

Re: Shellfish Fees Workshop Schedules for October 6, 2026 via Zoom 6:00PM

[Summarize](#)

BB

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To Croteau, Amy

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Tue 10/6/2026 9:55 AM

Below are my thoughts concerning changes to the shellfish licensing fees.

1. I understand the direction from the town manager to rely less on general tax revenues and more on the actual user fees to operate the program. However, no where in the proposed license fee changes is there mention of possibly reducing program cost. For example can vehicle costs, travel, or staffing be reduced to offset some of the proposed licensing fee increases? At the last meeting there was mention that there were some vacant seasonal positions. Perhaps, there should be a hiring freeze on one or more of these vacant positions as a way to reduce operating costs?
2. The proposed licensing increases for non residents seems a bit high. It may actually be counterproductive, resulting in an overall decline in non resident licensees & revenue raised. Recommend keeping current fee structure for non residents.
3. At the last meeting, several people commented that even with a modest increase in recreational license fees, shellfishing would still be a bargain considering the species and quantities available. Have to give credit due to the town's shellfish propagation program. However when you couple this relative modest increase with increased solid waste fee, significant fire district tax increases due to new construction, sewer hook-up fees, recreation parking fees, proposed upcoming debt exclusions for sewers...it all adds up and is making the town unaffordable.
4. You propose applying a \$50 species endorsement fee to commercial licenses. The majority of commercial licensees are part time, relatively low volume producers. This could become expensive (multiple endorsements) for low volume part timers that are basically trying to supplement their income. Recommend that this \$50 endorsement fee not apply to commercial licensees that generate less than \$15k in revenue from their commercial license.

Lastly I recommend that you rescind the requirement that helpers of commercial licensees maintain a state fishing license. Just require us to provide a list of our helpers. This will save us from spending \$40 per helper. This could offset some of these proposed increases.

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