

## Go To Worcester for a taste of the sea Telegram & Gazette

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By Jan Gottesman

Food – Ambience – Service – Value  
609 West Boylston Street, Worcester | 508-755-4451

**WORCESTER** - I rarely review restaurants that are strictly take out, especially those only open three days a week. But the Fish Shack came highly recommended. One day, when my husband and I were returning home from out of town, looking for an "easy" [dinner](#), we pulled into the small lot out front.

Decor is sparse - a couple of fake trees and a fake aquarium - so the emphasis is on the food, choices for which are posted on the wall.

Most of the menu comes from the fryolator, with the exception of the garden salad (\$4.95, though you could get it with fried chicken or fried Buffalo chicken for \$6.50 and \$6.99, respectively), clam chowder (\$3.50 and \$4.50) and condiments.

My husband and I stood before the posted menu, formulating a plan for how best to sample a variety of fried seafood and [appetizers](#).

We debated splitting the Special Shack's Platter (\$17.95 for haddock, shrimp, scallops, clam strips and clam bellies), however neither of us like clams. I thought about the fried shrimp plate (\$11.95) or fried scallop plate (\$12.95), while my husband headed right to the haddock and chips plate (\$8.95). Knowing there would be plenty of potatoes with his choice, I decided to add a pint of sea scallops (\$12.95).

Since the name glorifies the Egg Roll Lady, we also ordered the Egg Roll Lady's Platter (\$9.99 for four egg rolls, three chicken fingers, three crab rangoons and three battered shrimp). You can order the egg rolls only (\$5.99 for five, \$10.99 for 12), crab rangoons only (six for \$2.99) and chicken fingers only (six for \$3.99).

The Egg Roll Lady herself came out from the back to show us the combination before closing it up, so happy that newcomers had ordered this dish, and announced that she makes the [dipping sauce](#) herself. It would prove tasty.

It was too cold to eat at the outdoor picnic table, so we took the food home.

We started eating with the platter. My husband's favorite was the cigar-shaped, fresh egg rolls. They were crunchy and flavorful, with fresh ingredients inside. The juicy shrimp was my favorite.

The fried scallops were large and flavorful, cooked perfectly. The container had kept all the steam inside, so the coating was soggy. Some time in the oven crisped things up.

The [haddock](#) came with a choice of original or beer batter. It was no surprise he chose beer batter (he is a guy). I would order this batter again. The coating was light and crunchy. The only complaint was that the fish was so thin that it turned out a little dry.

The leftovers were enough for two more meals each.

One thing about the shack is that, although all the food is fried in the same building, there was no oily feel to the restaurant - or to us following the [meal](#).

The cost for the meal was \$33.48; being a takeout restaurant, there was no tip.

The Fish Shack was a surprise, like something you would find at the beach, not on a busy street in Worcester.

My husband said he'd return for the egg rolls alone. But he would also like to get the haddock again. And maybe he'd try the chowder. I guess we'll have to bring our appetites.

**Fish Shack and Egg Roll Lady**, 609 West Boylston St., Worcester, (508) 755-4451.

**Hours:** Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Saturday, 4 to 8 p.m.