

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES 21 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification – Notification of Changes

October 6, 2023

This notice is in effect until repealed or replaced.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 changes to Growing Area WM, Small Point (Phippsburg) to Indian Point (Georgetown). This notice reclassifies a portion of the outer Kennebec River from Approved to Prohibited due to finding a point pollution source during shoreline survey. An interactive map that allows the user to zoom in to specific areas can be found on the ME DMR website https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/shellfish-closures-and-aquaculture-leases-map. 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):

Prohibited: Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops taken from the shores, flats and waters of the following Prohibited areas:

- P1. Upper Kennebec River and Tributaries (Bath, Woolwich): north of a line beginning at the eastern end of Stony Brook Road (Phippsburg), running east to a red painted post on the western shore of Lee Island AND north of a line beginning at the south tip of Lee Island running southeast to the northern tip of Squirrel Point (Arrowsic) AND northwest of a line running across the Sasanoa River at the green #23 day marker at Upper Hell Gate.
- P2. Back River (Georgetown, Arrowsic): east of a line beginning at a red painted post on the northeastern tip of Bald Head (Arrowsic) running southeast to a red painted post on shore at Rotunda Hill (West Georgetown); AND south of a line formed by the Five Islands Road bridge from Arrowsic to Georgetown.
- P3. Lower Kennebec River (Georgetown, Phippsburg): south of a line beginning at the ice breaker pilings (Georgetown) running due west to a red painted post on Long Island AND west of a line beginning at the southeast tip of Bay Point (Georgetown) running south to the "5A" spindle at Jack Rock AND north of a line from the "5A" spindle running northwest to the east tip of Hunniwell Point (Phippsburg) AND east of a line beginning at Hunniwell Point (Phippsburg) running northeast to the south tip of Long Island.
- P4. Lower Kennebec River (Phippsburg): south of line from the "5A" spindle running northwest to the east tip of Hunniwell Point; AND north of a line beginning at a red painted post on the shore approximately 170 yards east of the intersection of Sea St. and Surf St.
- P5. Wood Island (Phippsburg): within 500 feet of the eastern shore, from the north tip of the island to the south tip of the island.

Restricted: Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Restricted area without a special MDMR permit:

- R1. Upper Kennebec River (Phippsburg/Georgetown): North of a line beginning at the old wharf approximately 120 yards north of the Parker Head causeway bridge running east to northwestern point of land approximately 100 yards north of the Squirrel Point Light; AND south of a line beginning at the eastern end of Stony Brook Road (Phippsburg), running east to a red painted post on the western shore of Lee Island
- R2. Todd Cove (Georgetown): east of a line beginning at the southwestern point of land forming the northern boundary of Todd Bay running southeast to the northern tip of Marr Island; AND north of a line beginning at the southern tip of Marr Island running southeast to the shore at the point of land at the end of Quarry Rd.

Conditionally Approved (River Flow & Seasonal): Effective immediately, because of seasonal pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Approved area(s) when river discharge meets or exceeds 40,000 cfs between May 1st and September 30th; when river discharge meets or exceeds 30,000 cfs between October 1st and December 31st AND during the closed dates:

CA1. Mill Pond (Phippsburg): west of a line beginning at the eastern tip of Parker Head (Phippsburg) running southwest to the end of Mariah Rd (Closed November 1st through April 30th).

Conditionally Approved (River Flow): Effective immediately, because of intermittent seasonal pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Approved area(s) when river discharge meets or exceeds 60,000 cfs between January 1st and April 30th; when river discharge meets or exceeds 40,000 cfs between May 1st and September 30th; and when river discharge meets or exceeds 30,000 cfs between October 1st and December 31st. For current status, please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website: https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures

CA2. Kennebec River (Phippsburg, Georgetown): east of a line beginning at the eastern tip of Parker Head (Phippsburg) running southwest to the end of Mariah Rd. (Phippsburg); AND south of a line beginning at the old wharf approximately 120 yards north of the Parker Head causeway bridge running east to northwestern point of land approximately 100 yards north of the Squirrel Point Light; AND west of a line beginning at the south tip of Lee Island running southeast to the northern tip of Squirrel Point (Arrowsic); AND west of a line beginning at a red painted post on the northeastern tip of Bald Head (Arrowsic) running south to a red painted post on the shore at Rotunda Hill (West Georgetown); AND north of a line beginning at the ice breaker pilings in Georgetown, then running west to a red painted post on the opposite shore of Long Island (Georgetown); AND west of a line beginning at the southwestern point of land forming the northern boundary of Todd Bay running southeast to the northern tip of Marr Island AND south of a line beginning at the southern tip of Marr Island running southeast to the shore at the point of land at the end of Quarry Rd; AND north and west of a line beginning at the southern tip of Long Island (Georgetown) then running southwest to the east tip of Hunniwell Point (Phippsburg).

CA3. Heal Eddy (Georgetown): north of a line beginning at the southeastern tip of Bay Point then running southeast to the northern tip of Stage Island.

Conditionally Approved (River Flow): Effective immediately, because of intermittent seasonal pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Approved area(s) when river discharge meets or exceeds 60,000 cfs. For current status, please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website: https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures

CA4. Sagadahoc Bay (Georgetown): north of a line beginning at the northern most tip of Stage Island, then running east to the south tip of Indian Point.

Approved: All other shores, flats and waters not described in the above sections are Approved and it is lawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) when in the open status. For current status, please refer to the Biotoxin and Emergency Closure Notices on the DMR website: https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures

A. Growing Area WM.

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: https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures.. This information is also recorded on our HOTLINE (207- 624-7727 OR 1-800-232-4733).

Bryant Lewis

Western Maine Growing Area Supervisor

Commissioner's Designee

<u>1:40 PM</u> (*Effective Time*)