

An open clam shell is shown on a sandy beach. The clam is white and slightly translucent, with its hinge visible on the left. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky.

Rhode Island State of the Clam State Report

2018 – 2019

NESSA April 2019, Plymouth MA

Harvester Education

- Almost 1500 shellfish harvesters have been trained in safety and regulatory requirements by completing our on-line harvester training program since its release in December of 2017.



State of Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management



Staff Turnovers

- Two recently hired and trained marine biologists were scooped up by another division of RIDEM.



Kudos to them advancing their careers

- One new hire on board since middle of 2018



- In process of hiring an additional marine biologist to bring us back to full staff



- Challenge to keep up with training and completing necessary work load to maintain compliance with NSSP



Water Quality Improvements

- Still working on potentially opening new areas or relaxing some restrictions on others as a result of improved water quality especially in areas that were impacted by upstream WWTFs that have spent millions of dollars on infrastructure improvements.
- CSO abatement projects
- Stormwater BMPs
- Joint effort along with our Marine Fisheries division who deal with stock management issues





NCIMS
National Conference on
Interstate Milk Shipments



Cooperative Program Grants in Support of the National Grade "A" Milk Safety and National Shellfish Sanitation Programs

2018

- \$2,750 grant for equipment
- \$4,000 grant for training

2019

- \$850 grant for training
 - No FDA shellfish training available this year for new hires
- Application pending

Wish List



HAB Monitoring

- No HAB related closures 2018 to date 2019
- Established
 - Routine HAB stations throughout bay, coastal ponds, Block Island and RI Sound
 - Sentry mussel stations
- *Alexandrium spp.* uncommon 16% of samples max 1,858 cells / liter
- *Dinophysis spp.* 28% samples max 7,053 cells / liter
- *Pseudo-nitzschia spp.* 59% of samples max 55,840 cells / liter

Response to elevated PN counts

- June 2018
 - Lower East Passage and West Passage > 20,000 cells / liter (action level)
 - 15 samples, 8 tested positive using Scotia test kits
 - Sentinel shellfish collected tested using LCMS-MS all less than 0.08 ppm DA
 - Follow up sampling cell counts dropped below action level
- Oct. – Nov. 2018
 - Block Island and Sakonnet River samples approached action threshold
 - Follow up sampling results returned to below action levels
- Remainder of year low abundance



4th Annual

Quahog Week!

Brought to
you by



Thank you

See you next year in the Ocean State

