



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
Shellfish Department
P.O. Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

David W. Grunden
Shellfish Constable
Herring Warden
Marine Biologist

Telephone (508) 693-0072
Fax 508-696-6472
Cell 508-958-5401

January 2015 Report

The department's proposed FY16 budget has been submitted and has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen without any cuts. The budget will now be before the Finance Committee. The only increases are an additional \$1,000 for the Shellfish Group and in the payroll for the approved cost of living allowances and additional funds to correct mistakes in the current budget.

We have received notice that a grant proposal submitted in 2013 for the culvert replacement at Farm Pond will be funded through the Estuary Restoration Act. These proposals are reviewed by several federal agencies but the funding is through the Army Corps of Engineers. There are some details that need to be worked out and I've been told it will likely take six months for a contract to be approved and executed. The most difficult issue is the town/non-federal match we need to identify. The match needs to be 35% of the total project estimated to as high as 1.5 million. The town needs to identify a little over \$500,000. As yet, I do not know if in-kind services or funding that is in hand for permitting and design will be allowed. I have submitted an article for the town meeting as a place holder and the dollar amount is not a fixed number.

There isn't anything new on the Little Bridge dredging. A new survey to calculate how much sand is currently in the channel area is being scheduled – hopefully to be done in the next week or so. CLE Engineering will conduct the survey and they have submitted a request to allow the dredging to be done in June 2015. MA DEP had approved the waiver for last year when we thought the FEMA funding was going to be available. CLE is confident the waiver would be allowed. The project will be rebid without certain equipment to be required so local contractors will qualify and hopefully bid.

Jason and Sarah have begun working on gear for this coming season while I have been in the office writing progress reports for grants that we have in hand as well as the Annual Report for the April Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,