



Town of Kittery Shellfish Conservation Commission

Shellfish Harvesting Season Information

2022 -2023 Season



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Town of Kittery

Shellfish Conservation Commission

December 2022/November 2023

Shellfish Harvesting Season

Thank you for purchasing a shellfish harvesting license for the December 2022-November 2023 season. Please see the following details for the upcoming season.

Important information about shellfish harvesting in Kittery:

- Please be aware that all flats in Kittery are closed **EXCEPT** Brave Boat Harbor.
- Please do not dig in areas that have marsh grass roots.
- Please take care when “turning” the mud, to avoid damaging the smaller shellfish that are typically located above the “keeper” shellfish.

Who can dig?

- Only those with a valid shellfish harvesting license for the December 2022-November 2023 season may dig for shellfish in the Town of Kittery.

Where can I dig?

- The only open area in Kittery is Brave Boat Harbor, in the intertidal zone (between the high and low water marks).
 - The main channel in Brave Boat Harbor separates Kittery from York and this license **ONLY** allows harvesting on the Kittery side. Do not cross over to York.
 - For a map of shellfish growing areas including closures, water quality classifications and aquaculture information, please visit DMR’s website at www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/shellfish-closures-and-aquaculture-leases-map or by [clicking here](#).

Access to Brave Boat Harbor is restricted to:

- Through Rachael Carson Preserve, along the old rail bed running from the intersection of Seapoint Road and Thaxter Lane, only. Parking restrictions (Resident and Non-Resident) are clearly posted and must to be followed.
- From the Rte. 103 bridge crossing Brave Boat Harbor.
- Across private property abutting Brave Boat Harbor, **only** with express permission of the property owner.

Closed areas:

- All other tidal flats in the Town of Kittery.

Why are some areas closed?

- Tidal flats are regulated by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). To find out more information about tidal flat areas, please visit DMR's website at www.maine.gov/dmr or by [clicking here](#).

What type of shellfish can I dig for?

- Soft shell clams, quahogs, oysters, and mussels, which includes shellstock and shucked shellfish.

What is the minimum size for shellfish?

- The minimum size is 2 inches, measured lengthwise.

How many shellfish may be kept per person, per day?

- 1 Peck = ¼ Bushel = 2 Gallons = 8 Quarts (note wire baskets sold by Hamilton Marine are 10 Quarts).

What can I use to dig?

- Short handled shellfish rakes must be used. Shovels, pitchforks or other long-handled tools will break the shellfish and are not allowed.

What are In-Season Closures?

- It may be necessary to close certain areas due to environmental impacts and Red-Tide. DMR regularly samples water in Kittery to make determinations regarding these factors.
- DMR may close the flats if rainfall exceeds 2" within a 24-hour period.
 - If there has been heavy rainfall in Kittery, please check the DMR website before harvesting shellfish.

Before Harvesting:

- **It is the responsibility of the shellfish harvesting license holder to call the Shellfish Sanitation Hotline before digging to verify that the flats are open.**
 - The hotline number is 1-800-232-4733.
 - Closure status can also be found on DMR's website at www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures or by [clicking here](#).

Reporting requirements:

- Shellfish Warden, Chuck Moran will be stationed in or around the tidal flats during harvesting times and can be reached by phone at **1-207-703-4415 (cell)**.

- License holders are required to text, call or speak to the Kittery Shellfish Warden **prior** to entering the flats to harvest.
- License holders are required to text, call or speak to the Kittery Shellfish Warden **after** leaving the flats and report the volume of clams harvested.

Thank you for your support of the Town of Kittery's Shellfish Program.

I acknowledge receipt of this document and fully understand the Kittery shellfish regulations prior to harvesting.

Licensee:

Print: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____