



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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December 4, 2023
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Suspension of Operations at DMF's Newburyport Shellfish Depuration Plant

Please be advised that the Division of Marine Fisheries has suspended depuration operations at the Newburyport Shellfish Purification Plant effective immediately. On Friday November 24, DMF staff became aware that the saltwater well heads that supply depuration process seawater to the plant became compromised as result of severe beach erosion which occurred in the most recent storm on Wednesday November 22. The erosion exposed the electrical conduit supplying the well pumps creating a public safety hazard and making it necessary to cut electricity to the well pumps. As such, process water is not available for the depuration treatment and DMF will not be accepting any clams for depuration until further notice. Due to the loss of depuration function, digging, harvesting or collecting, and/or attempting to dig harvest or collect shellfish from Restricted or Conditionally Restricted areas is prohibited. DMF will consult with engineers in the coming weeks to evaluate the severity of the situation.

Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries