

Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

# Shellfish Department

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Herring Warden

Marine Biologist

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MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Attn: Ocean Plan

251 Causeway St. Suite 800

Boston, MA 02114

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This letter is in support of sand mining to nourish beaches, dunes and coastal banks. The Town of Oak Bluffs shoreline is exposed to northeast winds and storms and consequently beach erosion. After some storms the damage is severe. Currently, the Town nourishes our beaches when periodic navigation maintainence dreging occurs in the Town. Many years this source of sand is either not available or insufficiant to properly maintain our beaches. Oak Bluffs depends on tourism as its economic driver and our in town beaches and their accessability is one of the major resources that brings tourism to the town.

These beaches protect both town and state roadway infrastructure. Maintaining these beaches is becoming more difficult as we face climate change and sea level rise. We are experiencing more frequent and larger storms. The need to nourish the beaches is therefore vitaly important to the Town of Oak Bluffs. The ability to mine off shore sand for beach nourishment would enble the Town to better manage our beaches to protect the roadway infrastructure, our economy and both town residents and visitors alike.

I want to stress that this is a very important issue for the Town of Oak Bluffs and I strongly recommend allowing offshore sand mining!

Sincerely,

David W. Grunden

Shellfish Constable