

# **Niantic River/Niantic Bay Shellfish Regulations**

## **No Refund of Permit Fees**

The purchaser of a clamming permit takes the risk of limited access to the open clamming areas. Under inclement weather the clamming areas may be closed.

**THE COMMISSION WILL NOT REFUND ANY PERMIT FEES FOR ANY REASON.**

## **Seasonal Open and Closed Areas**

The conditionally approved areas open and close for shell fishing are dependent upon the season and/or rainfall. Area "A" is conditionally open on a year round basis. Areas "B" (North and South) and "F" are closed between approximately May 1st and November 15th based on Bureau of Aquaculture approval, which is contingent on the presence of boats moored in the area, and or boating activity. (NOTE: Areas "B" and "F" will not reopen until fewer than 20 boats remain, in accordance with NSSP-MO requirements. Area "E" is conditionally approved on a year round basis. Events requiring closure are described below. On the opposite side of this sheet is a detailed description of these areas with a map of the river & bay showing the locations.

## **Events Requiring Closure of the Conditional Area**

A 1.5-inch rainfall for areas A and B (North and South) in a 24-hour period will result in the closure of the conditional areas for a minimum of 7 days. Approved area E & Conditionally Approved area F are closed following a 3.0 inch rainfall. Closures may also take place for sewage or chemical effluent release or other public health reasons. Check the phone info line and/or the signal disks for the status.

## **Methods of Public Notice**

The commission will advise the public of area opening or closures by the following methods:

1. Calling the shellfish info line Phone# 860-444-5812 will advise the status.
2. Status signal disks located at the state boat launch on Rope Ferry Road in Waterford for both Area "A" and Area "B" and at the Hole in the Wall Beach for area "E" and Crescent Beach for area "F". Disks are displayed with red signaling closed and white open.

## **Clamming Permit Required.**

All shell fishing is by permit only. Permits are available from J & B Tackle, Mackey's Bait and Tackle shops, Waterford & East Lyme Clerks Offices. Penalties are severe for violation of these or any other shellfish regulations. **READ THE REGULATIONS ON THIS HANDOUT AND THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT.**

## **Map And Description of Areas**

A Map of the Niantic River and Bay reflecting the conditionally approved areas "A", "B", "E" and "F" with a written description of the areas is included with this material.

**SCALLOPING IS COVERED BY OTHER REGULATIONS AND PERMITS**

## **Clamming, Musseling, & Oystering Regulations for Niantic River and Niantic Bay**

1. The respective Shellfish Commissions on a periodic basis will determine clamming, musseling and oystering season.
2. No person shall take, remove or carry away clams, mussels or oysters from the Niantic River or Bay without a valid permit for the respective area approved by the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission and/or the East Lyme Shellfish Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commissions.
3. Any person purchasing a clamming permit may use it for one (1) year from date of issue to take his/her daily limit of oysters when oyster season is open. Permit is also valid for taking of mussels.
4. The taking of oysters from the inland (Niantic River) waters of East Lyme or Waterford during the months of May, June, July and August shall be prohibited.
5. Permits will be issued by the Town Clerks or at outlets or locations designated by the Commissions.
6. Any resident of the State of Connecticut will be allowed and required to purchase a permit. Out-of-State residents who are renting living accommodations in the Towns of East Lyme or Waterford, may purchase a permit at designated rates for the time of their stay only, with proof in writing of at least seven (7) days continuous residency in either town. Non-residents that pay property taxes in either town may purchase a permit as resident rates.
7. Permit fees will be determined each year, or as found necessary by the Commissions.
8. Daily Limit is one (1) peck (2 gallons) per permit for clams and 30 oysters. There is no limit for the taking of mussels.
9. Name and address of all permittees are to be registered on the permit with the permit seller; the permittee will receive a copy that shall be carried during shell fishing. Both local and permanent addresses of out of state residents are required.
10. No person shall take from these waters or beaches or have in his/her possession, soft shell clams which are less than one and one half (1-1/2) inches in length; or hard shell clams which are less than one (1) inch in thickness or will pass through a ring of one and one half (1-1/2) inch internal diameter; or razor clams which are less than four (4) inches in length or oysters less than three (3) inches in length, which is minimum size per State Statute.
11. No rake, tong or other device shall be used for taking of hard-shell clams or oysters with spaces or openings between the teeth or prongs less than one (1) inch.
12. The taking of shellfish will only be allowed between Sunrise and Sunset.
13. All state laws pertaining to shell fishing not covered by the Commissions regulations will apply and be enforced by the Commission's and the State's Wardens.
14. Possession of a permit does not allow the holder to take shellfish in areas that are subject to closure and have been posted as either temporarily or permanently closed.
15. Taking of shellfish by free swimming, snorkel or scuba diving is prohibited. Any person who violates any provision of these rules shall be fined not more than two hundred (\$250.00) upon conviction. Upon conviction, the court may order that such person may not be entitled to a permit or license to take shellfish from the Niantic River or Bay for the remainder of that season following such conviction.
16. There is no shell fishing in Leased Areas.
17. Children under age of 16 accompanied by a permit holder may help permittee gather shellfish. Total shellfish taken not to exceed permit limit. (July 21, 2016)