



TOWN OF DENNIS

Year Round Household Shellfish Regulations

Updated: 12.12.16

NOTICE

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries may from time to time designate shellfish areas as contaminated and the shellfish obtained from this area as unfit for food. Contact your local shellfish officials to learn of approved shellfish harvest areas.

NOTE

Special Regulations covering Commercial Shellfishing, Privately Licensed Shellfish Areas and Fish Weirs and Pound Nets are published under separate covers and are available upon request.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

The foregoing opening and closing dates are subject to modification by the Shellfish Constable. In no event shall any open dates be enlarged without the prior approval of the Selectmen.

PENALTY

A violation of these regulations may be punishable by a fine of not less than ten nor more than two hundred dollars for each violation, subject to Non-criminal disposition. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D, approved at the Dennis annual Town Meeting May 3, 1998 and/or revocation of the permit.

FEES

Dennis Resident: \$20.00

Non-Resident: \$65.00

Over 70 Dennis Resident: \$3.00

REGULATIONS

These regulations are made by the Selectmen of the Town of Dennis by the authority of the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Marine Fish and Fisheries, including without limitation Chapter 130, § 52:

Each applicant for a household permit must be eighteen years of age or older, and a year-round resident and/or real estate tax payer of the Town of Dennis, and the head of his or her household. The applicant shall furnish evidence of such residency, which shall include, without limitation: a valid, current motor vehicle driver's license issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; a current real estate tax bill issued by the Town of Dennis, current ownership of the applicant's residence in the Town of Dennis, or current

rental of the applicant's year-round residence in the Town of Dennis.

A household permit shall entitle the holder to take from the shores and tide waters of the Town of Dennis all species of shellfish and sea worms, at such times, and in such places and in such a manner as provided by these regulations and all the amendments thereto.

A household permit may be used by the spouse or unmarried children of the holder, provided that such user shall carry said permit on his/her person during its use. Household permits shall be effective for the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.

All fees for permits shall be established by the Selectmen.

All eligible applicants who are seventy years of age or older shall be issued a special permit at a reduced rate.

Non-resident and non-taxpayers may apply for a special permit to take from the shores and the tide waters of the Town of Dennis all species of shellfish and sea worms.

Such permit shall be issued at the discretion of the Shellfish Constable. The holder of such a permit shall be subject in all other respects to the rights and obligations established by these regulations.

1. Permits are not transferable outside the immediate family.
2. No persons shall dig, take or carry away shellfish or sea worms between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
3. No person shall collect shellfish and sea worms for permit holders waiting on shore, unless a permit holder is disabled and has previously arranged it with the Shellfish Constable.
4. All shellfish shall be brought ashore in the shell.
5. No shellfish or sea worms shall be taken from any area which the Selectmen or the Shellfish Constable may designate from time to time as a closed area.
6. No person holding a family permit will sell any shellfish taken under this permit.
7. When the air temperature reads 32°F (0°C) or lower, no shellfishing shall be permitted except for quahogs, oysters and sea clams.
8. Upon request of the Shellfish Constable, a person taking, digging or carrying away shellfish and sea worms shall land his/her boat and permit inspection of said shellfish and sea worms by the Shellfish Constable, or Deputy Shellfish Constable.
9. Any person taking, digging or carrying away shellfish or sea worms from tidal areas or coastal waters of the Town of Dennis shall display his/her household permit in a plainly visible location on his/her clothing. Such person shall promptly produce said permit for inspection upon the request of the Shellfish Constable or any federal, state or local officers authorized to enforce federal, state or local laws relating to marine fish and fisheries.
10. No starfish, green crabs, lady crabs or moon snails shall be returned to the water, but shall be placed above the high water mark or some suitable place out of water. The aforementioned animals are predators of shellfish. You are helping our propagation program by removing them.
11. The week starts on Sunday.
12. Only one permissible shellfish limit will be allowed per shellfish permit.
13. All shellfish must be removed from all Town water bodies immediately after harvest. No wet storage of any type of shellfish is allowed. Wet storage is any method of holding shellfish in Town

waters for later use. This includes shellfish hung in bags or cages from moored or docked boats, docks, floats, buoys or are placed on the bottom in a container.

14. Digging within two (2) feet of marsh grass, marsh root structure or peat for the purpose of harvesting shellfish shall be prohibited.

OYSTERS

Open – SUNDAYS ONLY. Effective December 1st through March 31st in each calendar year, Main Bass River from the mouth to the landing at Old Fish House Road, including Grand Cove and Wilbur Cove.

Closed – Effective April 1st through November 30th in each calendar year, all areas in the Town of Dennis are closed.

Limit – 48 oysters per household permit weekly. No oyster to be taken measuring less than three (3) inches the long way.

QUAHOGS

Open – MONDAY and SATURDAY ONLY. Effective December 1st of any year through May 31st of the following year, an area will be designated by the Shellfish Constable in Grand Cove or Wilbur Cove and Main Bass River from Route 28 northerly to and including Follins Pond.

Closed – Effective June 1st through November 30th in each calendar year all areas in the Town of Dennis are closed.

Limit – Ten (10) quarts per household permit weekly. No quahogs to be taken measuring less than one (1) inch in width. We suggest the one inch gauge be used to help size quahogs.

SOFT SHELL CLAMS

Open – MONDAY and SATURDAY ONLY.

- Effective October 1st through May 31st North side of Dennis: Chapin Beach and Crowes Pasture.
- Effective December 1st through May 31st South side of Dennis: Main Bass River from the mouth to Mayfair Boat Yard including Grand Cove and Old Field Bend.

Closed – Effective June 1st on the North side to September 30th and on the South side to November 30th in each calendar year, all areas in the Town of Dennis are closed.

Limit – Ten (10) quarts weekly per household permit. No soft shell clams are to be taken measuring less than two inches the long way. We suggest the two inch ring to help size the clams.

***Shovels, hoes or rakes are strictly prohibited in taking of clams. The conventional clam digger and hand plunger, the so-called “plumber’s helper” only may be used. All persons taking shellfish shall be required to cover over all seed and undamaged shellfish and refill all holes. **

BLUE MUSSELS

Open – Effective January 1st through December 31st in each calendar year.

Limit – One level ten quart pail per week. No mussels to be taken measuring less than two inches the long way.

RAZOR CLAMS

Open – Effective January 1st through December 31st in each calendar year.

Limit – One level ten quart pail per week. No razor clams to be taken measuring less than five inches the long way.

SEA CLAMS

Open –

- Effective September 15th through April 30th in each calendar year.
- NORTH SIDE ONLY – Effective May 1st through September 14th in each calendar year

Limit – 25 clams per day per household permit any day including Sunday. No sea clams to be taken measuring less than 5 inches the long way.

BLUE CRABS

Open – May 1st through December 30th.

Limit – Limit is twenty-five (25) crabs a day. The State Regulations require that blue crabs less than 5 inches from point to point on the shell and all egg bearing female crabs, be returned to the water.

SCALLOPS

The open season for the harvest of scallops in Nantucket Sound will be posted annually. Scallop harvesting shall be closed (prohibited) effective April 1 annually in Nantucket Sound. Effective November 1st through March 31st each calendar year Bass River, Nantucket Sound and Cape Cod Bay will be open. In Bass River, Wilbur Cove, Grand Cove and the flats of the entrance to Horsefoot Cove will be open to Dennis household permit holders only, and scallops in these areas are to be taken by dip and hand rakes only. Georgetown Flats is for Yarmouth household permit holders only.

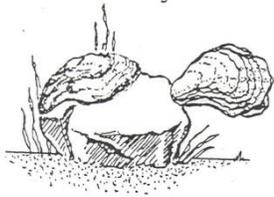
Scallops may be taken by power dredging with boats not exceeding 20 feet in length and using not more than a 36” wide dredge. The area for power dredging is from the mouth of Bass River northerly to Follins Pond (except for Georgetown Flats, Yarmouth), Wilbur Cove and also the flats north of the entrance to Horsefoot Cove in Dennis. These areas shall be defined by marker buoys, installed and maintained by the Town of Dennis. All household permit holders fishing Main Bass River by power dredge are to check in with Shellfish Constable at Aunt Julia Ann’s Dock on Main Bass River before landing. All Recreational permit holders fishing in Cape Cod Bay by power dredge are to check with the Shellfish Constable in Sesuit Harbor while landing.

No person shall take from the shores or waters of the Town of Dennis scallops, other than adult

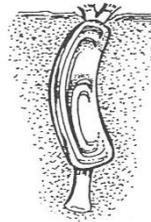
scallops, or sell or offer for sale or have in his/her possession such scallops. For the purpose of this regulation, an adult scallop shall be a scallop with a well defined growth line. Scallops, when taken from the water, shall immediately be culled and all scallops, other than adult scallops, shall forthwith be returned alive to the water whence taken.

Scallops may be taken daily including Sunday for family use only. The limit shall be one bushel per week per household permit.

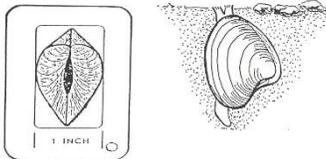
Oyster:



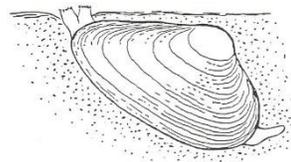
Razor Clam:



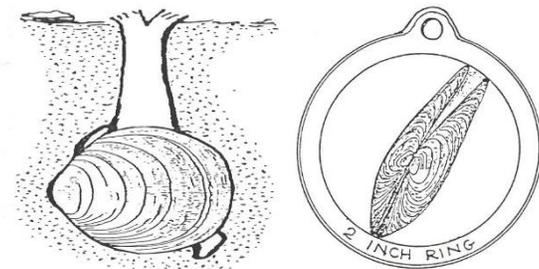
Quahog:



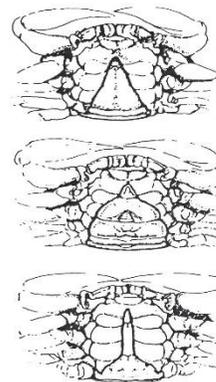
Sea Clam:



Soft Shell Clam:



Blue Crab:



Immature Female

Mature Female

Male

Blue Mussel:



Scallop:

