

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Shellfish & Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee will consist of (7) regular members plus 2 associates appointed by the Board of Selectmen for overlapping three-year terms. Each member will serve for one or more three (3) year terms at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Priority will be given to appointing members who possess varied related backgrounds including, but not limited to, marine science, recreational fishermen/shell fishermen, recreational boaters, commercial marine, commercial shell fishermen, shellfish dealers, and aquaculture grant holders. At least two members need to be commercial fishermen, but this requirement may be waived if such an applicant cannot be identified. In this case, the committee will present alternate candidates to the Board of Selectmen.

General Purpose:

In its advisory capacity, the committee serves as a resource to the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen (BOS), Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable and other town boards and committees, for issues related to preserving, protecting, managing, and enhancing our natural resources such as finfish, shellfish and public waterways. The primary overall goals are to:

Review, research and/or provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen concerning coastal and shellfish projects, policies, and rules and regulations which may have an impact on the protection of ecologically and economically important finfish (e.g., herring, American eel), and shellfish resources.

Review, research and/or provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding efforts initiated by the Town to protect, maintain, develop and improve its navigable waterways and public resources, through transparent and environmentally sound means, and in a way that advocates for all waterway users.

Specific Roles:

The Committee may be called upon by the Town to participate in, or be responsible for the following activities which may include, but not limited to, the following:

Study matters presented by the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable relating to the marine waterways of the town and make recommendations to him/her or the BOS as required.

Work with the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable relating to the marine waterways of the town and make recommendations to him/her or the BOS as required.

Work with the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable, to study and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on issues pertaining to harbor management, maintenance and navigation, maintenance of landings, the impact of waterfront development, docks and changing state and federal regulations on waterways.

Establish liaison with town Water Quality Committee(s) and the Orleans Conservation Commission, to identify problem areas resulting from road drainage, septic problems, and swimming pools that affect town waterways.

Establish liaison with the town Agricultural Advisory Council to work cooperatively as needed on issues related to special projects involving the enhancement or culture of shellfish, or to provide technical support related to shellfish aquaculture.

Promote increased education and awareness of the public regarding water quality and shellfishing issues which are not only of value, but a source of pride to the town.

Work with the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable on matters related to shellfish management, including making written recommendations to the BOS. Such matters shall include, but not limited to the following:

- Working with the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable to develop a program with Town funding for shellfish aquaculture propagation.
- Investigate the availability of State and Federal grants and funding and pursue obtaining them.
- Develop a plan and provide recommendations to the BOS regarding policies on shellfish regulations, propagation, and habitat protection, including aquaculture programs.
- Study and make recommendations regarding criteria for the harvesting of shellfish (i.e, sizes, etc.)
- Research and make recommendations regarding the establishment of new and innovative management efforts, or control efforts such as a trap program for invasive species (e.g. Green crab)
- Work to establish and maintain a balance of understanding between commercial and recreational shell fishermen.
- Maintain an active liaison with the Shellfish and Waterways program of Eastham, and with the Pleasant Bay Management Alliance, and other appropriate citizen environmental groups.

The Committee will meet once a month, 9 -12 times per year, and file minutes with the Town Clerk within 30 days of its meetings, and will publicize monthly meeting in a timely manner to ensure the public is aware of the various issues. The Committee will submit a

written annual report to the Town Administrator's Office during the first week in January each year summarizing its activities during the previous year.

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