



Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
July 12, 2023

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1. Thank you from Erika and Mark!

We've had a great time meeting so many of you in the past two weeks. We've already seen our fair share of double tides, negative tides and lots of enthusiastic shellfishermen! The last Crier gave you tips on a "Good Day Shellfishing" and regulations. Here are a few of the areas of confusion we've run into since then.

2. Reminders for a Better Day Shellfishing

- Please bring your measuring gauges. You can't be sure you've got a legal 3-inch oyster or a 1-inch quahog if you aren't measuring.
- The stocked area for oysters and quahogs is closest to the Indian Neck jetty. You will mostly find plentiful, legal quahogs everywhere. 3" (legal) oysters dwindle as you go farther towards the smaller jetty and the rock. It is tempting to pick up almost legal, wild oysters, however, they are considered seed. This is strictly enforced to promote spawning and natural propagation.
- 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.
- Limit is one LEVEL 10-quart basket a week. You can shake it down but be sure it's level to the top rim. The new week begins on Sundays. That means you can get a full basket on Wednesday and come back on Sunday for another!
- One permit, ONE PERSON, one basket, one rake. The permit is non-transferable. The Town of Wellfleet does not issue family permits. Wellfleet is the only town on the Cape that offers recreational oyster harvesting in the summer. All permit fees go directly to the Shellfish Department, not the town's general fund. Permit fees are used for propagation and seeding at Indian Neck.
Please abide by the one person rule or purchase additional permits. This applies to couples, families and other helpers over the age of 14.
- Non-resident permit holders or residents without a beach sticker – you need to get a shellfishing parking sticker (no cost) from the Beach Sticker Department located on the pier. It is open from 9-4, 7 days a week through Labor Day. The sticker allows you to park at the recreational shellfishing area from two hours before low tide to two hours after. This sticker will avoid you getting a ticket.

3. Tips Regarding Oysters

- To measure, place the hinge end on the inside of the 3" loop and rotate the oyster through the top ([measuring pictures](#)). If it catches and doesn't go through, then it's legal. Measuring by putting the flat side through the ring leads to mistakes as does

using a flat rectangular gauge. Attached rocks and shell must be knocked off. A 2" oyster attached to a 1" shell is still a 2" oyster.

- Although it would be better to throw oysters back that have spat (small oysters) attached, you can take them as long and you knock the spat off. Even if the spat is destroyed, it is still food for other animals. You cannot take oysters with smaller oysters growing on them still attached.

4. Questions and Thank You

- We love questions! We are always available to answer your questions on the flats or on the phone - regulations, shucking, recipes, fun facts, suggestions.
- 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!

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!

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Shellfish Constable

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Seasonal Deputy Shellfish Constables