



Shellfish Department
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June 2019 Report

This will be my last report and meeting as Constable. Chuck has been appointed as my successor. Chuck has been with the department for several years and knows what needs to be done seasonally and can grow the shellfish. Chuck has also offered any assistance that he can give to the EPA and other researchers on their work here.

We have two Friends of Sengekontacket Inc. (FOS) interns through the end of the month. FOS has changed the way the interns are split between us and Edgartown. This year we have them for all this month. In July they will start with Edgartown Shellfish.

The Lagoon Pond Association's intern split time between us and Tisbury. Danielle and I interviewed the applicant and one rose to the top. She worked for 2 weeks and due to a family issue she felt she needed to be home. Chuck and Dani are working on replacing her.

Gedeon Pil is returning as the part-time summer deputy.

The year round part-time deputy, Sonja Amanda Josephson, has left the town for a higher paying summer job.

With hiring Chuck and Amanda leaving this leaves the department with two open positions. There have been some applicants for the fulltime position and Chuck will be reviewing them. I have not heard whether or not there are any applicants for the part-time position.

We have received 500,000 oyster seed and they are on small mesh boxes in the tidal upwelled in Sengekontacket Pond.

Chuck has all the crab traps out in both ponds and the scallop spawning cages are out with some scallops in them. Chuck and the interns have most of the quahog rafts out and 8 have been filled with sand so we can take as many as 800,000 anytime. The steamer seed is not expected until next week at the earliest.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Atlantic Ecology Division have been here and inspected the living shoreline project. We assisted them to remove the wooden stakes that were no longer needed. They also gave a presentation at Felix Neck of the project and some of the early results. The EPA will not be collecting data this season but plan on returning to collect more data in 2020. They have a lot of data to go through and evaluate still. Taking this time to process the data may determine what they will monitor in 2020 Early results do show an increase in "denitrification enzyme activity" in all three treated sites compared with the reference sites. There are two manuscripts being drafted for publication on this project.

Dr. Mary Carman of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will begin the summer monitoring of Farm Pond in July. The Town has partially funded her research with Community Preservation Act funding and voted at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting to continue the work through 2022.

Respectfully submitted,