



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

BETHANY A. CARD
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

July 29, 2022

The Mayor of Newburyport
60 Pleasant Street
City Hall
Newburyport, MA 01950

The Board of Selectmen, Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Town Hall
Salisbury, MA 01952

Members of the Select Board, Newbury
12 Kent Way
Town Hall
Byfield, MA 01922

Dear Mayor and Members of the Select Boards:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*)** from shellfish growing area N2 Merrimack River **no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison - (PSP))** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium (spp.)* in excess of established standards. Shellfish growing area N2 remains closed to the harvest of all other bivalve shellfish and carnivorous snails, with the exception of the sea scallop adductor muscle.

Therefore, under 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and 322 CMR sections 7.01 (7), 7.02 and 10.00, the PSP closures for shellfish issued on June 16, 2022, will be **partly rescinded at sunrise on Saturday, July 30, 2022**. Soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) in the below-defined area currently classified as **CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED** and in the “open” status may be **HARVESTED FOR DEPURATION** on Monday, August 1, 2022, subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, sections 52 and 75, and subject to the classification conditions. All previous bacterial closures remain in effect.

Status: Open to Softshell Clam Harvesting.

This area remains closed to the harvesting of all other bivalve shellfish and carnivorous snails, with the exception of sea scallop adductor muscle

N2 MERRIMACK RIVER

“The waters, flats and tributaries of the Merrimack River in the City of Newburyport and the Towns of Newbury and Salisbury.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKiernan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: R. Amidon, DFG
P. Moran, C. Baker, MEP
J. Kennedy, G. Bettencourt, DMF
R. Freed, L. Schifman, DEP
FDA
DPH
P. Hogg, Newburyport
W. Van de Stadt, Salisbury
P. Thistlewood, Newbury