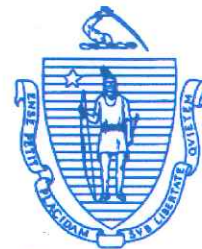




David E. Pierce, Ph.D.
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-1520
fax (617) 626-1509



Charles D. Baker
Governor
Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor
Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary
Ronald Amidon
Commissioner
Mary-Lee King
Deputy Commissioner

September 22, 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 and Gentlemen:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **certain bivalve shellfish** from the shellfish growing area N7 Essex Bay **no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison – PSP)** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* spp. in excess of established standards. Area N7 remains closed to the harvest of **ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) and carnivorous snails**.

Therefore, under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, sections 74A and 75 and 322 CMR sections 7.01 (7), 7.02 and 10.00, the PSP closure for **all shellfish** issued on July 9, 2017, **will be partly rescinded at sunrise on September 25, 2017**. All shellfish except ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails in areas currently classified as Approved or 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. **Ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails remain closed to harvesting.**

Status: Open to Shellfish Harvest except ocean quahogs and carnivorous snails.

N7 ESSEX BAY

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

OVER

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