

To whom it may concern,

The Seafood Shanty in Edgartown is seeking to increase our current occupancy limit. Over the course of the past sixteen years The Seafood Shanty has undergone many significant building changes while the one thing that has remained constant is our occupancy. These changes have included, starting in 2005, the addition of two first-floor deck areas, the complete remodel of our downstairs dining area, the expansion of our upstairs deck area and the remodel and expansion of both upstairs and downstairs bathroom facilities.

While any increase in occupancy would obviously be beneficial to the business, we do not anticipate any significant changes to the day-to-day operations of The Seafood Shanty. We will have the same operating hours and months of operation as we have had in the past. When we were looking to make this change, we took into account several factors and looked at different aspects of the business including our waste output, seasonal staffing levels and our daily impact on town activity.

A major consideration we had as we look toward an increase in occupancy is our waste output. We are currently scheduled for trash pick-up 7 days a week and recycling pick-up 6 days a week and do not foresee an increase in occupancy impacting our ability to maintain our trash and recycling capacity. We have worked previously with both the town and our neighbors to maintain our trash area in a way that is agreeable to all parties. As part of our remodel and expansion of our upstairs bathroom facility last year, we also worked with the town of Edgartown to update our sewage system to allow for increased volume.

Being one of the largest seasonal employers on Martha's Vineyard, a typical shift is around 50 staff, we are acutely aware of both the staffing and staff housing issues facing the island. In this regard we looked at our staffing levels from the past few years, with the pandemic influenced 2020 as an outlier, and saw that while business continues to grow, we have been able to do so while maintaining our staffing levels and we anticipate an increased occupancy having minimal effect on our overall staffing and in turn on island housing. We currently provide staff housing for +/- 8 full time employees at a property in Edgartown and operate with a young seasonal staff that finds us a popular source of jobs for year-round and summer youth that are living with their families and do not require housing.

As a destination location in Downtown Edgartown, we know that the daily activity at our establishment has a direct correlation to the flow of the downtown area. When taking this into consideration regarding an increase in occupancy, we looked at two main areas of possible concerns; increases in delivery traffic as well as car and foot traffic from clientele in town. Delivery days and times are set by our purveyors and we would see no increase in delivery traffic due to an increased occupancy. When looking at daily town activity from our clientele we are lucky enough to benefit from being able to use modern analytics provided to us through our POS system and electronic waitlist. Using this data, we can see how clientele has increased over the years, the average time each table takes from start to finish and the average time people will wait for a table. Using this information and the potential increase in occupancy we believe we will improve the flow of traffic downtown in relation to The Seafood Shanty as there will not only be less pedestrian traffic around the restaurant due to decreased wait times, but we will also see faster turn over on parking that our guests utilize in the downtown area.

In conclusion, we ask that you take these factors into consideration regarding our increased occupancy. While it seems like a drastic jump in numbers please account for the fact that we have undergone many changes in the, at least, sixteen years since our occupancy was last set. We have carefully evaluated the situation and the potential changes we may encounter to the day-to-day operation of the restaurant as well as the impact the changes may have on the town around us. We believe we are more than prepared to handle this increase in occupancy with minimal effect on either aspect.

Thank you for your time,

Bill Courtney

General Manager – The Seafood Shanty