



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

Charles Fisher
Shellfish Constable
Herring Warden

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

August 2019 Report

I am happy to report that the department is fully staffed. Marissa Quell and Garrett Albiston have been learning many of our growing processes and are quickly coming into their roles as Deputy Constables. Garrett regrets not being able to attend tonight, he had a pre-hire commitment. He is enjoying the job and hopes the position will someday transition to full time. We said goodbye and thank you to Gedeon Pil, our seasonal Deputy. He has gone on to study at Rice University. He really stepped up in his role and was a great help this season. He led our water sampling efforts and taught the staff a lot about phytoplankton identification. This season's interns from Friends of Sengekontacket and Lagoon Pond Association were very helpful over the summer. The LPA internship ended earlier than expected when Will McBrian was offered a position at a firm in Boston. The timing was good for us as it corresponded to the return of the FOS interns for the first few weeks of August. I believe all parties involved benefit from these programs and I hope they will continue in the future.

The steamer clams have been growing nicely. We have seeded out approximately 2/3rds of the first batch. The second batch has nearly quadrupled in size. Over the next few weeks they will have all grown to size and will be seeded out.

Quahogs have also been growing well. I have done some seeding out of the larger ones in order to give the others more room to grow. The nursery rafts will probably be pulled starting the third week of next month.

We have seeded out $\frac{3}{4}$ of the over wintered oysters. The rest will be out by the end of this week. The growth rate of the oysters in the tidal upweller has increased. We have started to thin them out by transferring them into bags and caged to be over wintered.

I believe we have received the last of this season's scallop seed from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG). There has been up to five million with a size range from .5mm-2mm. They have started to grow rapidly. The first ones to come in are exceeding 1cm. I spoke with the MVSG about spawning scallops earlier in the season. Bay scallops don't always respond well to artificial conditioning. The MVSG does not have all of the necessary equipment at the Hughes Hatchery or staff, but it may be a possibility in the future. I will bring it up at the next board meetings.

We received the July pump out report from the Tisbury Harbormaster. Six boats anchored in the Oak Bluffs side of Lagoon pond were pumped out. The volume totaled 146 gallons.

After speaking with the founder of the Vineyard Sailing Association (VSA) and other members of the kiteboarding community, I asked to remove the proposed kiteboarding regulations from the Selectman's agenda. I was told that they had already decided to remove it for now. I have been gathering more information and will be attending a meeting between VSA, Edgartown shellfish department, and other officials in October.

No Shellfishing signs have been posted at Brush pond.
The motor has been hung on the replacement boat. A helm is being installed. I hope to have it at the town barn next month where we can start building a culling table for it.

Respectfully submitted,

Recommended opening scallop season:

Sengekontacket Pond and outside waters:

Recreation Saturday October 12
Commercial Monday October 21

Lagoon Pond:

Recreation Saturday October 26
Commercial Monday October 28