



Scituate Shellfish Advisory Committee

Senator Patrick O'Connor (Assistant Minority Leader)
24 Beacon Street
Boston, Ma 02133

June 1 2021

RE: Senate budget amendment support

Dear Senator O'Connor,

On behalf of the Town of Scituate's shellfish advisory committee; we are in unanimous support of any FY2022 budget amendments that would support the Division of Marine Fisheries water quality testing, dilution and dye study projects. As you are fully aware the North & South Rivers of Marshfield & Scituate (areas MB5 & MB6) were closed based on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance.

We are nearing one year of talks with the DMF and their specific model ordinance and the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). While there is wide speculation of why these prized recreational areas that are for recreational harvest only, not interstate commerce are being held to the commercial oyster aqua culture standards. Our hope is to fund the DMF with the proper funding to conduct such analysis, sampling, dilution and dye studies of this area.

The North & South Rivers were conditionally approved for many years without incident. Furthermore, testing of our waters has greatly increased in frequency and the Scituate WWTP also conducts ultraviolet treatment of all sewage from the Herring River in Scituate; making our water quality better than it was years ago before such closure. We feel the best way to reverse this decision to close our waters, would be to conduct applicable testing to determine the true dilution and the true risks from the Scituate WWTP.

There are many ways this could be managed before any public health risk could evolve. In closing, we understand the complexities of the State's budget project, but feel if there were amendments; these funds would benefit our local waters and the many residents that enjoy the pastime of a good recreational shellfish harvest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. DiMeo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael DiMeo

Scituate Shellfish Warden/Constable

Cc: State Representative Patrick Kearney