



## TOWN OF WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION

TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE  
WESTPORT, CT 06880  
P 203.341.1087 F 203.341.1088

December 2020

Dear Fellow Shellfishers,

Thank you for your interest in Westport's recreational shellfishing program.

Careful and proactive management of shellfish beds is a hallmark of the Town of Westport's shellfish program. This year, the Westport Shellfish Commission managed a successful program. We issued 557 annual recreational shellfishing permits and transplanted more than 600 bushels of clams from our Saugatuck River nursery to our recreational beds.

With the COVID-19 restrictions, Town Hall is closed to the public except by appointment. Please send your permit application in by mail. We are unable to get conference rooms to process your permits in person. When the weather gets warmer, we may be able to accommodate you by meeting you outside the building but that decision will be made as conditions become more clear.

We also wanted to make note of the Vibrio outbreak that took place late in the summer season and which led to the closing of several beaches to swimming in our area. Vibrio is a naturally occurring bacteria in the water. Luckily, we did not hear about any reported cases of Vibrio causing ill-effects to our shellfish resources. The source of contact for the strain of Vibrio this summer was through the skin, usually through an open wound. Still, to ensure a safe catch we include with every permit issued a handout regarding safe shellfish handling. Please take time to review this information. Always remember to bring a cooler with ice. The sooner your catch is brought down to below 50° after harvest, the better.

Enclosed is your application for a 2021 Westport Shellfishing Permit valid from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Getting your permit now will ensure you of uninterrupted access to shellfish resources. All applications **must** be signed and **must** include a copy of your most recent photo identification and current address.

Please mail:

- **completed and signed application**
- **copy of your current driver's license or photo identification, which includes an address**
- **permit fee** (see back side of the application)

to: **Westport Shellfish Commission**  
**110 Myrtle Avenue, Room 205**  
**Westport, CT 06880**

Most times, your permit will be mailed within 5 business days of receipt of your completed application and appropriate fee. Always call the hotline phone number on your permit to determine if recreational shellfish beds are open before going out: 203-838-9807. If you need more applications and/or would like more information, please visit our website: [www.westportct.gov](http://www.westportct.gov) under the tab Government/Appointed Boards/Shellfish Commission, or call our office.

As always, we welcome your comments.

Sincerely,  
Heather Williams  
Chairman, Westport Shellfish Commission