

2005 SHELLFISH REPORT

The recent good year of scallops can be attributed to the efforts of 2003 and 2004. During 2003, close to 1000 spat collectors were deployed, 350 crab pots fished and many sanctuaries deployed. A closure during 2004 helped protect seed. Many hours were spent cleaning and storing equipment. Scallops were conditioned in the harbor by the docks and set in sanctuaries in the pond. Hard and messy work. Volunteers are welcome!

Recently, sustainable shellfish stocks have been on my mind. It is not so much that the industry is in peril, but that the eco-systems of the earth are at their most critical point in history to date. No matter what part of the earth you look at, the birds are threatened. Animals are being encroached upon and the oceans are being depleted at an alarming rate.

No tolerance management does not work. Especially when double standards are applied in compelling efforts that are deceptive to people outside the circle of interest. Encouraging widespread support by creating issues that distract people from the real issues always proves short lived. The end result worst than before.

An old ploy in a new mask. The little guy gets pushed out and the big guy steps in for a short time. I have seen this happen again and again in fisheries issues.

The New England fisheries are a prime example.

Shellfish are no exception, Bay scallops for example are one of the most, if not the most sensitive, of all shellfish. Implementation of aggressive initiatives are need in order to maintain a healthy stock. High moral values are also important as this is the only way regulations will work.

The January thru December 2005 Catch report is:

	Recreational	Commercial
Quahaugs	-----120 bushel-----	-----90 bushel
Bay scallops	-----100 bushel-----	----- 640 bushel

Menemsha, like the Bay scallop is also a sensitive social eco-system. By all working together, we can help keep Menemsha a sustainable environment for the little guy, and a producer of a sustainable eco-system.