



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

Shellfish Department

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March 2020 Report

Gear repair and preparations have been a focus for this month. Scallop nursery cages are ready, quahog floats are being restrung and painted, and quahog rafts are being repaired and prepped for painting. The tidal upweller is also being prepped for painting. Painting jobs will commence as soon as outside temperatures allow.

Our Sengekontacket boat is at the mechanic for annual maintenance and should be complete by next week. The Lagoon boat continues to see progress. When available, inside space has been made by the Highway Department so we can do temperature sensitive work on it. It is ready for the engine to be rigged and wired. When we pick up the Sengekontacket boat we will deliver the Lagoon boat. It will take approximately 1 ½-2 weeks for it to be mechanically complete.

Last week we worked with the Oak Bluffs Water Department and the Tisbury Shellfish Department to perform seasonal maintenance to the Herring Run. The run was cleared out of debris and sediment and the ladders were installed.

I met with the Capital Improvement Program Committee to explain the Department's need for an additional vehicle. I explained that with three employees and three seasonal interns, our current F250 with 2+1 seating is insufficient. My request is for a full size, four door, full bed F150 or the like. The additional vehicle will enable the Department to safely and efficiently transport staff and provide the ability to split up and work at multiple sites. The committee seemed open to the idea. I intend to request the use of an electric vehicle to provide staff transportation until we receive a permanent vehicle. If the electric vehicle is authorized it will be used for staff transportation and not gear.

I will not be attending the MSOA meeting planned for this week or the National Shellfish Association conference as they have been canceled due to concerns relating to Covid-19. Locally, I am enacting measures to help keep the staff safe. I am encouraging independent projects, implementing sanitation measures for the truck and workshop, and working remotely when possible. I am working on a remote project for Marissa if the need arises for her to be with her family.

The Town had a joint meeting yesterday (Monday) at 3:00PM between the Select Board and the Board of Health to discuss the appropriate preventative measures needed to help in the Covid-19 prevention efforts. The meeting was live streamed and informative. I have attached the Oak Bluffs Covid-19 virus operations plan.

I have viewed the Selectman's meeting where the Committee letters regarding the MV Shipyard and MVRHS athletic field projects were discussed. Since that meeting I have received information from both sides. Please see the attached documents that I have received.

Respectfully submitted,