



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

David W. Grunden
Shellfish Constable
Herring Warden
Marine Biologist

Telephone (508) 693-0072
Fax 508-696-6472
Cell 508-958-5401

July 2016 Report

We were right out straight this past month. We currently have approximately 2.5 million quahog seed in the nursery rafts. We are starting to get bay scallop seed from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group as well.

We received 300,000 steamer clams from Salem State and these are doing well in the harbor upweller. We will be receiving another 450,000 in early August.

The half million oyster seed we received earlier this summer is still in the tidal upweller and some are ready to go to a larger mesh bag and split into more trays to reduce crowding. We have split them twice since receiving them. Last year's oysters have been released and some will be ready for harvest beginning October first. To improve on their growth rate we will reduce the densities we stock in the bags for over wintering. Using rough numbers, we achieved a very high survival rate of about 89%.

The Hokule'a visit was a success and the two exhibit booths we assisted with were received very well. The MA Audubon booth highlighted the living shoreline project.

Dr. Phil Colarusso of EPA Boston office will re-inspect the loss of eelgrass by the drawbridge next week.

The living shoreline project now has two treatment sites installed and two control sites established. Each site is approximately 100 linear feet. We had a total of 21 people assisting with the installation of the second site. The previous two full days were spent filling shell bags and staging all the materials on the marsh before installation. Sampling of both control and treatment sites has been on going. We expect to install a third treatment site the end of August and the last one in the Fall. I cannot but be amazed at the time, effort, funding, and dedication the EPA personnel of the Atlantic Ecology Office has in this project. Some of their staff was here for 3 days preparing for the installation and a total of ten for the actual installation.

Farm Pond culvert project progress continues at a snail's pace. Our consultant has been meeting with MA Department of Transportation to understand exactly what they want to be evaluated in a scour study on the sound end of the culvert. The one million dollar grant funding has finally been released to the Army Corps of Engineer's Northeast District and we are waiting for them to assign a project manager who will be our contact person with the corps.

We continue to work with Dr. Mary Carman of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) monitoring the eelgrass and sea squirts in Farm Pond. Additionally, we have begun working with Dr. Annette Govindarjan to understand the role the invasive clinging jellyfish has in the pond. The species was first documented in the area in 1894 but stings to humans were not reported until 1990. It is important that we understand this jellyfish as it may affect future decisions on how we manage the shellfish in Farm Pond.

I spoke at both the Lagoon Pond Association and Friends of Farm Pond Annual Meetings this past month.

Respectfully submitted,