



Paul J. Diodati
Director

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

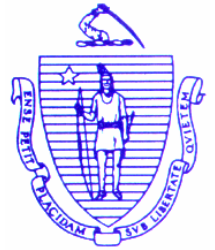
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Ma 02114

(617) 626-1534

Fax: (617) 626-1509



Deval Patrick
Governor

Ian A. Bowles
Secretary

Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

September 15, 2009

Nauset System Announcement

Marine Fisheries has broadened the eligibility for the 2008 Red Tide Relief Disaster Relief Program to include shellfish fishermen who have harvested in the Nauset System, in order to address the fishery's unique circumstances. The Lost Income Subsidy (LIS) allocation formula was modified to reflect participation in this fishery 4 weeks prior and 4 weeks subsequent to the 2008 affected species, area and closure dates:

$X = \Sigma$ 2008 SHELLFISH LANDINGS VALUE (for species, areas and dates 4 weeks immediately prior to and 4 weeks immediately subsequent to closure dates in 2008) * MULTIPLIER FOR CLOSURE DURATION (weeks closed/8)

Other elements of this program remain unchanged, including the requirement that fishermen must have held a Massachusetts commercial shellfish permit in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Applications have been mailed to all pre-qualified applicants. This list can be found on the Red Tide Relief page on our website.

Those who were not pre-qualified, but believe they meet the aforementioned criteria; a blank application is available to download on our website. All applications must be post-marked by or hand delivered to *Marine Fisheries* before the 4 pm on October 31, 2009.

Background:

On May 18, 2009 *Marine Fisheries* sent a mailing to all 2009 Massachusetts shellfish permit holders. The mailing contained a detailed explanation of the 2008 Red Tide Event Disaster Relief Program, as well as a Notice of Public Comment with regard to the allocation formula. During the Public Comment period *Marine Fisheries* audited 2007 and 2008 catch reports and Standard Atlantic Fishery Information System (SAFIS) records. A list of potentially qualified candidates was developed by cross-referencing these records with the areas closed due to the 2008 Red Tide event for the duration of those closures.

A subsequent mailing was sent out on June 19, 2009 to those individuals identified as being potentially eligible to receive a share of the Lost Income Subsidy (LIS). This was a list of those shellfish permit holders identified by *Marine Fisheries* as having a loss of shellfish harvest income in 2008 as compared to 2007. As the Nauset System was closed due to red tide for a shorter duration in 2008 than it was in 2007, a direct comparison showed no historic loss of income during the closure period for these individuals. Therefore, they were not included in the June 19th mailing. Several fishermen requested that *Marine Fisheries* evaluate the closures that have affected the Nauset System over the past several years and consider modifying the LIS disbursement formula as they felt the unique circumstances of the Nauset System required further consideration.