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December 2016 Report

Scallop season is winding down though a few commercial fishermen are going but not necessarily coming in with limits.

The harbor was opened to recreational shell fishing on the tenth and commercial on the 12th of this month.

All our gear is in except the oyster cages to over winter the oysters. Jason and Chuck have begun working on the gear. We will also be building more scallop spawning cages over the winter.

I delivered a power point presentation on the two town oyster project at the 8th National Summit on Estuarine Restoration. There were over 1500 attendees from 20 countries and 4 continents. I attended sessions on living shorelines and carbon storage. This is important as the carbon is tied up in the tidal, sub-tidal bottoms and salt marshes and is not released into the atmosphere. Carbon is a major greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Healthy salt marshes are one of the best habitats for carbon storage.

Also at this conference I had a poster presentation on the living shoreline. A second poster covering the social and outreach portion of this project was also displayed by Lauren Josephs, a grad student from University of Rhode Island who worked on this project this past summer.

I was asked and I have accepted an invitation to give a presentation on the Sengekontacket Pond living shoreline project at the Coastal Estuarine Research Federation conference next November.

I will be attending the Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Expo next month.

Little Bridge channel maintenance is being scheduled and will be completed by the deadline of January 15.

I will be working on the annual report for the Town Report as well as several other reports on small projects under way funded by sources other than the department's budget from taxation.

Respectfully submitted,