

1. NRAC January 14, 2026 Supporting Documents

Documents:

[HARBOR REPORT 14JAN25 DRAFT.PDF](#)
[FY27 WARRANT ARTICLES DRAFT 13JAN25.PDF](#)
[DINGHY V2 NRAC DRAFT 13JAN25.PDF](#)
[NRAC AGENDA 20260114.PDF](#)
[2025 SHELLFISH TOWN REPORT.PDF](#)

2. Meeting Agenda
3. Minute's Approval
4. Shellfish Report
5. Shellfish Regulation
6. Harbor Report
7. Dredging Update
8. Future Dredging Planning
9. NRAC Meeting Planning

Harbor Report

January 2025

Overview

Several harbor projects remain in active progress. The Lake Tashmoo Channel dredging nears successful completion, with a work summary and lessons-learned report being compiled for the first time. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled with the contractor for the Owen Park Pier project this week. Annual mooring bills are being prepared for mailing, and waitlist reminders have been sent. A remaining group of overdue mooring inspections and winter stake violations have been mailed. The Department has met several times with the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster, and coordination is ongoing on shared matters including dredging. In addition, the resumption of dredge permitting in Vineyard Haven Harbor and long-term fiscal and operational planning are underway. The Department appeared before the Select Board to secure approval of amended Waterways Regulations and to participate in a discussion regarding a proposed dredge committee, which was not recommended at this time.

Waterways projects

Owen Park Pier replacement moving forward

The contractor has scheduled a pre-construction meeting with the Department, and materials have been delivered. Demolition is scheduled to begin in February, with a total duration of approximately three months.

Lagoon Pond Landing Lighting and Monitoring

The Harbor Department was awarded a \$25,000 grant from DMF for solar lighting and monitoring cameras at the Lagoon Pond landing, with support from the LPA and other stakeholders. The Department will be coordinating with other Town departments on design and installation.

Technology

The Department is evaluating new web-based tools for mooring surveys and enforcement, to be presented at a future meeting. Improvements to MooringInfo are being reviewed, along with potential replacement by a more modern, comparable software platform and options available through OpenGov.

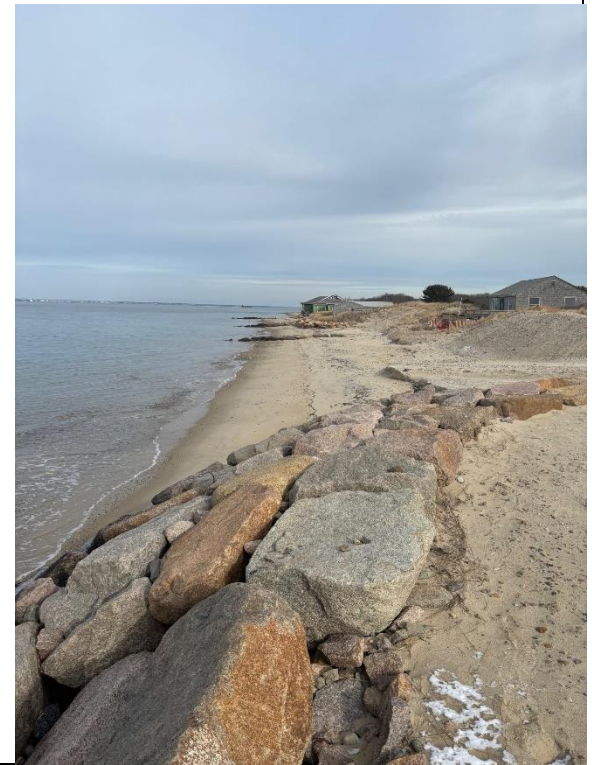
Topics for Consideration

Identification, prioritization, and planning of Dredge projects

Expanded upon below is summary of dredging projects and needs. The harbor department looks to consider ways to collaborate with the committee to directly support these projects. Staff level work, working group support, methods for public input, and most importantly deliverables should be agreed upon.

Waterway regulations dinghy language

Minor updates to the waterways regulations have been approved to clarify existing language. Language for the dinghy dock has been presented in two ways for consideration by the committee.



Dredging

VHH Harbor + Breakwater Back-Channel: An updated permitting and filing timeline, along with a proposed cost and contract amendment, has been prepared. Approximately \$45,000 was expended on professional services under the prior and currently open WHG contract. A contract amendment will need to be approved and signed.

Lake Tashmoo Channel: Dredging is nearly complete for Winter 2025, with bathymetric survey work scheduled for the week of January 19. A summary of work completed and lessons learned is being compiled. An amended Order of Conditions has been approved to expand the disposal site, and a consolidated permit filing is being prepared to include the expanded disposal area and additional dredge zones, along with evaluation of alternatives to streamline future maintenance dredging. A broader summary of site improvements, informed by public and NRAC input, will be developed at the staff level. Edgartown Dredge, Woods Hole Group, and the Harbor Department have coordinated effectively through site visits, progress reviews, and field oversight. The Department is optimistic about the results of this project, although expresses caution in the face of the unpredictable natural forces affecting the area.

Additional Locations The Department has begun initial discussions with the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster regarding shared dredging areas in Lagoon Pond and near the Eastville Jetty. Areas adjacent to the Steamship Authority terminal affected by prop wash are also being evaluated. A town-wide assessment, prioritization, and recommended next steps for future dredging needs will need to be developed.

Budgeting, Warrants Waterways Accounting

The Harbor Department is reviewing options to modernize how funds are warranted and appropriated, with consideration of the long-standing collection warrant articles. Proposed warrants have been attached to this report.

Additional Information

Mooring inspectors continue to work diligently to complete outstanding inspections. The number of pending inspections has been reduced from a high of nearly 200 to fewer than 95, reflecting steady progress toward full compliance. Violation letters for mooring inspections and winter stake issues have been mailed. The department was awarded 25,000 from dmf for improvements to the lagoon pond boat ramp. The department surveyed mooring balls and winter stakes earlier last week.

Harbor Department FY2027 Articles Revised 1/8/2025

ARTICLE (General)

To see if the Town of Tisbury will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand dollars (\$85,000) to remove and dispose of an abandoned vessel, Seeker, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7 – TO FUND WATERWAYS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (OMNIBUS)

To see if the Town of Tisbury will vote to appropriate the sum of \$204,800 from the Waterways Fund in Fiscal Year 2027 for waterways capital expenditures, said funds to be expended by the Harbor Department under the authority of the Harbormaster for the following purposes:

A. Vessel Equipment and Outfitting

\$6,800 for fendering, a light bar, identification markings, logos, required text, and equipment for the Harbor Patrol Boat and Pumpout Boat.

B. Harbor Department Storage Facility

\$23,000 to design, construct, and equip a storage building to support Harbor Department and public safety functions.

C. Dredging Planning, Permitting, and Execution

\$125,000 for future dredging projects, including surveying, engineering, permitting, testing, consulting, execution, and the purchase of equipment or software for such purposes.

D. Abandoned Vessel Disposal

\$2,000 for the disposal of abandoned vessels.

E. Technology and Transaction Services

\$3,000 for software and transaction fees necessary to collect Waterways Fund revenues.

F. Mooring Maintenance and Installation

\$45,000 for the maintenance and/or installation of Town-owned moorings.

Said funds to be expended at the discretion of the Harbormaster within the total appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER NEW EQUIPMENT

j) Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) to replace the Harbor department work truck, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted: Harbor Department

ARTICLE XX – TO AMEND THE DREDGE STABILIZATION FUND TO A WATERWAYS STABILIZATION FUND

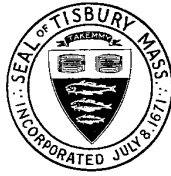
To see if the Town of Tisbury will vote to amend the purpose of the existing Dredge Stabilization Fund to become a Waterways Stabilization Fund, to be used for maintenance, repair, capital improvements, and other lawful activities related to the Town's waterways; said fund to remain under the direction of the Harbormaster; and to authorize that any remaining balance in the fund, currently estimated at approximately Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500), may be used for these expanded purposes in accordance with applicable law, with any expenditures to be made pursuant to Town Meeting appropriation, including the requirements of M.G.L. c. 40, §5B, or take any action relative thereto.

E. DINGHY AND SMALL CRAFT USE AND STORAGE

9. Dinghies may not remain on the floating dinghy docks for more than 72 hours. The Harbormaster may remove inactive Dinghies from the floating docks after 72 hours.

9. Dinghies shall not be kept on dinghy docks for storage or left for extended periods without regular use. The Harbormaster may determine when a dinghy is being stored rather than used and may direct its removal from the dock. Evidence of non-use may include, but is not limited to, excessive marine growth, accumulation of water or debris, or other signs of neglect. Owners shall be responsible for all costs associated with removal and storage.

9. Dinghies shall not be kept on dinghy docks for storage or left unattended for extended periods without regular use or maintenance. The Harbormaster may determine when a dinghy is being stored, abandoned, or otherwise not actively maintained and may direct its removal from the dock. Evidence of non-use or abandonment may include, but is not limited to, accumulation of water, excessive marine growth, debris, deterioration, or other visible signs that the dinghy has not been regularly attended to. Owners shall be responsible for all costs associated with removal and storage.



TOWN OF TISBURY
Natural Resources Department

NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

ZOOM MEETING ONLY

Date: Wednesday January 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm

MVPSIS Conf1 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Time: Jan 14, 2026, 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89795221668>

Meeting ID: 897 9522 1668

Passcode: 02568

5:00 pm Call to order

Public Comment (The public may address the Natural Resources Advisory Committee for up to 3 minutes during the public comment portion of the meeting. Topics must be within the Board's purview and not already listed as an agenda item.)

- Minutes' Approval
- Shellfish Report
- Shellfish Regulation
- Harbor Report / Harbor Proposed Articles
- Dredging Update
- Future Dredging Planning
- NRAC Meeting Planning

Adjournment

SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

To the Tisbury Town residents,

The Tisbury Shellfish Department has had an exciting year, we asked for a full-time Deputy Shellfish Constable at the Annual Town Meeting, with a unanimous vote we were able to hire Aidan Morrison. He has worked part-time with the department for the previous two years and has been instrumental in our ability to manage more shellfish.

This year we were able to increase our public outreach by holding two different events, our 9th annual Family Shellfish Day on June 28th and All About Oysters on October 26th; a new event, where we grew some oysters and seeded them out for this educational experience. We had people harvesting and learning how to shuck oysters.

This summer we spent a good amount of time dedicated to building, filling, and monitoring thirty-two quahog rafts (the most we ever had) filled with anywhere from 25,000-100,000 quahog seed where we looked at population densities/survival. We also had a total of nineteen bay scallop lines with approximately nine hundred bags of scallops and ten spawning cages out. Over the (summer) growing season, we received >4 million bay scallops, over 2 million quahogs, 50,000 oysters and ~2000 surf clam seed from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group. Our quahogs, oysters and bay scallops beautifully grew this year, we were extremely happy with the survival and growth throughout both ponds. We work closely with MVSG and have provided countless numbers of crab and other marine creatures, as well as field knowledge for their educational programs and hatchery tours.

This August we took out Jillian Carr, program manager for habitat restoration at Massachusetts Bays, where we ground truthed area inside and outside our costal ponds looking at eelgrass habitat. We ground truthed around ninety sites in total, and found eelgrass in the upper Lagoon Pond, which was not on any of their maps.

We are very dedicated to our ponds and aid in the monitoring of the water quality within our waterways by working with the Martha's Vineyard Commission, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and the Division of Marine Fisheries. We make collecting data even easier.

We are also excited to announce that the Division of Marine Fisheries has reclassified the West Arm closure in the Lagoon and it is now open to shellfishing December 1- April 30. The head of Tashmoo has also opened to shellfishing and the dates are congruent with the Eastern mooring field in Tashmoo November 1- May 14, permit holders are able to harvest quahogs and soft-shell clams from these areas.

Scallop season started on November 1 in the Lagoon, and outside the ponds, and November 22 for Tashmoo. It was another slim year, but the scallopers who ventured out were shown of what seed scallops look like.

I want to thank everyone who supports shellfish, clean water and our ponds and I want to keep growing within the department. Looking forward to 2026.

Shellfish by the Numbers:

2025	Quahogs	Soft-shell Clams	Bay Scallops
Recreational Bushels Harvested	131.5	5	27.25
Commercial Bushels Harvested*	270.75	2	20.25
Total bushels harvested	402.25	7	47.5
Total \$/Bushel (approx.)	\$140	\$200	\$240
Total Value	\$56,350	\$1,400	\$11,400
*Total Commercial Value using DMF 3.5 economic multiplier (based off commercial limits, this is use by DMF to show how much money from shellfishing circulated throughout the community)	\$132,667.50	\$1,400	\$17,010

Permits Sold:

Senior Residents/MA Veterans (\$5)	221 = \$1,105
Residents/MA Veterans (\$40)	153 = \$6,120
Commercial (\$350)	8 = \$2,800
Year-round non-resident (\$400)	1 = \$400
Short term non-resident (\$25-75)	132 = \$3,850
Bushel Boxes (\$25)	6 = \$150
Gauges (\$5)	72 = \$360
Total \$:	\$14,785



*A nice harvest "All about Oysters"
October 26, 2025*

Sincerely,

Danielle Ewart
Tisbury Shellfish Constable