



O Oysters, come and walk with us! —Lewis Carroll

Wellfleet OysterFest Fact Sheet

What:

The annual Wellfleet OysterFest is a three-day celebration of the town's famous oysters and its deep-rooted shellfishing traditions. Wellfleet's town center comes alive for this street party that brings together locals and visitors alike for a weekend full of food, art, music, fun and games.

When:

Saturday and Sunday, October 14th - 15th, 2006, will mark Wellfleet's sixth annual OysterFest. (Always the weekend after Columbus Day)

Where:

Main Street in Wellfleet, located on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, 100 miles/two hours from Boston, Mass. and Providence, R.I.

To Do:

There is something for everyone at the Wellfleet OysterFest. Take a fun fall weekend get-away and experience:

- **Local cuisine:** Throughout the weekend, local shellfishermen and women come in off the tides to offer their briny, luscious oysters and clams. Alongside the rawbars, restaurants serve up chowders, stuffed clams, and other traditional New England fare.
- **New England brews:** Enjoy New England beers and ales – considered classic accompaniments to oysters.
- **Beautiful arts and crafts:** More than 70 carefully selected artisans and artists show off a stunning range of arts and crafts including handmade jewelry, paintings, sweaters, soaps, furniture, jams, and more. The OysterFest coincides with the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce's annual art show and auction, which is a scholarship fundraiser.
- **Competitive fun:** A kayak race draws the truly adventurous to an autumn launch, and the town's Recreation Department organizes a 5K road race. What draws the biggest crowd is the **Oyster Shuck-Off**, with round one on Saturday afternoon and the final shuck-off on Sunday. Amateurs compete for the fun of it, and some of Wellfleet's home-town shuckers have been fast enough to go on to compete nationally.
- **Special activities for kids:** Children revel in an area set aside for games, craft activities, and the ever-popular moonbounce. The road race also includes a "fun run" just for kids.
- **Lots more to learn and do:** Educational displays put together by some of Cape Cod's top experts on the local marine environment line Main Street for the weekend. The Audubon Society, the National Park Service, and the Wellfleet Historical Society all offer fun and informative walking tours. Animal-lovers can watch as dog owners show off their Cape Cod Kennel Club-approved talents. Live music and poetry readings entertain the crowds throughout the weekend.

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Who:

The Wellfleet OysterFest is sponsored by SPAT (Shellfish Promotion and Tasting), a non-profit organization devoted to fostering a greater understanding of the town's shellfishing traditions. Many fantastic volunteers donate their time to making the OysterFest an incredible success each year. The festivities are generously supported by individual contributors and with funding from local businesses.

Why:

Proceeds support the festival itself, as well as SPAT's educational programs. Each year, the organization creates educational activities designed to improve knowledge and awareness of area shellfishing traditions and techniques. Proceeds also support scholarships for Wellfleet residents who are beginning their careers in shellfishing or a related field.

More information:

- Cost: Free entry. All food and retail items priced individually. All kids' activities are free.
- Parking: Strolling replaces car traffic for most of the two days of the street festival. Parking is available on the pier and a shuttle runs back and forth to Main Street.
- Weather: The OysterFest goes on rain or shine!

Visit wellfleetoysterfest.org to learn more, make a donation, or join the volunteer effort.

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