



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

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Director

July 7, 2022

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Essex  
Town Hall  
Essex, MA 01929

Mayor of Gloucester  
Gloucester City Hall  
9 Dale Ave  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Ipswich Select Board  
Ipswich Town Hall  
25 Green Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Dear Mayor and Members of Select Boards:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has determined that **softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*)** from the shellfish growing area N7 Essex Bay **do not contain biotoxins (Paralytic Shellfish Poison - (PSP))** from the phytoplankton *Alexandrium* (spp.) in excess of established standards. Shellfish growing area N7 remains closed to the harvest of all other bivalve shellfish and carnivorous snails.

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74A and 75 and 322 CMR sections 7.01 (7), 7.02 and 10.00, the PSP closure issued on June 16, 2022, will be **partly rescinded at sunrise on Friday, July 8, 2022**. Softshell clams in classification areas within N7 currently classified as **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED** and in the “open” status may be harvested on Friday, July 8, 2022, for direct human consumption subject to local rules and regulations under authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 130, section 52 and are subject to the classification conditions. All other bivalve shellfish and carnivorous snails remain closed to harvesting. 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.

### **N7 ESSEX BAY**

The waters, flats and tributaries of Essex Bay in the Towns of Ipswich and Essex and the City of Gloucester, inside and south and west of a line drawn across the Essex Bay inlet from the southern-most point of Crane Beach in the Town of Ipswich easterly to the northern most point of Two Penny Loaf in Gloucester.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

cc: R. Amidon, DFG  
P. Moran, DELE  
J. Kennedy, DMF  
R. Freed, S. King, DEP  
FDA  
DPH  
Shellfish Constables of the above Cities and Towns