



Shellfish Department  
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### May 2019 Report

We are getting gear into the water and are a bit behind schedule for a number of reasons, but we should get back on track soon. Chuck has gotten the crab traps out in Sengekontacket Pond and spawning cages out into the Lagoon. We will put a cage in Farm Pond and a few cages in Sengekontacket Pond.

We have a boat in both ponds; the old boat is in Lagoon Pond for now as we are still waiting for the new outboard to arrive. It was expected to get here last week. If it isn't here by the end of the week I will ask for a tracking report.

The core sampling for the soil classification and mapping occurred last week. There were some long days to get both Sengekontacket and Lagoon Ponds done in just 1 week. At the sites that were the softest they collected additional samples with different sampling tool. We found very old salt marsh material at a few sites. Some of the deeper core samples got into the fresh water table below the pond. The soil scientists will begin examining the core samples they brought back this week. They estimated it would take about 3 weeks to complete them all. They are optimistic they can get a report and the mapping back to the Town sometime this fall. This project is funded by the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. This information will be valuable for future eelgrass restoration projects with site selection. The estimated monetary value for this work is \$25,000.

Last January there was a change in the State Law that governs shellfish licenses. The change requires the towns to issue shellfish licenses to military veterans at the same price as a resident recreation license. I believe we can still give the resident veterans a free license. I have sent a memo to the Town Administrator asking him to check with the town attorney.

I propose the following insertion into the Oak Bluffs Shellfish Regulations to comply with the change in MGL 130 sec. 52:

Section 5 viii Non-resident veteran shellfish license may be issued at the same rate as a resident recreational license. The applicant must provide proof of their honorable service or discharge with a United States government issued identification card or their DD214 and proof of residence in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I have asked the Highway Department to shore up the Sengekontacket boat ramp. They had some left over stone from another project that they have put there. They know more is needed higher up the ramp.

We have received our Division of Marine Fisheries Propagation Permit as well as copies of the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group and for Martino's Seafood, LLC.

Respectfully submitted,

# General gear inventory

May 2019:

25 quahog rafts	3 scallop dip nets
70 crab traps	3 push nets
20 spawning cages	2 large dip nets
Currently 3 Carolinas w/ trailers	Several small dip nets
1 pickup truck	Assorted hand tools
1 tidal upweller w/ 24 trays	Assorted power tools (electric, battery and pneumatic)
1 axial low upweller w/ 24 trays	2 kayaks and paddles
Partial rolls of different mesh size material	1 dinghy with 3 sets of oars
80 oyster cages 6 bays ea.	2 herring transport tanks
100 ¼ in. ADPI bags	Numerous field sampling tools and sample containers
200 ½ in. ADPI bags	Shop vac
2 "oyster grow" cages	Power washer
7 pan drags 4 need repair	Portable generator
3 bar drags 1 needs repair	2 in. trash pump
9 lines for scallop culture	Air compressor
Est. 1000 scallop bags culture and spat collectors	50+ extra bullet buoys & several larger buoys
Almost 2 coils ½ in. line	Waders, foul weather clothes, boots, gloves, life jackets, etc.
Twine and bungee cord	Bushel baskets and limit boxes
Partial roll ½ in vinyl wire	Buckets
Partial roll 1 in. vinyl wire	
4 hand rakes	
1 stone fork	