May 19, 2011

To the Selectmen and Mayors of the following municipalities: Salisbury, Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, Essex, Gloucester and Rockport

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Due to Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) toxin (also known as “Red Tide”) in shellfish, the Division of Marine Fisheries has closed the below-defined areas.

Therefore, under authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, Section 74A and 75, the status of the below-defined areas have been changed to "CLOSED TO SHELLFISHING," effective immediately. Digging, harvesting or collecting and/or attempting to dig, harvest or collect shellfish and the possession of shellfish, including carnivorous snails, from the below-defined areas is prohibited.

Under authority of 322 CMR 7.01(7) all permits issued thereunder are hereby conditioned to prohibit the taking, selling or possession of shellfish from the below-defined areas.

AREAS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF ALL SHELLFISH, CARNIVOROUS SNAILS AND WHOLE SEA SCALLOPS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEA SCALLOP ADDUCTOR MUSCLE

The waters, flats and tributaries in shellfish growing areas N1, N3, N6, N7, N8, N9, N10, N11, N12, N13 and N14 in the towns of Salisbury, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, Essex, and Rockport, the Cities of Newburyport and Gloucester and marine waters managed by the Commonwealth from the New Hampshire/Massachusetts state boundary to the southern reach of area N14.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Diodati  
Director
cc: A. Gross, J. Tulik, OLE
    D. McKiernan, M. Hickey, J. Kennedy, T. Shields, DMF
    WPC, DEP
    FDA
    DPH
    Shellfish Constables of the above Cities and Towns