Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification-Notification of Changes

May 10, 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Under the authority of 12 M.R.S.A. § 6172; the Commissioner has made the following classification change to Area No. 21-C, Back River and Montsweag Bay (Woolwich, Wiscasset, Westport Island): This notice reclassifies Montsweag Brook from Conditionally Approved to Approved due to water quality meeting approved standards and corrects a line description. An interactive map that allows the user to zoom in to specific areas can be found on the ME DMR website: https://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/maps/index.html. All existing pollution and biotoxin closures remain in effect.

The boundary descriptions of the area are as follows (struck text is being removed and underlined text is being added):

A. Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters or mussels from the shores, flats and waters of the following Prohibited area(s):

Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters or mussels from the shores, flats and waters of

1. Back River (Wiscasset, Westport Island): south of the bridge formed by Route 144 between Wiscasset and Westport Island; AND north of a line beginning at the old ferry landing (Westport Island), then running in a northerly direction to the south tip of Berry Island (Wiscasset), then due west to a red painted post on the mainland (Wiscasset).

B. Effective immediately, because of intermittent pollution caused by rainfall, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters or mussels from the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Approved area(s) when rainfall meets or exceeds 1” within a 24 hour period. For current status, please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html

Effective immediately, due to intermittent pollution caused by rainfall, the shores, flats and waters of the Sheepscot River in the following area is classified as “Conditionally Approved,” and shall be closed to the harvest of clams, quahogs, oysters and mussels, when rainfall meets or exceeds 1” within a 24 hour period:

1. Montsweag and Brookings Bay: North of a line beginning at the southern tip of Phipps Pt. (Woolwich) running east and west to the opposite shores; AND south of a line beginning at a red painted post at the end of Andrews Dr. (Westport Island) running southwest southeast to a red painted post at the southern tip of Chewonki Neck (Wiscasset); AND south of a line beginning at a red painted post on the shore approximately 190 yards north of the end of Salt Marsh Pl. (Woolwich) then running east to a red painted post on the opposite shore. Please

If you have questions, please contact Department of Marine Resources, 194 McKown Point Road, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575-0008, Tel: (207) 633-9500 Email: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov. During weekends/holidays, contact on duty Marine Patrol Officers through the appropriate State Police barracks: from New Hampshire border to Brunswick, barracks 1-800-228-0857; from Cushing/Boothbay to Lincolnville/Belfast area, barracks 1-800-452-4664; from Belfast to Canadian border, barracks 1-800-432-7381. This notice can be viewed on the Department’s website at: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html. This information is also recorded on our HOTLINE (207-624-7727 OR 1-800-232-4733).

Sincerely,

Bryant Lewis
Western Maine Growing Area Supervisor
Commissioner’s Designee

4:00 PM
(Effective Time)