



Town of Barnstable
Marine and Environmental Affairs Department
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Marinas 508-790-6273
Moorings 508-790-6273

Natural Resources 508-790-6272
Sandy Neck 508-790-6272
Sandy Neck Gatehouse 508-362-8300

TO: Conservation Commission

FROM: Natural Resources, Town of Barnstable

DATE: December 5, 2020

RE: APPLICATION: (N.O.I.), Removal of wharf, relocation of rock revetment, installation of replacement pier, ramp, floats, and establishment of halophytic species in intertidal zone.

APPLICANT: Donald J. MacKinnon, Tr.

LOCATION: 33 Oyster Place Road & 910 Main Street
Cotuit, MA 02655

REPRESENTATIVE: Sarah Turano-Flores
Nutter, McClellan & Fish, LP
1471 Iyannough Road
Hyannis, MA 02601

SHELLFISH SURVEY RESULTS:

A shellfish survey was conducted at 33 Oyster Place Road/910 Main Street, Cotuit at approximately 7:20 AM on Thursday, December 3, 2020 by Shellfish Biologist Elizabeth Lewis and Seasonal Assistants Ben Sacco and Kathryn Brooks of Natural Resources. Low tide occurred at 7:44AM and was +1.2 ft. The proposed project was staked at the shoreline and a tape measure was used from the revetment to locate the end of the pier portion of the project. Sample plots were observed along the transect of the project to examine substrate type and shellfish. Areas we were able to reach along the immediate shoreline were sampled with a 3/8 in mesh lined basket rake and deeper areas were examined using a 3/8 in mesh lined bull rake from a boat.

The sediment from the edge of the bulkhead consists of medium grain sand mixed with organic materials. This can be observed for roughly 10 feet from the stone revetment and along the slope. One seed quahog (under 1 in.) was found in this area. A couple of oysters and ribbed mussels have also settled on the revetment itself. Further out from 10 feet is a deposition area created by the close proximity of the Town Dock and pier just on the other side. This has allowed for very little flushing and seaweed and other organics to get trapped. As a result, the bottom has turned into a thick black mayonnaise where very little

is able to survive; certainly not suitable for shellfish and none were found in the remainder of the pier footprint.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The site in question is located in the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries designated growing area (DMF/SC21); approved status. It has a shellfish habitat rating of 10/10 along this shoreline based on the 2016 habitat rating study conducted by Natural Resources. This is true along the intertidal zone, though in this particular location in such close proximity to two other piers, there is a large deposition area where the bottom has turned sour. The habitat here has been severely degraded and a pier here would limit the amount of recovery for the area. The biggest area of concern is along the shoreline that is rated a 10/10 and though there is hardly any shellfish directly in the footprint now, this entire shoreline is consistent with excellent shellfish habitat and has potential for future sets along with commercial shellfishers using this area historically, but only so within those initial 10 feet from the revetment. It is my recommendation that this area close to the shoreline remain as natural as possible and the surrounding intertidal areas be altered as minimally as possible during any construction.

It is also important to note that historically, there has been a precedent set with a moratorium on piers/docks in this location in part due to the excellent shellfish habitat. This project proposal falls within this zone. This needs to be taken into consideration especially since this survey shows how having piers closely together can severely degrade and alter shellfish habitat by changing the movement of water in the area and creating these deposition zones where no shellfish can live.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Lewis, Shellfish Biologist