

## Shellfish Commission

**Legislative Reference:**

**State:** CGS 26-192 through 26-294, particularly 26-257a.

**Town:** Town Code 2-126 through 2-131.

**Other Bylaws and/or Rules of Procedure:** 2001 Shellfish Management Plan.

**Type:** Statutory and permanent.

**Geographic Responsibility:** Town of Groton. All the shellfisheries and shellfish grounds lying within the jurisdiction of the Town, not granted to others and not under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Agriculture, including all rivers, inland waters and flats adjacent to all beaches and waters with the limits and marine bounds of the Town.

**History:** Areas were set for the planting of oysters in 1849. An Oyster Committee was established in the early 1900's, and was in existence until the Shellfish Commission assumed its duties in the 1980's.

**Powers and Duties:**

**General:** Charge of all the shellfisheries and shellfish grounds as above. (Code 2-129)

**Specific:** May issue licenses for the taking of shellfish and fix the fees, designate quantities of shellfish to be taken, sizes of shellfish and methods of taking. May prohibit taking of shellfish from certain designated areas for periods not in excess of 1 year. (Code 2-129) May adopt, amend and repeal rules and regulations governing its procedures and exercise of its powers and duties. All such rules and regulations shall be subject to approval of Town Council prior to becoming effective. Any person who violates any regulation shall be fined as provided in CGS. (Code 2-130, 131) Shall prepare and periodically update a shellfish management plan which shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Town Council for review and comment. (CGS 257a)

**Appointing Authority:** Town Council. (Code 2-127)

**Term of Office:** Five (5) years, staggered. (Code 2-127)

**Membership:**

**Number:** Five (5) members, three (3) alternates. (Code 2-126)

**Requirements:** Resident electors; none shall serve as enforcement officers for or on behalf of the Shellfish Commission. (Code 2-126)

**Meeting Schedule and Location:**

At least 4 meetings annually (Code 2-126); monthly at the Town Hall Annex.

**Staff:** Self-staffed with some assistance from the Town Manager's office.

**Records:** The Chairman retains some records. Shellfish bed leases are recorded in the Land Records. Agendas and Minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office.

**Further information:**

Three (3) members constitute a quorum. (Code 2-128)

All monies collected by the Commission shall be paid to the Commission and used by it for the protection and propagation of the shellfish under its control. (Code 2-129)

CGS 26-284 refers to Thames River oysters.

CGS 26-290 refers to the taking of "escallops" in Groton.

Town Manager: 441-6630; Town Clerk: 441-6640.