

Notice to Towns Regarding Municipal Wardens

The DMR Regulation Chapter 4 for municipal shellfish wardens is in the process of being revised this winter. As part of this revision, towns will no longer be required to nominate a person to be their shellfish warden. **ALL NEW WARDENS** will submit a Certification Application directly to the Shellfish Program Coordinator, and will be responsible for providing information to the Coordinator in order to become certified and trained. **Currently certified wardens** will be mailed an information sheet that describes the new process, and updates on the training in the spring.

The new Shellfish Warden Certification Application is available from the DMR website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/msf/forms/index.htm> . The information on the form will be put into a new, secured database that was created over the summer.

The Shellfish Program Coordinator's information is as follows:

Sheena Glover
PO Box 8
West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575
Phone: 633-9515
Email: Sheena.Glover@maine.gov

All questions regarding warden certifications and training should be directed to Sheena.

When a town wants to hire a warden, they can check with their Area Biologist to see if there are local certified people available to become a warden. If they want to hire a person who needs to be certified as a warden, that person **MUST** send the Coordinator a Certification Application and maintain communication with the Coordinator during the certification and training process.

If the town wants to remove someone as warden, they would remove the person according to town procedures, and search for another warden. The removed warden would retain their DMR certification unless they no longer meet minimum qualifications; been convicted of certain crimes or violated marine laws or regulations; or failed to meet performance standards.

** An additional change in the draft Chapter 4 revision is that wardens will no longer be required to submit 6-month reports to the DMR regarding the number of harvesters and the amount of shellfish checked in that time period. As a town employee, the warden will have to keep their town(s) informed of their activities, and provide information to the town for the enforcement portion of the annual review at the end of the year.

We anticipate that the draft Chapter 4 language will be available for public comment in the near future, with possible adaptation in the early spring.