

I hereby submit the annual report of the Harbormaster/Shellfish Department for the fiscal year 2009.

The following fees were collected for the Fiscal year:

A. Harbor Service permits	\$ 119,859.00
B. Recreational Shellfish permits	41,170.00
C. Commercial Shellfish permits	9,150.00
D. Tempest Knob boat ramp	8,398.00
E. Beach parking stickers	38,860.00
F. Transfer Station	117,805.00
G. Marion Tag Fee (CMW)	1,840.00

TOTAL REVENUE - \$ 337,082.00

The Harbormaster/Shellfish Department has worked this past year to enhance the shellfish propagation efforts of the town. During the late summer of 2008, the department purchased 287,000 seed oysters and planted them along Wickets Island, Bay Street, Onset Island and Sias Point in an effort to enhance the Oyster population in town. Long Beach was closed to shellfishing in the fall of 2007 in an effort to allow the soft shell clam area, time to rebuild. Long Beach has shown signs of improvement and was reopened June 2009 on a restrictive basis three day per week.

The State Division of Marine Fisheries re-established the moratorium on the harvest, possession or sale of river herring for an additional three years. This action was continued in an effort to counter the yearly decline of river herring throughout the Northeast.

The Harbormaster department is a truly multifaceted operation with responsibilities encompassing a large geographical area, which includes over fifty-four miles of saltwater shoreline and numerous fresh water ponds. Our primary concerns remain public safety and effective waterways management. Due to budgetary reductions over the past few years the department has been forced to operate with a reduced staff, eliminating the department's ability for extended hours of operation, along with patrol of the ponds. Due to the budgetary reductions and rising costs associated with equipment, fuel and maintenance, the department has reduced daily patrols on town waterways.

The Harbormaster department once again sponsored the United States Power Squadron boating course located at Town Hall. This course has been so well received the Power Squadron ran the course twice, once in the fall and again in the spring.

Under the Federal Clean Vessel Act, the Harbormaster department operates two pump-out vessels which have been well used by boaters to pump-out bathroom holding tanks on vessels. Currently there are six land based pump-out facilities, and four boats used by the Town and Private Marina's in our town wide effort to keep the waters of Buzzards Bay clean.

For the third year in a row, the department has been the recipient of a Homeland Security, CEDAP (Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program) grant. This grant was for a Mini Thermal Monocular. This thermal imager valued at \$8,000.00 will greatly assist in the detection, recognition and identification of suspects or victims during Search & Rescue operations.

The Harbormaster department submitted a \$225,000.00 Port Security Grant to the Department of Homeland security, in our effort to replace and enhance outdated capital equipment for the department. This past spring the department received notification that

it was awarded the fourth largest local Port Security Grant in Massachusetts, totaling \$168,750.00 towards the purchase of a commercial grade 27-foot patrol boat equipped with emergency response and firefighting capabilities. Total boat and equipment cost for the grant was \$225,000.00 with the grant award covering 75% of the purchase price.

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Division of Marine Fisheries, and my dedicated staff members for their support throughout the past year.

Respectfully submitted: Michael L. Parola
Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable