



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

David W. Grunden
Shellfish Constable
Herring Warden
Marine Biologist

Fax 508-696-6472
Cell 508-958-5401

February 2019 Report

This is the first written report since October 2018. I was out on medical leave since early November. However Chuck Fisher did give the Shellfish Committee oral reports each month. I also came into the office for a few hours here and there to make filing deadlines – 2019 propagation permit application, annual town report etc.

I have pursued the classification changes by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries on both Sengekontacket and Farm Ponds. The Sengekontacket Pond paper work has been submitted and it is under review at the MA DMF Southeast Office. I will have an opportunity to also edit the report before it is finalized. For Sengekontacket the back side of the pond will be open during the summer but under the same rain fall status of the rest of the pond. I have reviewed the draft report on Farm Pond and submitted my edits and corrections. Almost all of Farm Pond could be open November through April. I would recommend only opening the ponds most northern end to protect the eelgrass meadows on the southern end.

I have also announced my retirement effective the end of my current term (June 2019).

With funding from the Town's Capitol Improvement Committee (CIC) the shed has been insulated and heated. This winter we are building more crab traps. Also with CIC funding Chuck took possession of a new 21 ft. Carolina skiff and trailer. We will also be getting a new outboard as well. We will add a culling board and scallop rigging and declare our oldest boat as surplus.

I am sending Chuck to the State training for Massachusetts Shellfish Officers. The 80 hour course will be given at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy from Feb. 25 – March 8th.

Little Bridge channel was dug out in January and the County will be spreading the sand on State Beach. The Farm Pond culvert also needs to be dug out and that sand will also be sent to the County.

The Community Preservation Committee has accepted a proposal from Dr. Mary Carman of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to continue to study Farm Pond and in particular the impact of the invasive clinging jellyfish. This application was sponsored by the Shellfish Dept.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Atlantic Ecology Division will be collecting data for another season on the living shoreline project in Sengekontacket Pond. Last year was going to be the last season but they have funding for at least this year.

I will be away for the March regular meeting but we could re-schedule for the following week on March 26th.

The subaqueous soil classification work is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 13-20. They think they can sample both Lagoon and Sengekontacket in that week. This work is provided through the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service at no cost to the towns. This information will allow for future planning for eelgrass restoration and to refine shellfish seeding areas.

Respectfully submitted,