

Supervisor Romaine and Councilman Loguercio Follow Progress of Biennial Shellfish Survey in Patchogue Bay

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Farmingville, NY – On July 28, Supervisor Ed Romaine (right) and Councilman Michael Loguercio met in the Patchogue Bay with Assistant Waterways Management Supervisor Tom Carrano (left) during the Town's biennial shellfish survey. Conducted by Brookhaven's Division of Environmental Protection (DEP), the survey took place in eastern Patchogue Bay and Bellport Bay. The last time a survey was done in Bellport Bay was in 2014, and as part of the current survey, the DEP will determine if the new inlet created by Super Storm Sandy is having a positive impact to the local shellfish population.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, "The Town has gone to great lengths to repopulate our waterways with clams and oysters that keep our water clean. The results of this survey will show how successful our efforts have been and help us as we plan for the future.

Councilman Loguercio said, "For too many years, shellfish were over harvested and pollution decimated their population in our south shore bays. We are working hard to reverse that trend and I thank Tom Carrano and his staff for the work they do to help improve our environment.

The Town of Brookhaven is very aggressive in its efforts to reseed waterways through its Shellfish Mariculture Program. Since 2007, it has been running a community based shellfish nursery program at its Mariculture Facility at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai. Each year, the Town provides schools and organizations including the Moriches Bay Project, Stony Brook Yacht Club, Western Suffolk BOCES, the Mount Sinai School District and

Friends of Bellport Bay with shellfish rafts, mooring supplies to anchor the rafts and shellfish to stock the rafts. They do the work required while being supervised by the Town of Brookhaven personnel. The Town also assists in the installation and removal of the rafts and periodic maintenance.

Increasing the number of oysters and other shellfish in our waterways helps to reduce the abundance of algae that can lead to fish kills and diminished oxygen concentration and thus improve water quality. Oysters feed on floating microscopic algae by filtering them out of the overlying water. One adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.

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