



Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
September 15, 2023

Quick Reference Links: [Regulations](#) [Measuring](#)

1. No Recreational Shellfishing on Sunday September 17th Due to Hurricane Lee

Due to Hurricane Lee, Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) is implementing a precautionary shellfish harvest closure beginning today, Friday, September 15th, at SUNSET. It is our understanding that the state will not reopen Wellfleet Harbor to shellfishing before Sunday afternoon, depending on impacts, and therefore, Indian Neck and Burton Beach will be closed for recreational shellfishing for at least the morning tide on Sunday, September 17th. Please monitor our open and public [Facebook page](#) for updates.

2. Family Permits

The Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) is evaluating the possibility of adding a family permit and exploring other options for our recreational shellfishing permit choices. Current permits are for a single harvester. There are many nuances to adding a family permit, which will be discussed during a future meeting. They recently voted to advise the Selectboard to add a Junior Permit to our options.

If this topic is of interest to you, you may participate in the meetings, which are held in person and online. For more information, go to the [SAB home page](#). The Shellfish Department has provided two documents to SAB discussing family permits, which you can find here: 1. [Number of recreational permit holders with multiple household purchases](#); 2. [Family permits](#). You can also watch their two previous discussions on [Aug. 24 here](#) and [Sept. 11 here](#). [John Duane](#), who is the recreational shellfishing representative on SAB, is happy to speak with you, as well.

3. Bay Scallops

Especially during the better low tides, you may have noticed many scallops in the recreational shellfishing area. Scallops are not in season and may not be harvested until after October 1st.

For future reference, legal-sized bay scallops are determined by their growth ring and not a specific size as with other shellfish. They must have a well-defined growth ring – discernable by sight and touch. See photos below of how to feel a bay scallop growth ring. Don't hesitate to ask us if you are unsure.



4. Shellfish Department Hiring Full-Time, Year-Round Deputy Shellfish Constable Position

The Wellfleet Shellfish Department is in search of a full-time, year-round Deputy Shellfish Constable with responsibilities to include recreational shellfishing, administrative support and propagation activities. Scroll down to the job [announcement here](#) and click on the job [description](#). Please share these postings far and wide!

5. 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 us at shellfish@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