



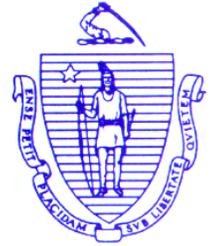
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

New Regulations Affecting the Harvest and Sale of Aquaculture Raised Shellfish

Effective today, there are new regulations affecting the harvest and sale of aquaculture raised oysters and surf clams. These regulations should help expand the aquaculture industry through providing greater market access and reducing overwintering mortality.

Oysters

The in-state sale of oysters measuring at least 2 ½ inches longest diameter is now authorized. To differentiate this product from wild caught oysters, which are subject to a 3 inch minimum size, all containers that hold aquaculture raised oysters that are smaller than the 3 inch wild minimum size must have the words “AQUACULTURE REARED” or “FARM RAISED” on the shellfish tag. This tagging requirement applies to both harvesters and seafood dealers.

Surf Clams

Aquaculturists may now raise and sell and dealers may purchase and sell (both in-state and out-of-state) aquaculture raised surf clams that measure at least 1 ½ inch shell diameter. To differentiate this product from wild caught surf clams, which are subject to a 3 inch minimum size, all containers that hold aquaculture raised surf clams that are smaller than the 5 inch wild minimum size must have the words “AQUACULTURE REARED” or “FARM RAISED” on the shellfish tag. This tagging requirement applies to both harvesters and seafood dealers.

Quahogs

The rules governing the harvest and sale of aquaculture reared quahogs remain status quo. Aquaculturists may harvest quahogs that measure at least 7/8 inch hinge width. However, all aquaculture raised quahogs that are between 7/8 inch and the 1 inch wild caught minimum size must be sold to primary buyers that distribute this product out-of-state. The in-state distribution of these small aquaculture reared quahogs is prohibited. To differentiate this product from wild caught quahogs, which are subject to a 1 inch minimum size, all containers that hold aquaculture raised quahogs that are smaller than the 1 inch wild minimum size must have the words “AQUACULTURE REARED” or “FARM RAISED” on the shellfish tag. This tagging requirement applies to both harvesters and seafood dealers.

For more information about management of shellfish, please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries