

GUIDELINES FOR MUNICIPAL SHELLFISH TRANSPLANT/RELAY APPLICATION

A permit from the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is required to possess undersized soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*), hard shell clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), razor clams (*Ensis directus*), American oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), or European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*). A permit is also required for moving bivalve shellfish from areas closed due to pollution.

These guidelines should be followed while transplanting shellfish sourced from areas classified as Approved:

- 1) The activity will take place during daylight hours.
- 2) The activity will take place on designated days.
- 3) The activity should take place under the supervision of either the town's shellfish officer or a designee of the Shellfish Committee.
- 4) The supervisor should keep accurate records on the Shellfish Transplant Activity Log
- 5) The Shellfish Transplant Activity Log should be sent to the Department within 20 days of activity.

In addition to the guidelines above the following requirements must also be adhered to while transplanting shellfish sourced from areas classified as restricted, conditionally restricted in the open status or prohibited:

- 1) All shellfish harvested must be smaller than the seed size defined in DMR Regulations Chapter 2.95. This is a no tolerance policy. (*Unless this is a relay transplant under certain conditions.) Maximum seed sizes below (measured along the longest axis):
 - Softshell clam (*Mya arenaria*): 0.75 inch total length
 - Quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*): 0.75 inch total length
 - Razor clam (*Ensis directus*): 2 inches total length
 - American oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*): 0.5 inch total length
 - European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*): 0.5 inch total length
 - Surf clam (*Spisula solidissima*): 0.5 inch total length
- 2) Transplants may only take place under the supervision of the Municipal Shellfish warden, DMR staff member, or DMR authorized relay supervisor. The crew must remain in the permitted source area under immediate supervision. The supervisor must have the permit with them at all times. The supervisor must keep accurate records on the Shellfish Transplant Activity Log.
- 3) A Shellfish Transplant Activity Log must be sent to the Department within 20 days of activity.

***Relay Transplants:** Only municipalities that have a warden with MCJA certification employed for at least 20 hours per week may apply for a larger than seed transplant permit. This is for relay purposes within Restricted or Conditionally Restricted Open Status areas. Shellfish larger than seed may never be relayed from an area classified as Prohibited. Please contact your [Marine Resource Scientist](#) to discuss if your community qualifies for this type of activity. Any failure to comply with permit conditions may be grounds for refusal of future permit requests.

NOTE: Areas planted with shellfish taken from a Restricted area must be closed for a period of at least 60 days. Areas seeded with shellfish taken from Prohibited areas must be closed for a period of at least 6 months.

PROCEDURE

1. Completed applications must be submitted at least:
 - Twenty (20) days prior to the requested date for seed transplants.
 - Thirty (30) days prior to the requested date for transplants of product larger than seed and seed from out-of-state hatcheries
2. (Preferred) Email to: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov
Mail to: Nearshore Marine Resources Program, DMR, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575
3. Marine Patrol **must** be notified of the following:
 - A. Name and contact information of transplant supervisor
 - B. Source area and transplant area
 - C. Method and route of transport to include departure and arrival points.

Contact Marine Patrol at the following location(s): **Division I - W. Boothbay Harbor** (207-633-9595) or **Division II - Lamoine** (207-664-2392) during business hours on the morning of, or the day before the activity.

4. Submit your Shellfish Transplant Activity Log by email or mail (addresses above) within 20 days of activity.

MARINE RESOURCE SCIENTIST:	DATE:
FROM TOWN:	

ORDINANCE SHELLFISH SPECIES TO BE TRANSPLANTED:	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Shell Clam	<input type="checkbox"/> Quahog	<input type="checkbox"/> Razor Clam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Surf Clam	<input type="checkbox"/> American Oyster	<input type="checkbox"/> European Oyster

CHECK ONE:

- Requests a permit to possess under-sized shellfish for the purpose of transplanting. This includes seed from approved in-state hatcheries.
- Requests a permit to relay legal-sized shellfish from a Restricted area.
- Requests a permit for seed purchased from an out-of-state hatchery.

Contact information for the town:

Name/Title:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:

Contact information for the transplant supervisor:

Name/Title:
Telephone:
Email:

State classification of the source area: Approved Restricted Prohibited (seed only)

Shellfish source:

Cove or Flat Name: (please attach map of area)
Hatchery Name:

Date/time shellfish will be harvested or hatchery shellfish will be delivered/picked up:

Date:	Start Time:
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Area shellfish will be planted:

Cove or Flat Name: (please attach map of area)

Date/time shellfish will be planted:

Date:	End Time:
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Conservation considerations:

Is the planted area being closed to harvest?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are predator controls being used?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe:
How will the success of this project be monitored?		

TRANSPLANTING OR RELAY FROM PROHIBITED/RESTRICTED AREA

How will shellfish be moved to the planting site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Boat <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please describe:
If shellfish are to be transported by vehicle, indicate the departure point from the harvest area:	
If shellfish are to be transported by vehicle, indicate the arrival point at the transplant area:	

Please Note: No overnight storage of shellfish from Prohibited or Restricted areas is allowed; such shellfish must be planted immediately.