

CARL J. WILSON COMMISSIONER

Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification-Notification of Changes

April 28, 2025

This notice is in effect until repealed or replaced

Under the authority of 12 M.R.S.A. § 6172; the Commissioner has made the following change to Area No. 100-B; this notice precautionarily closes Area No. 100-B (Bristol to Stonington) to the taking of mussels, surf/hen clams, razor clams, European oysters and carnivorous snails due to the risk of seasonal contamination by naturally occurring marine biotoxins. Exceptions to this closure are defined in the legal notice text and are subject to strict sampling requirements that ensure the safety of harvested product. An interactive map that allows the user to zoom in to specific areas can be found on the ME DMR website: <u>Shellfish Closures and Aquaculture Leases Map | Department of Marine Resources (maine.gov)</u>. All other 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 biotoxin, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any mussels, surf/hen clams (*Spisula solidissima* and *Mactromeris polynyma*), razor clams (*Ensis directus*), European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) or carnivorous snails from the shores, flats and waters of the following areas:

East of a line drawn south from the southernmost tip of Pemaquid Point (Bristol) to the limit of Maine territorial waters; AND south of a line beginning at the easternmost tip of Spruce Head (South Thomaston), then running northeast to the southwestern tip of North Haven; AND west of a line beginning at the easternmost tip of Mullen Head (North Haven) running southeast to the northeast tip of Babbidge Island (North Haven), then running southeast to the eastern tip of Saddleback Ledge (Vinalhaven), then running south to the limit of Maine territorial waters.

EXCEPTION 100-B-01: mussels, razor clams (*Ensis directus*), European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) and carnivorous snails may be harvested north of a line beginning at the tip of land forming the southern shore of the New Harbor entrance, then running east to the northern shore of Thompson Island (St. George), then running northeast to the southeast tip of Hupper Island (St. George), then east to the southern tip of Marshal Point (St. George).

EXCEPTION 100-B-02: mussels, razor clams (*Ensis directus*), European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) and carnivorous snails may be harvested west of a line beginning at the southern tip of Cape Jellison (Stockton Springs) running south to the northeast tip of North Haven Island (North Haven); AND north of a line beginning at the easternmost tip of Spruce Head (South Thomaston), then running northeast to the southwestern tip of North Haven; AND north of a line beginning at the easternmost tip of Mullen Head (North Haven), then running southeast to the northern tip of Merchant Island (Isle au Haut). 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: <u>Maine Growing Area Closures:</u> Shellfish Area Inventory with Legal Notices and Maps | Department of Marine Resources. This information is also recorded on our HOTLINE (207-624-7727 OR 1-800-232-4733).

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Bryant Lewis / Western Maine Growing Area Supervisor Commissioner's Designee

<u>4:15 PM</u> (*Effective Time*)