



Quick Reference Guideline to the Town of Harpswell Shellfish Ordinance for April 2017 - March 2018

Shellfish Licenses

- Each person must obtain a license from the Town Clerk's Office and the license must be on the person while digging
- Minimum clam size requirement: **2 inch**
- Minimum quahog size requirement: **1 inch (hinge width)**
- Maximum amount of shellfish:** The license entitles the holder to dig, take and possess no more than one peck of soft-shell clams or one peck of quahogs or one peck of a combination of soft-shell clams and quahogs per day for personal use.

False information on a license application is a violation

Applicants must notify Town Clerk of any address change within 10 days

1 Pecks = 1/4 Bushel = 2 Gallons = 8 Quarts

Clam-flats and coves may be closed for the taking/possessing of shellfish periodically for any of the following reasons:

CLOSURE:

Pollution: Contaminated due to animal or human fecal coliform bacteria.

Conservation: Due to efforts to replenish or re-seed an area.

Red Tide: Dangerous paralytic shellfish poison caused by algae that contains this toxin. Toxins affect humans by paralyzing the Central nervous system, and, in high doses can cause death.

Rainfall: Due to a substantial amount of rainfall received.

Seasonal: Regulated by marine resource committee and D.M.R.

-Refer to shellfish ordinance for rules and regulations.

- **Recreational licenses are not available to or valid for, holders of a State of Maine Shellfish License.**

Shellfish sanitation hotline = 1-800-232-4733

Cumberland County Sheriff's Office = 1-800-501-1111

Town Clerk's Office = 833-5822 or 833-5771

www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public_health/closures/closedarea.htm

www.harpswell.maine.gov (for town closures)

The shores and islands of the Town of Harpswell are patrolled by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department irregularly and without notice. Violation of the shellfish ordinance is a crime. *Violators may be arrested*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION