



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

Shellfish Department

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February 2020 Report

The Little Bridge channel has been dredged. More sand was removed than in previous years maintenance. Most of the sand will be used by the County for beach nourishment on State Beach. Any that is left will be used for an upcoming project to restore the bluff in the parking lot across the street. With assistance from the Highway Department we will also be performing maintenance work at the boat ramp there.

There has been some progress on our replacement work boat. The helm has been mounted and the culling board is under weigh. Regular gear maintenance continues. The focus has been on repair and replacement of scallop nurseries.

I have attended a few recent meetings of the Tisbury Selectboard when the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard expansion has been on their agenda. There is increasing public concern and pushback. At the 1/29/20 meeting, the board agreed to sign a letter of support for the project. Many concerned groups have switched their focus from how to stop the project to mitigation to reduce its impact.

Farm Pond was recently opened to shellfishing. The pond's restoration project continues to move forward. A recent grant pre-proposal I submitted was not accepted due to mode of submission and fit for the project. The Town intends to proceed with the scour study that is required by MA DOT for the planning and permitting phase.

DMF has reclassified a small section of Oak Bluffs Harbor, between slip 1 at Our Market and slip 29 at Dukes County Ave. The area is currently classified as "prohibited". This closure is the result of high levels of coliform bacteria that were present in samples taken by DMF in November and December. These samples were taken a few days after heavy rainfall. Between the effects of the rainfall and the large number of resident geese around the pond the classification is unfortunate but not surprising. I was recently approached by the President of the Ag Society asking if the Department would be interested in an Island wide goose addling project. There will be an information session with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. I plan to attend the meeting to learn more before agreeing to participate.

Respectfully submitted,