



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts
Shellfish Department
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July 2014 Report

To date we have received 2.28 million 1 mm quahog seed and thousands of tiny bay scallops from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group. The quahog seed is in the nursery rafts in Sengekontacket Pond and the scallops are in bags hung from lines in Lagoon Pond. We also received 400,000 soft shell clam seed from Salem State College and expecting another 300,000 the end of the month. Additionally we have oysters from Fisher Island Hatchery.

Under the rainfall closure plan for Sengekontacket Pond, we had to close the pond on July 5 for a minimum of 5 days due to receiving over 0.2 inches of rain overnight. As luck would have it the night before we would be allowed to re-open we recorded a rain event of 0.28 inches. This meant we had to start the clock over again for another 5 days.

We have begun the seasonal monitoring of eelgrass/tunicates in Farm and Lagoon Ponds. This work is done with funding from the Community Preservation Act to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The Shellfish Department is a full partner in this effort and provide in-kind match. The ponds will be monitored monthly through September.

The water quality monitoring of the sentinel sites established in the Massachusetts Estuaries Project is being done through the Martha's Vineyard Commission this year at no cost. This opportunity was created by collaboration with the Center of Coastal Studies. The CCS will also analyze the water samples for trace amounts of pharmaceuticals and health and beauty products. These pollutants are being found even in samples from the well flushed Nantucket Sound; however at extremely low levels.

There has not been any progress on getting Little Bridge Channel dredged. The only correspondence on this was receiving an email from Andrew Nelson an aid in Representative William Keating's office restating that FEMA is "reviewing all Hurricane Sandy Projects for eligibility".

The proposed pilot program to allow a tackle shop in Town to sell non-resident shellfish licenses was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen and is now in effect.

The drawbridge committee continues to meet twice a month with Middlesex and MA Department of Transportation. A brief project schedule summary for work on the bridge and approaches has been released. There is also a mockup of the proposed stone façade on the Tisbury side near where the house once stood.

Respectfully submitted,