



Town of Kittery Shellfish Conservation Commission

Shellfish Harvesting Season Information

2023-2024 Season



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WWW.KITTERYME.GOV/SHELLFISH

Town of Kittery

Shellfish Conservation Commission

December 2023/November 2024

Shellfish Harvesting Season

Thank you for purchasing a shellfish harvesting license for the December 2023-November 2024 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 Season or Day shellfish harvesting license issued by the Town of Kittery.
 - Season license: Issued by the Town of Kittery, valid for one year commencing December 1 and ending November 30, allowing the licensee to dig on all open harvesting days.
 - Day License: Issued by the Town of Kittery valid for one day (sunrise to sunset), allowing the licensee to dig that and only that day. Day licenses will be available for purchase on all open harvesting days from the Town Hall Customer Service Center via the online permitting system.
 - To purchase a day license, please visit www.kitteryme.gov/shellfish.

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 should be restricted to:

- Through border of the Rachael Carson Preserve, along the old rail bed “Clam Trail” running from the intersection of Seapoint Road and Thaxter Lane. Parking restrictions (Resident and Non-Resident) are clearly posted and must 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.

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 and should only be filled to maximum 1.5” below top wire).

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 1”-2” within a 24-hour period.
 - If there has been heavy rainfall in Kittery, please check the DMR website before harvesting shellfish or with Kittery Shellfish Warden

Before Harvesting:

- **It is the responsibility of the shellfish harvesting license holder to call the Shellfish Sanitation Hotline or check DMR website 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:

- Kittery 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. Please sign the acknowledgement on pages 3 and 4 (keep one copy and submit the other to the Kittery Shellfish Warden).

Acknowledgement 1 of 2

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

Licensee:

Print: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

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