



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
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April 2019 Report

The Oak Bluffs Annual Town Meeting went well. Our budget was approved without comment. The funding to continue work in Farm Pond on the jellyfish had some discussion. The article needed to have a revision as the project's sponsors were named instead of the applicant.

Last month's National Shellfisheries conference was very good. There were 15 concurrent sessions and over 3,500 participants.

I recommend the following dates for Sengekontacket section openings this year:

April 27	Section 2 (if birds nest in this area I will open Section 7 earlier)
June 15	Section 7
July 20	Section 3
August 24	Section 6

I also attended the Annual Northwest Atlantic Eelgrass summit in Boston. A poster by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service was presented and highlighted the soil classification project here on island. This project is scheduled to begin on May 13th. Over the course of 2 weeks they hope to take enough samples and cores to be able to map both Lagoon Pond and Sengekontacket Pond. This is being done at no cost to the Towns. At this meeting I was also invited to a more local meeting/discussion on eelgrass restoration in Woods Hole on the 17th of this month.

The annual quahog relay is slated for April 24-26. The price per bushel has increased by another dollar a bushel to the fishermen. Also there is a new charge of one dollar a bushel to be paid to the Town of Swansea as a supervising authority surcharge. Due to the increased costs we are not getting as many as we have in the past. We are fortunate this is a year when we will be seeding Sengekontacket sections 1, 4, and 5.

My colleagues and I have been notified that another paper will be published. It is titled "Distribution of the highly toxic clinging jellyfish *Gonionemus* sp. around the island of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, USA" (MBIR-D-18-00042R1) has been accepted for publication in Marine Biodiversity Records. This is the second paper we wrote that will be published this year.

As you may have seen in the paper we cleaned out the Lagoon Pond herring run and installed new wooden steps. This was a joint effort by Tisbury and Oak Bluffs Shellfish departments, Oak Bluffs Water District and volunteers. We will be installing aluminum grating over the top of it to protect the fish and the run.

Respectfully submitted,