



TOWN OF CHATHAM

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER

549 Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts, 02633
508-945-5100



CHATHAM SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT

October 20, 2015

SHELLFISH RULES AND REGULATIONS – SCALLOPS

Effective as of 12:01 a.m., Sunday, November 1, 2015

1) HOURS –

- a. COMMERCIAL Permit holders ONLY: the taking of scallops is prohibited except one half hour before sunrise until 4:00 p.m..
- b. FAMILY Permit holders ONLY: the taking of scallops is prohibited except one half hour before sunrise until sunset.

2) Dredging by all Permit holders shall be from one half hour before sunrise until 4:00 p.m.

3) Scallop dredge frames shall not measure more than 36" in width and are to be the light construction dredge similar to the so-called conventional dredge. There are to be no "rakes" attached to dredge frames.

4) The taking of scallops COMMERCIALLY is prohibited on Sunday. THERE WILL BE NO DREDGING OF SCALLOPS ON SUNDAY UNDER ANY PERMIT.

5) A COMMERCIAL PERMIT HOLDER shall waive his right to scallop on his FAMILY SHELLFISH PERMIT ON ANY DAY DESIGNATED OPEN TO COMMERCIAL SCALLOP FISHING.

6) All scallops taken from the waters must be ADULT SCALLOPS with a WELL-DEFINED GROWTH RING OR RAISED ANNULUS. Any scallop without such a line shall be deemed a seed scallop. No person shall land or possess scallops without a well-defined growth line AND THAT GROWTH LINE SHALL MEASURE AT LEAST 10 MILLIMETERS FROM THE HINGE OF THE SHELL.

EXCEPTION: Bay scallops that have a well-defined raised annual growth line located less than 10 millimeters from the hinge of the shell (also known as the "nub"), shall be lawful to harvest and possess if the shell height is at least 63.5 millimeters or 2.5 inches.

7) NO CULLING OF SCALLOPS EXCEPT IN DEEP WATER.

8) When the air temperature is below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, no more than one scallop dredge may be emptied and culled on the culling board or in the boat at any one time.

9) COMMERCIAL Permit holders will be required to use plastic see-through totes (measuring 18" in length, 10-1/2" in height, 12" in width), each holding one level bushel of uncrushed scallops in the shell. All totes used for commercial scalloping must have the approval of the Shellfish Constable and are subject to inspection at any time. The COMMERCIAL LIMIT will be SIX level-across-the-top TOTES per diem, per person, but in no case more than TWELVE commercial totes per diem, per boat.

10) FAMILY Permit holders are allowed to take one level bushel of scallops per permit per week. A bushel of scallops, in the shell, is not to exceed that contained in one level plastic see-through tote (measuring 18" in length, 10 ½" in height, and 12" in width).

11) All Chatham Permit holders shall scallop within the Town of Chatham waters and land all scallops in Chatham during said designated shellfish hours, unless permission is otherwise granted by the Shellfish Constable or Deputy Constable and NO Commercial, Family and Non-Resident Family Permit holder shall come ashore with scallops and return to the waters for the purpose of additional scalloping unless permission is granted by the Shellfish Constable or Deputy Constable.

12) No starfish or wrinkles shall be returned to the water, but shall be placed on the shore above the high water mark.

13) All bay scallops shall be taken ashore in the shell. All bay scallops shucked in Chatham shall be opened on land, in a facility approved and licensed by the Board of Health. Board of Health regulations pertaining to shucking operations and storage of scallops shall be adhered to by Commercial permit holders.

14) Closed: (1) Grant #1 - The area beginning at the northerly mouth of Oyster River by the Buckley property line, marked by red buoys running approximately 40' southerly, then westerly marked by red buoys approximately 900', then northerly marked by red buoys approximately 250' to the Richards property, then easterly marked by red buoys approximately 860' to the Buckley marker is CLOSED to the taking of scallops and all shellfish by ALL CHATHAM PERMIT HOLDERS.

(2) Grant #1A - The waters and flats of the east section of Grant #1A in the Oyster River defined by the following bounds: From an orange marker located on the shore 50' west of the point at end of Kelly Lane to an orange buoy 150' south and then 150' west to a second orange buoy and then 150' north to an orange marker on the shore, then east to the point of beginning is CLOSED to the taking of scallops and all shellfish by ALL CHATHAM PERMIT HOLDERS.

(3) The Town of Chatham shellfish propagation area, so marked, in the outer part of Stage Harbor is CLOSED to the taking of scallops and all shellfish by ALL CHATHAM PERMIT HOLDERS.

(4) The Emergency Oyster Relay Area in Stage Harbor adjacent to Crescent Beach measuring 300 x 300 feet and marked by Shellfish Department buoys is CLOSED to the taking of scallops and all shellfish by ALL CHATHAM PERMIT HOLDERS.

15) The Selectmen reserve the right to suspend for a period of thirty (30) days for first violation, the Shellfish Permit of any person violating any of the above regulations.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN