



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
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October 2014 Report

The biggest news this month is I have hired a new part time deputy to replace Juan Gonsalves who worked over the summer. The deputy will be Sarah Trudel. Sarah has a degree in environmental science and has worked as a ranger and interim superintendent for the Trustees of the Reservation on Chappaquiddick. She currently works part time at the Woods Hole Aquarium. She will start on October 25th.

Recreational bay scallop season opened October 18 in Sengekontacket Pond with some limits being taken but they didn't come easy and most did not bring in their limits.

As I reported last month; I have been working on a proposal to conduct some salt marsh restoration in Sengekontacket Pond. There will be funding requests to both Edgartown and Oak Bluffs. The proposal to the Oak Bluffs Community Preservation Committee is due on October 24. Paul Bagnall will be submitting a separate article for the Edgartown Annual Town Meeting. If funded, the total budget will be \$44,432.38 with each town responsible for \$9,697.19 with an in-kind contribution of \$9,600 from US EPA Atlantic Ecology Division. Also partnering with the Towns are MA Audubon/Felix Neck, Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, Friends of Sengekontacket and The Nature Conservancy (Hoft Farm).

We are still working with FEMA for funding to re-open the Little Bridge Channel. FEMA and MEMA representatives were on island October 15 for yet another site visit. I was able to show them that sand has been accumulating since Sandy. Since then we have received an email from the FEMA Project Specialist stating they will eliminate the requirement to stockpile the sand for a year and move forward for authorization to take the additional sand out of the channel. It was reported that the paperwork for the dredging is in their internal environmental review and they thought it would be approved for the dredging to be done by January 15, 2015.

I have completed the power point presentation for the International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference the end of the month as well the poster for the Restore America's Estuaries conference in November.

We have pulled both boats out and cleaned the hulls and are ready for scallop season. The only gear in the water is culture bags of seed scallops from the second hatchery spawn.

This past month the US EPA region 1 personnel were here to place data loggers in some of the island ponds. While here, Danielle Ewart (Tisbury Constable) and I pointed out the damages to eelgrass beds from the bridge construction project and also the filling in of the flat on the Oak Bluffs side. They agreed to look into the matter.

Respectfully submitted,