

Goal:

To encourage an environment that supports the development of aquaculture in the waters of Mattapoisett that is profitable for both the licensee and licensor and can exist in harmony with the existing uses of its waters.

In order to accomplish this, fair and equitable regulations and fees must be developed.

Regulations:

1. A committee of residents was established to develop recommended regulations, with public input, which were submitted to the Board of Selectmen; and
2. Recommended regulations were submitted to the Marine Advisory Board to identify areas along the shores of Mattapoisett that would not be in conflict with existing uses of those waters. Public comment on each area will be taken into consideration.

Fees:

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 130 Section 64 sets the annual fees at not less than five dollars and not more than twenty-five dollars per acre. The last time the state increased these fees was in 1973. At the maximum permitted rate of \$25.00 per acre the town cannot monitor and regulate the process. Therefore, tax dollars from the general fund would have to be used to support the venture. I cannot, in good faith, support a "private for profit" venture that uses public waterways and would compete for tax dollars with public safety and education. Since the state has not addressed the fee schedule since 1973. I see only two options:

1. Place a moratorium on granting any new licensees until our legislators address the issue; or
2. Place a moratorium on granting any new licensees until the town develops a fair fee schedule for the licensee and the licensor that would be enacted through a "Home Rule Petition"

Fee Analysis:

1. National inflation rate from 1973 -2010 = 416.96%;
2. Wholesale oyster prices in 1973 = \$1.14/pound and \$8.28 in 2008, an increase of 626.32%;
3. Wholesale scallop prices in 1973 = \$2.13/pound and \$9.79 in the 1st 5 months of 2001 an increase of 359.62%;
4. In FY 2011, Mattapoisett collected \$79,989.92 in mooring fees and boat excise tax coming from boats on 1353 moorings or an average of \$59.12/mooring. There are approximately 4 moorings per acre generating \$236.48 per acre on average.

Adjusting the 1973 \$25.00 fee for inflation and increases in scallops and oysters prices you arrive at \$165.77 per acre. Since the town is already generating \$236.48 per acre for moorings and the adjusted fee rate based on inflation is \$165.77, it would be appropriate to set the per acre aquaculture rate in the range of \$200.00.

Data Sources:

1. Inflation- inflationdata.com, inflation calculator.
2. Oyster prices, California Stat Tax records and Department Aquaculture Harvest Survey
3. Scallop prices, USDC, NMFS Shellfish Market Review and Whaling City Seafood Display Auction.
4. Mattapoisett Mooring Data, Mattapoisett Town Clerk