



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

**Shellfish Department**

P.O. Box 1327

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Charles Fisher  
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December 2019 Report

The Oak Bluffs Harbor has been opened for recreational and commercial shellfishing. Catches during the bay scallop season continue to be sparse. The highest numbers have come from the few divers who are still getting their limits from the channel in Sengekontacket. As the cold weather sets in, they have been going out with less frequency.

In addition to patrolling and checking catches, the deputies have been busy with gear work. Damaged crap traps have been repaired and new scallop lines are being made. The lagoon boat has been hauled and winterized. The replacement boat has been brought to the yard too. I am working with the Highway Department to get it inside for a few days to mount the helm. After that we will construct the culling board.

We removed the remains of one of the boats that was past the Sailing Camp Park and will dispose of the other this week. The Conservation Agent has been informed of the downed tree in that area. She will take a look at it.

There is a designated borrow sight in Sengekontacket just on the Oak Bluffs side of the second bridge. Friends of Sengekontacket is committed to funding two studies within the pond. The first is to monitor tidal flow. When it is complete they will have a bathymetry study done. They will have these studies analyzed and compared to try to understand the sand accumulation and shoaling around the channel. This analysis will include a simulation to determine if dredging along the channel and towards Major's Cove would help improve the flow in the pond. The simulation will also determine how many cubic yards of material would need to be removed.

The little bridge is to be dredged ASAP.

The Town is looking into having more studies done that will lead to permitting the Farm Pond restoration project. We are considering releasing DEP as a sponsoring partner in an effort to getting the culvert installed. This restoration project is not eligible for the grant I was looking into due to its reliance on the culvert as the means for restoration.

I have prepared and submitted my proposed FY'21 departmental budget. Notable changes include eliminating the part time summer deputy position and a slight increase in hours for the year round part time deputy position. The next step will be going to before the finance committee for their review.

The Martha's Vineyard Shipyard marina project has cleared MEPA review. The Hale's are giving their presentation to the MVSG tomorrow, 12/18.

Happy holidays,



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