

Report on 2020 Recreational Shellfish Program
May 28, 2020
Submitted by Susan Voris, Secretary to Shellfish Commission

We have issued **297 annual recreational permits** as of May 28, 2020. There were **248** renewals and **49** new permits. (83.5%/16.5%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	148	(\$ 4,410.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	140	(\$ 1,995.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	5	(\$ 300.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	4	(\$ 120.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$ 0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$6,825.00** since December 26, 2019 when we began issuing the 2020 recreational shellfishing permits.

7 senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

Closures:

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
January	31	0	31
February	29	0	29
March	31	0	31
April	17	13	30
May	2	26	28
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	110	39	149

Notes:

Closure Events

4/13/20 - > 1.5"

4/27/20 - transplant - water temp 45 degrees

I just heard The Dock Shop is back in business. They had not taken any permits from us and our agreement was not signed. The only way to get a recreational shellfish permit at this time is by mail. Once mail is received, the Town of Westport is quarantining mail for at least 36 hours before distributing it to the appropriate departments. Staff is sending permits out the day we receive them. If a person plans to go out over the weekend, we have scanned a copy of their permit to them so they have a copy for the weekend. I will attempt to contact The Dock Shop and see if we can get our agreement with them signed and have them selling permits. This is something our shellfishermen would like to see.

Permit sales in May were down. We sold 38 permits in May as of this writing. That is about 15 less than we sold at this time last year. We could say that the transplant affected our sales. The closure of the Canal Beach parking area is going to be a deterrent as well.

Canal Beach parking remains closed. That area was becoming a hangout and by necessity was closed to maintain social distancing. Access to Cockenoe Flats is only by boat unless you live on Saugatuck Shores, then you can of course walk out. How long this closure will remain in place has been undetermined.

We had a successful transplant. Norm Bloom and crew were able to transplant 912 bushels of clams. He completed the transplant on May 5, 2020. Though we hoped to reopen in time for Memorial Day weekend that was not the case. There was a communication error and we reopened on May 27, 2020.