

# HARBORMASTER/SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

## Mission Statement

The Wareham Harbormaster/Shellfish Department is responsible for over 54 miles of coastline, and over 1200 acres of freshwater ponds. During the summer season the Town of Wareham will have as many as 3000 vessels using the waterways at any given time.

The primary duties performed by the Harbormaster Department are, promoting boating safety, enforcement of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, providing 24hr emergency response to maritime emergencies and various other situations, management of fifty-seven mooring field locations by the harbor service permit system, maintain town navigational aids, and the operation of the "Pump-Out" waste management program which promotes better water quality amongst the Town of Wareham's largest natural resource.

Along with the duties performed as Harbormaster, the department takes on the role of Shellfish Constable. This consists of the protection, propagation, and enforcement of a variety of species which use the waterways as there habitat. The Shellfish Department over the years has increased its shellfish propagation to include the purchase of a shellfish upweller which is capable of raising over 1,000,000 pieces of shellfish to help replenish Wareham's shellfish industry and pastime.

The Department also oversees the operation and law enforcement of the herring and smelt fishery. All runs, ladders, streams, and passageways are continuously maintained to allow an effective passage for a productive spawning cycle.

The Wareham Harbormaster/Shellfish office is responsible for the day to day operation of maintaining information pertaining to all vessels situated in Wareham, the issuance of a variety of required permits and collection of all fees for harbor service permits, recreational and commercial shellfish permits, transfer station permits, beach parking permits, herring and smelt permits, and maintaining commercial shellfish catch reports.

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