

## Tim Carroll

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**From:** 88chilmark@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Tim Carroll  
**Subject:** OYSTERS

Hi Tim: The following is a note to the Selectmen but I would much appreciate it if you would forward it to the Shellfish department and the shellfish steering committee members too as I don't have e-mail addresses for them. Thank you.

Dear Selectmen, I am concerned about the commercial oyster season you recently approved. Oysters, unlike scallops or steamers, do not just pop back and have a good season. They are more like a forest where you harvest a few trees every year and keep a healthy forest or you clear-cut the whole thing and then have nothing for a long time. We know the Chilmark side of Tisbury Great Pond is capable of maintaining a large, healthy oyster population but right now it is down to almost nothing. I waded with a rake where I usually find plenty of oysters and found so few that I got a dredge and sampled from Big Sandy to the opening. A very few oysters, mostly just barely legal size, were fairly evenly spread out through the whole area. A few days of commercial dredging by just one or two people will destroy what is just coming back from serious over harvesting.

I hope you will consider asking the warden to pay close attention to the first people out there and if he agrees with my take on the status of the oyster stock to immediately close the commercial season.

Thank you, Chris Murphy