Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification-Notification of Changes

August 6, 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. 23-A, Upper Damariscotta River (Newcastle, Nobleboro, Damariscotta): This notice reclassifies Days Cove from Prohibited to Conditionally Restricted based on the performance of the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District Damariscotta Facility. This notice also extends the closed period for Huston Cove to be from June 1st to October 31st due to water quality no longer meeting approved standards while in the open status. 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 taken from the shores, flats and waters of the following Prohibited areas:

1. Great Salt Bay (Newcastle, Nobleboro, Damariscotta), north of a line running west to east between two unnamed points of land, locally known as The Narrows, located approximately 600 yards north of the Route 1 bridge.

2. Damariscotta River (Newcastle, Damariscotta): south of the Route 1 bridge; AND north and east of a line beginning at a red painted post located on the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Restricted area(s) following a malfunction/CSO event at the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District Damariscotta Facility Wastewater Treatment Plant. Harvest in this area during the open status is allowed only with a special MDMR permit. 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

  1. Damariscotta River (Damariscotta): south of a line beginning at a prominent point at the end of Belknap Pt Rd (Damariscotta) running southwest to Green Can buoy #23; AND north of a line beginning at the westerly, unnamed north facing point approximately 240 yards northeast of the end of Chase Pt Ln (Damariscotta), then running northwest to Green Can buoy #23, then running east to the southwest tip of Hall Pt.
C. Effective immediately, because of seasonal 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 Conditionally Approved area(s) during the closed dates:

Huston Cove (Damariscotta), north and east of a line beginning at the southwestern tip of Hall Point running southeast to the opposite shore, are classified as Conditionally Approved and shall be closed to the harvest of clams, quahogs, oysters, and mussels from June 1 to September 30.

C. Effective immediately, because of proximity to a WWTP, 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) following a malfunction/CSO event at the Great Salt Bay Sanitary District Damariscotta Mills Facility. 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/documents/CA.pdf

1. The upper Damariscotta River; south of a line running west to east between two unnamed points of land, locally known as The Narrows, located approximately 600 yards north of the Route 1 bridge; AND north of the Route 1 bridge.

D. Effective immediately, because of seasonal 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 Conditionally Approved area(s) during the closed dates:

1. Huston Cove (Damariscotta), north and east of a line beginning at the southwestern tip of Hall Point running southeast to the opposite shore, are classified as Conditionally Approved and shall be closed to the harvest of clams, quahogs, oysters, and mussels from June 1 to October 31.

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

4:15 PM  
(Effective Time)