Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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July 5, 2011

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
30 Martin Street
Essex, MA. 01929

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
25 Green Street
Ipswich, MA. 01938

Mayor of Gloucester
City Hall
9 Dale Avenue
Gloucester, MA. 01930

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) from area N7 defined below no longer contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison-(PSP)) from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium (spp.*) in excess of established standards. Area N7, Essex Bay, in the City of Gloucester and towns of Essex and Ipswich, remains closed to the harvesting of all other shellfish and carnivorous snails with the exception of the adductor of the sea scallop.

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7.01 (7), 7.02 and 10.00, the PSP closure for soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) enacted on May 23, 2011 will be rescinded at sunrise on July 6, 2011 in area N7, Essex Bay in Essex, Gloucester and Ipswich. Soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) in areas currently classified as 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. Similarly, those areas classified as CONDITIONALLY APPROVED and in the “open” status are subject to the classification conditions. Area N7 remains closed to the harvesting of all other shellfish and carnivorous snails with the exception of the adductor of the sea scallop.

-over-
N7 ESSEX BAY

Status: OPEN to the harvest of Softshell Clams (*Mya arenaria*) ONLY. The area remains closed to the harvesting of all other shellfish and carnivorous snails with the exception of the adductor of the sea scallops. All previous bacterial closures remain in effect.

The waters, flats and all tributaries of Essex Bay in the City of Gloucester and the towns of Essex and Ipswich.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul J. Diodati
Director

cc: A. Gross, J. Tulik, DELE
D. McKiernan, M. Hickey, J. Kennedy, DMF
WPC, DEP
FDA
DPH
Bill Novak, Essex Shellfish Constable
Dave Sargent, Gloucester Shellfish Constable
Scott Lepreste, Ipswich Shellfish Constable