Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
(617)626-1520  
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July 17, 2017

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Essex  
Town Hall  
Essex, MA 01929

Honorable Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken  
City of Gloucester  
City Hall  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Ipswich  
Town Hall  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*) and razor clams (*Ensis directus*) from area N7 Essex Bay in the towns of Essex and Ipswich, and the City of Gloucester, no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP)) from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (*spp.* ) in excess of established standards. All other shellfish and carnivorous snails in N7, Essex Bay remain closed to harvesting.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A and 75, and 322 CMR sections 7.01(7), 7.02 and 10.00 the PSP closure for softshell clams and razor clams issued on July 9, 2017 will be rescinded at sunrise on July 18, 2017 in area N7 Essex Bay. Softshell clams and razor clams in areas currently classified as Conditionally Approved and in the OPEN status may now be harvested for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52. All other shellfish and carnivorous snails in N7, Essex Bay remain closed to harvesting.

**Status: OPEN to the HARVEST OF SOFTSHELL CLAMS AND RAZOR CLAMS**

N7 ESSEXBAY

The waters, flats and tributaries of Essex Bay in the Towns of Ipswich and Essex and the City of Gloucester, inside and south and west of a line drawn across the Essex Bay inlet from the southern most point of Crane Beach in the Town of Ipswich easterly to the northern most point of Two Penny Loaf in Gloucester.

Sincerely,

David E. Pierce  
Director

cc: J. McGinn, B. Perrin, P. Moran, DELE  
D. McKieman, M. Hickey, J. Kennedy, DMF  
R. Amidon, M. King, DFG  
DEP  
FDA  
DPH  
Shellfish Constables of the above cities and towns