



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

August 2016 Report

We have received the rest of our steamer clam seed from Salem State College. Some of the first batch has been large enough to seed out already. The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group is still getting the towns scallop seed. The seed from the hatchery looks good and it appears that the survival is pretty good. We have not taken any down so we do not have any numbers as yet.

The wild spat bags have caught seed well but not particularly well. We have begun taking these bags down and have not seen any starfish and only a few mud crabs in the bags so far.

Almost all the oysters are out of the tidal upweller and in small mesh bags and in cages off Pecoy Point. They will be moved one more time this fall when we put them into a lager mesh bag. This coming October we will allow oysters to be harvested in Sengekontacket Pond. We seeded out last year's oysters from Pecoy point toward Gravel Island. We will need to teach/remind people that the minimum size to take an oyster is 3 inches. The selectmen's office has 3 inch rings available for purchase.

In July we had rainfall closures of Sengekontacket Pond. The last one at the very end of the month forced a five day closure to extend into August. The closure action level for August is 1 inch (July it is only 0.2 inches).

The living shoreline/salt marsh restoration's third experimental site has been identified. We still need to fill bags with shell before we can do the installation. Looking at the tides it will likely be in two weeks.

The annual summer tax payers' meeting was held on August 9th went well. The format was different this year and each department head was at tables and the summer residents could talk directly to the department heads and not through the selectmen. Most of the questions of the shellfish department were on wastewater, sewerage, and the living shoreline project.

I will be attending a joint conference of Restore America's Estuaries and The Coastal Society in December. I received confirmation that I will be speaking on the 2 town oyster culture project to address nitrogen loading in Sengekontacket Pond.

At the same conference there will be 3 poster presentations on the living shoreline project. I will create overview of the project. Lauren Josephs (URI grad student) will report on the educational outreach part and Mary Strobel (EPA) will cover the monitoring we are doing.

I suggest the following dates for the opening of bay scallop season:

Sengekontacket Pond Recreational	Saturday	October 15
Sengekontacket Pond Commercial	Monday	October 24
Lagoon Pond Recreational	Saturday	October 29
Lagoon Pond Commercial	Monday	October 31

Respectfully submitted,