

Division of Marine Fisheries Update



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Shellfish Sanitation & Management Program

Massachusetts Aquaculture Association (MAA)
Annual Meeting
Friday February 27, 2026

Massachusetts Division
of Marine Fisheries



Update and Recent Events

- Program Element Evaluation Reports (PEERs)
 - GA (Growing Area)
 - RARM (Risk Assessment Risk Management)
- 2024 Shellfish Aquaculture Landings
- 2025 *Vibrio* Illnesses
- 2025 New Site and Permit Statistics
- Permitting
- SAP Update



Growing Area Updates

- 2025 PEER Results (8/4/25 -8/8/25)
 - 13 south shore areas
 - No new deficiencies!!!
 - Birds observed on gear in Nantucket
- 2026 PEER Scheduled for August 2026
 - 10 south shore areas / 3 north shore areas



Buzzards Bay – Little Harbor/Bourne Cove, Phinneys Harbor

Elizabeth Islands – Hadleys Harbor, Cuttyhunk Pond, Lackeys Bay

South Cape – Popponesett Bay, Mashpee River and Shoestring Bay,
Cotuit Bay, West Bay, North Bay

Cape Cod Bay - Duxbury Bay, Bluefish River, Back River



RARM (Risk Assessment/Risk Management)

- No RARM in 2025
- 2026 RARM happening in July
- FDA observed birds on some aquaculture sites during PEER
- Birds continue to be a growing concern for DMF and FDA



2025 Season

Confirmed *Vp* Single Source (10):

Consumption Date	Implicated Food	Harvest Area
6/28/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB14
6/30/2025	Raw Oysters	BB3
7/12/2025	Raw Oysters	N4
8/2/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB45
7/23/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB11
7/28/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB42, CCB45
7/29/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB14
8/6/2025	Raw Oysters	SC50
8/8/2025	Raw Oysters	SC50
8/13/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61

Confirmed *Vibrio* sp. Single Source (15):

Consumption Date	Implicated Food	Harvest Areas
4/26/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB23
6/19/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB31
6/20/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB45
7/3/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61
7/5/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB45
7/11/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61
7/13/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61
7/21/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61
7/23 or 7/24/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB45
7/26/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB13
7/30/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB23
8/3/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB31
8/11/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB11
9/6/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB11
9/27/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB31

Some additional self-harvest cases

2025 Season

Confirmed *Vp* Multi-Source (6):

Consumption Date	Implicated Food	Harvest Area
6/29/2025	Raw Oysters/Quahogs	CCB31, CCB45
6/25 + 6/26/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61, CCB9, BB32
7/7/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB45, V20
8/2/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB31, BB36
8/8/2025	Raw Oysters	SC61, out of state
8/5 + 8/9/2025	Raw Oysters/Quahogs	SC50, CCB31

Confirmed *Vibrio* sp. Multi-Source (8):

Consumption Date	Implicated Food	Harvest Areas
6/15/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB11, CCB45, BB37
6/27/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB9, CCB11, SC14
7/19 + 7/21/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB11, CCB45
7/23/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB23, out of state
8/3/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB23, out of state
8/3/2025	Raw Oysters	SC28, CCB11
8/9/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB23, out of state
8/16/2025	Raw Oysters	CCB31, out of state

2025 *Vibrio* Closures

- Duxbury/Plymouth/Kingston *Vibrio* closure August 18-27
- Pleasant Bay *Vibrio* closure August 18-September 3
- Wellfleet on the verge of closure in September



More *Campylobacter*

- 19 cases in 2025
- 5 outbreaks including one closure in Menemsha Pond and Katama Bay from August 1-8
- When oysters are epidemiologically linked to an outbreak, DMF and DPH have 24 hours to complete an investigation or implement a closure



Questions?



Future questions may be directed to
Alex Boeri: alex.boeri@mass.gov
or
Gabriel Lundgren: gabriel.lundgren@mass.gov

Massachusetts Division
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2024 Aquaculture Statistics

Eastern Oyster		
Town or Region	Pieces	Reported Value
Barnstable	11,779,534	\$6,787,236
Brewster	768,150	\$452,364
Dennis	2,395,334	\$1,366,247
Duxbury	11,270,875	\$6,647,969
Eastham	1,511,890	\$858,961
Edgartown	1,639,468	\$1,016,916
Falmouth	3,048,060	\$1,690,902
Nantucket	757,246	\$591,115
Orleans	585,200	\$371,994
Other Buzzards Bay Towns	2,916,446	\$1,567,369
Other Cape Cod Towns	833,327	\$491,724
Other Island Towns	677,121	\$560,435
Plymouth/Kingston	2,075,095	\$1,173,720
Provincetown	66,700	\$54,162
Rowley	*	*
Scituate	*	*
Truro	37,400	\$20,349
Wareham	1,239,850	\$764,193
Wellfleet	11,324,805	\$6,725,921
Yarmouth	762,100	\$425,932
TOTAL	53,688,601	\$31,567,506
Quahog		
Town or Region	Pieces	Reported Value
Barnstable	1,638,352	\$472,412
Other MA Towns	242,610	\$91,718
Wellfleet	2,752,631	\$757,461
TOTAL	4,633,593	\$1,321,592
Total Aquaculture Landings Value		\$32,889,098



Permitting System

Division of Marine Fisheries
Marine Fisheries Permitting Program

Christian Pettipas

DASHBOARD REQUEST PROFILES HELP LOGOUT

Dashboard

+ APPLY FOR NEW PERMIT MY TASKS DASHBOARD Admin Tools

All Requests and Permits

New Requests

224,557

+27 Since last week

Completed Requests

224,509

+16 Since last week

In-progress Requests

36

+4 Since last week

Dashboard

REQUESTS OTHER REQUESTS ARCHIVE REQUESTS **PERMITS**

Search Permits

Permits List

Permit Number	Permit Holder's Name	Organization's Name	Permit Category	Permit Type	Issue Date	Expiry Date	Permit Status	Action
184280	anna Webb		SPECIAL PERMITS	MASTER DIGGER	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW
165902	WARREN ALEXANDER	COLLIN & WARREN, INC.	COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN PERMITS	OFFSHORE LOBSTER-NON TRAP	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW
5679	ATLANTIC RED CRAB CO	ATLANTIC RED CRAB CO	DEALER PERMITS	WHOLESALE DEALER	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW
10391	ATLANTIC RED CRAB CO	ATLANTIC RED CRAB CO	DEALER PERMITS	WHOLESALE DEALER	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW
10170	LANCE'S SEAFOOD LLC	LANCE'S SEAFOOD LLC	DEALER PERMITS	WHOLESALE TRUCK	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW
11687	THOUSAND CHEF TRADING CORP	THOUSAND CHEF TRADING CORP	DEALER PERMITS	WHOLESALE DEALER	02/23/2023	12/31/2023	Active	MANAGE VIEW

2025 Permits:

- 384 Propagation Permit Holders
- 3 Aquaculture Permit Holders
 - 1 kelp
 - 2 horseshoe crab
- 4 Hatchery Permits



Field Outreach In 2026

Boundary Marking and Accuracy

- Ground Truthing for GIS Mapping Updates
- Vp Compliance if Harvesting

Focus on Floating Gear Bird Deterrent Status

- What is effective? What is not? Suggestions, Collaboration
- Individual Site Closures Possible

Reminders

- Log Book
- Propagation Permit
- Re-sub Plans Following Offsite Culling
- Source of Ice
- Harvest Window (Tide – Time to Ice)
- No Animals



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Massachusetts Division
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The Massachusetts Shellfish Advisory Panel

Established by the legislature in 2021 to enhance communication and provide advice on shellfish resources and management in the State

Purpose and Function

The SAP is a public body that advises the Division of Marine Fisheries on matters related to shellfish resources and fisheries. It aims to be a forum for stakeholders, including government officials, commercial and recreational harvesters, seafood dealers, **aquaculturists** and conservationists to discuss emerging issues and share information relative to shellfish management.



Statutory Membership of the SAP

State Governmental Representatives

- Division of Marine Fisheries Director
- Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission
- Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner
- Department of Agriculture Commissioner
- Department of Public Health Food Protection Program Director
- Office of Coastal Zone Management Director
- Co-Chairs of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Agriculture
- Commissioner of Indian Affairs



Statutory Membership of the SAP

Stakeholder Representatives

- Commercial Harvesters – wild, municipally managed (2)
- Commercial Harvester – wild, State managed (1)
- Shellfish Farmers (3)
- Recreational Harvester (1)
- Shellfish Dealers (2)
- Municipal Shellfish Constables (2)
- Conservation Organization (1)





Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative
2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Objectives & Goals

- Ecologically Sound Management
- Research and Restoration
- Economic Sustainability
- Stakeholder Engagement

Implementation Strategies

- Enhanced Communication & Collaboration
- Public Input
- Streamline Regulations
- Incentivize Sustainable Practices
- Foster Collaboration



Who is the SAP?

State Governmental Representatives

- Daniel McKiernan, DMF Director (chair)
- Michael Moore, DPH Food Program Director
- Alison Brizius, CZM Director
- Bonnie Heiple DEP Commissioner
- Ashley Randle, DAR Commissioner
- Jim Peters, Indian Affairs Commissioner
- Representative Natalie Blaise, JCA
- Senator Dylan Fernandes, JCA



Who is the SAP?

Stakeholder Representatives

- Ron Bergstrom, Commercial Fisher, Chatham
- John Townes, Commercial Fisher, Cotuit
- Allen Rencurrel, Commercial Fisher, Westport
- Jim Abbott, Recreational Harvester, Barnstable
- Michael DeVasto, Aquaculturist, Wellfleet
- Seth Garfield, Aquaculturist, Cuttyhunk
- Dale Leavitt, Aquaculturist, Falmouth



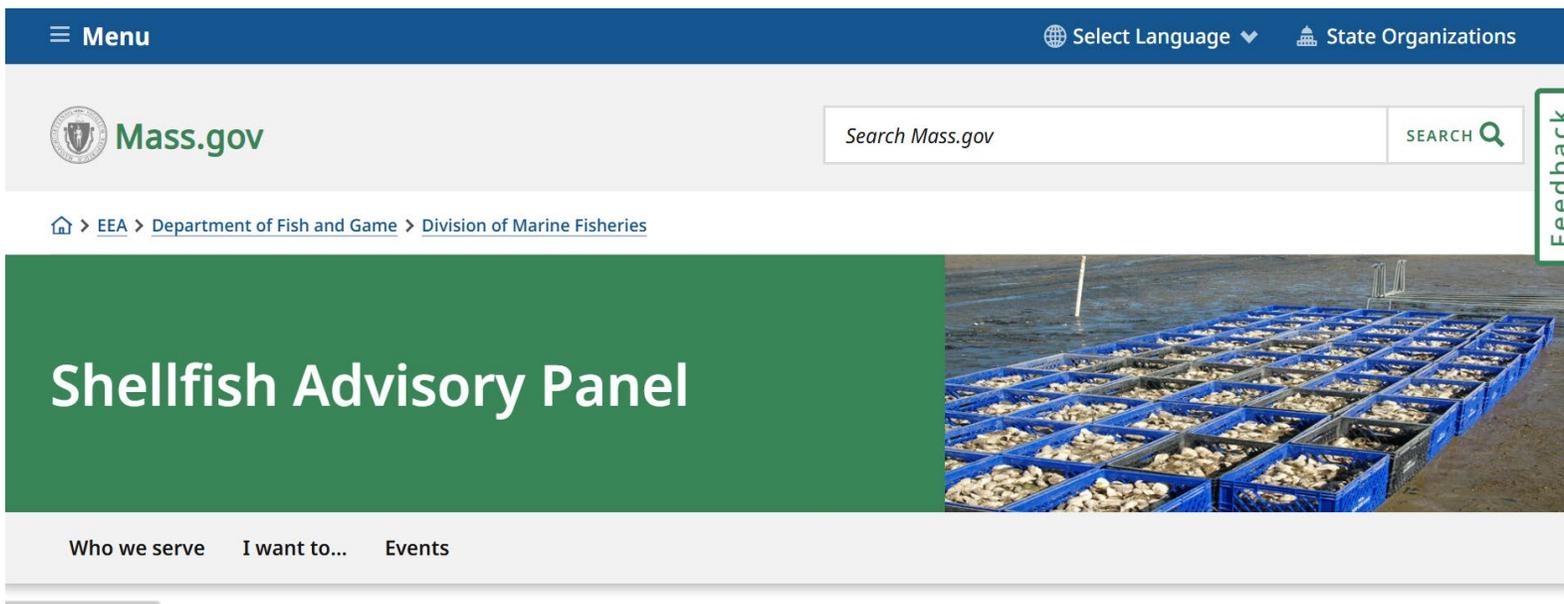
Who is the SAP?

Stakeholder Representatives

- George Delaney, Ipswich Maritime, Inc.
- Alex Hay, Wellfleet Shellfish, Inc.
- Josh Reitsma, Woods Hole Sea Grant
- Steve Kirk, The Nature Conservancy
- Renee Gagne, Chatham Shellfish Constable
- Amy Croteau, Barnstable Shellfish Constable
- William Doyle, Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission Liaison



SAP Website



www.mass.gov/orgs/shellfish-advisory-panel



SAP Meetings

Shellfish Advisory Panel
Meeting of November 12, 2025
AGENDA

1. Introductions, Roll Call, Minutes & Director's Remarks
2. Work Group Reports
3. Shellfish Restoration Program & Planting Guidelines
4. Wastewater Treatment Plant Model Peer Review
5. Green Crab Summit & Depletion Program
6. Shellfish Dealer Transaction Card System Upgrade
7. Surf Clam Updates
8. DMF Shellfish Program Reports
9. Other Business
10. Public Comments
11. Next Meeting



SAP Shellfish Hatchery Work Group

Agenda Meeting of 2/23/26

1. Survey of other States on the state of seed supply/issues
2. How DMF database can be used to inform hatchery sector
3. Seed handling educational video project



SAP Aquaculture License Transfer Work Group

Agenda Meeting of 2/24/26

1. Survey of Aquaculturists
2. Best Practices Manual Development Update



How Do You Get Involved?

- Get on SAP mailing list: contact me
- Get to know an SAP member(s)
- Reach out to your advocates on SAP
- Attend meetings: 2-3 x per year as needed
- Leverage the SAP to advance your goals
- Leverage the SAP to obtain resources
- Encourage Your Colleagues & Advocates to participate



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