



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
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June 2016 Report

We have received 500,000 oyster seed and they are in the tidal upweller in Major's Cove. Last year's oysters will be seeded out soon. We will take samples to determine the survival and growth before releasing them.

MV Shellfish Group started handing out seed quahogs last Friday. We have rafts out in the pond with sand ready for additional seed. In all we have 20 rafts in the water and most with sand. We are working on another half dozen at the barn. These rafts will be put in later to growout some of the steamer clams or quahogs if we get over 2 million seed quahogs from the shellfish group.

Salem State's hatchery is behind schedule due to the cooler weather this spring. The animals are growing slowly. The first batch will hopefully be sent out within the week. The upweller in the harbor is ready to receive them.

The bay scallops in the spawning cages are starting to ripen. We have put out the wild spat collectors on each of the spawning cages.

We have set up both tackle shops in town to sell non-resident shellfish licenses.

The living shoreline/marsh restoration project is underway. The first site was installed on June first. We had a great turnout to assist us. Edgartown Shellfish, Felix Neck staff, Environmental Protection Agency (Atlantic Ecology Division), Martha's Vineyard Commission and Friends of Sengekontacket all participated. In all there were 17 people working on the installation. We have been monitoring the site every couple of days and at different tides and it has been firm. Some of the shell bags along the outside of the coconut fiber logs are being sanded in already. We have observed a few animals already moving in to the areas behind and within the spaces made by the logs. We have realized it is taking us a lot more time to make the shell bags than we predicted. To keep this project on track we have had to devote more of our time to this project. The EPA and Felix Neck are assisting to make the bags as well.

I presented the living shoreline project at the MV Coastal Conference sponsored by MA Coastal Zone Management and Woods Hole Sea Grant. At the conference I learned we are one of the first in the State to use this method of creating a living shoreline. This method has been used successfully in many areas of the country.

Over the winter Jason and Chuck built 22 new crab traps. There are currently 50 traps out in the ponds. We are trying to tend them once a week. Due to priorities of other gear getting put out and available staffing we have missed a week or two this spring.

Our seasonal deputy and the Friends of Sengekontacket (FOS) intern have started. This is the first time since 2008 we have had this level of staffing. The summer deputy is Kallen Sullivan who was the FOS intern last summer. FOS hired Danielle Cleary as this year's intern that we share with Edgartown Shellfish Department.

At the end of the month the Hawaiian sailing canoe Hokulea will be visiting the island on their around the world voyage to promote "Malama Honua" (a more sustainable world). We will be participating in the event and have an exhibit booth in the tent; the booth will be shared with the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group and Cottage City Oysters. Felix Neck will be highlighting the living shoreline project at their table during this event.

Respectfully submitted,