Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification-Notification of Changes

August 18, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Under the authority of Maine statute 12 M.R.S.A., Chapter 607, Section 6172; the Commissioner has made the following classification change to Area No. 27, Upper St. George River and Tributaries (Warren to St. George). This notice reclassifies Mason Cove (Cushing) to Conditionally Approved based on proximity to a WWTP and seasonal pollution caused by rainfall and tide heights exceeding +11 feet due to water quality meeting approved standards in the open status and remediation of known pollution sources. It is important to always refer to the Conditional Area Closure Notice for the current status of all rainfall, river flow or waste water treatment plant conditional areas. All existing pollution and red tide/psp 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 areas:

1. St. George River: north of a line beginning at a red painted post, located below the bend in Sunrise Terrace Road (Thomaston); then running east to green navigational beacon #21; then running northwest to a red painted post located on the shore east of the piling ruins which are on the east side of the old maritime museum.


3. Mason Cove: west of a line beginning at the most eastern tip of Montgomery Point (Cushing) running south to the opposite shore.

B. Effective immediately, because of proximity to a WWTP and seasonal discharge from the Thomaston WWTP, the shores, flats, and waters south of the railroad trestle that crosses the Mill River; AND south and east of a line beginning at a red painted post, located below the bend in Sunrise Terrace Road (Thomaston); then running east to green navigational beacon #21; then running northwest to a red painted post located on the shore east of the piling ruins which are on the east side of the old maritime museum; AND north of a line beginning at a red painted post located at the bottom of the stairs at the end of Bobolink Lane (Thomaston), then running southeast to a red painted post located at the northern-most tip of Hospital Point (South Thomaston), have been classified as Conditionally Restricted. This area shall be closed to all harvest during the months of January, February and March and following any malfunction at the Warren Sanitary District or Thomaston Treatment Facility. This area requires a special MDMR permit. Please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html for open/closed status.
C. Effective immediately because of proximity to a WWTP and seasonal pollution caused by rainfall and tide heights exceeding +11 feet, the shores, flats, and waters south of a line beginning at a red painted post, located at the bottom of the stairs at the end of Bobolink Lane (Thomaston), then running southeast to a red painted post, located at the northern-most tip of Hospital Point (South Thomaston); AND west of a line beginning at the most eastern tip of Montgomery Point (Cushing) running south to the opposite shore; AND north of a line beginning at a red painted post located on the shore approximately 135 yards west from the end of Rocking Horse Lane (St. George) running northwest to a red painted post on the opposite shore approximately 125 yards northeast of Fire Rd; have been classified as Conditionally Approved and shall be closed when rainfall meets or exceeds 1.0 inch in a 24 hour period between May 1 and November 30 and when predicted tidal heights exceed +11 feet between October 1 and November 30. Please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website: [http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html) for open/closed status.

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](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,

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Commissioner's Designee – Director, Bureau of Public Health

9:00 AM (Effective Time)