamers) must measure at least two inches long.
 - By allowing shellfish to mature to legal sizes, you can reasonably assume that the animal has spawned, thus contributing to future populations of wild shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor.

- Once shellfish is in your basket, it is considered your catch; therefore, you should measure and cull as you go before placing it in your basket.
- The first time we find seed, we will remove it and mark your permit with an "S." The next time, you will receive a \$50 citation.
- We review all prior year infractions and carry them forward year-to-year.
- One permit, one basket, one rake: The Town of Wellfleet does not issue family permits. Each permit entitles the named permit holder to harvest shellfish. The permit is non-transferable.
- Click [here](#) for our handout with quick facts and a measuring guide. The high points are also printed on the permit you receive each year. We are always available to answer your questions on the flats or on the phone.
- Please familiarize yourself with our regulations [here](#). Section 5 is specific for recreational shellfishing.
- We thank you in advance for your help in ensuring a prolific future for our wild shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor. We are undertaking many propagation efforts to supplement Mother Nature so that there are plenty of legal shellfish for you all to harvest. It takes a village!

4. AmeriCorps Cape Cod is Accepting Applications for its 2023-2024 Service Year

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department has been gratefully working with AmeriCorps service members for the last five years. They bring valued skills and new perspectives to our work and always help us tackle projects we couldn't otherwise undertake. We think the world of the young people who have served with us and helped us with propagation projects and greatly admire the program in general.

Do you know a young person who wants to:

- Conduct meaningful service activities that benefit the Cape Cod community,
- Receive experience in various sectors of the environmental and disaster preparedness fields,
- Gain valuable skills through training and hands-on service experience,
- Foster professional development through networking with local experts and gaining credentials through certificate-based trainings, and
- Build leadership skills as a team member and as an individual?

If so, then AmeriCorps Cape Cod may be just the place for them!

Learn more, see the position description and get a link for the application [here](#). Help us spread the word and share this widely!

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
Deputy Shellfish Constable

Erika Smith and Mark Howards



Seasonal deputy Shellfish Constables