Shellfish Division
2017-2018 Annual Shellfish
Resource Management Regulations

September 10, 2018
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
OYSTER REGULATIONS
2018-2019 SEASON

Family/Recreational: Between October 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019, both dates inclusive, not more than (10) quarts of oysters per week may be taken from areas open to the taking of shellfish. Seed oysters (less than 3” in length) must be culled from the shells of adult oysters at the harvest site. Oyster shells must be returned to the harvest site after shucking. *Recreational harvesters are not required to have completed Vibrio training to harvest from areas between October 1, 2018 and October 19, 2018.*

Commercial: Between October 20, 2018 and March 31, 2019, both dates inclusive, commercial harvest of oysters shall be limited to no more that (2) level town-approved containers per day. Commercial fishing is allowed on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.** Culling of seed oysters from the shells of adult oysters must take place at the harvest site.
2018-2019 FAMILY PERMIT SCALLOP REGULATIONS

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 130, Section 52, the following regulations for the taking of scallops by Falmouth Permit Holders effective OCTOBER 1, 2018 through MARCH 31, 2019 are hereby adopted:

1. Scallop season will open for all FAMILY shellfish permit holders on October 1, 2018 throughout the town including areas “Closed to Shellfishing” for quahogs, clams, oysters and mussels.
2. Skin diving using mark, snorkel and fins may be used in any area.
3. Scuba diving with air tanks is allowed in Megansett Harbor, with the exception of the “Family Shellfishing Area, Buzzards Bay, Great Harbor Woods Hole and Vineyard Sound from shore only.
4. Skin and Scuba divers shall display a diver’s flag.
5. Scallop boats shall not position themselves between the shoreline and any diver’s flag. While towing scallop dredges, all boats shall remain outside a 100-foot radius of any dive flag.
6. Dredging in prohibited in West Falmouth harbor and all family shellfish areas.
7. Beginning on November 1, 2018 until November 30, 2018, dredging will be permitted in marked navigational channels except on the Atlantic Oyster grant in Seapit River and West Falmouth Harbor. Great Harbor and Little Harbor Woods hole will open for dredging on November 1, 2018.
8. FAMILY CATCH LIMIT: (1) bushel per week of bay scallops.
9. Dredges are limited to 3-foot width and two dredges per boat. Dredges must have two-inch or larger rings in the construction of the bag. Boats shall be limited to two permit holders per boat.
10. All bay scallops taken from Falmouth waters shall be landed in Falmouth. Scallops may not be shucked prior to landing.
11. The use of dredges shall be prohibited in any Family Shellfish Area.
2018-2019 COMMERCIAL SCALLOP REGULATIONS

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 130, Section 52, the following regulations for the taking of scallops by Falmouth Permit Holders effective OCTOBER 1, 2018 through MARCH 31, 2019 are hereby adopted:

1. No Commercial Scallop Fishing on Sundays.
2. Skin diving using mask, snorkel and fins may be used in any area.
3. Scuba diving with air tanks is allowed in Buzzard Bay, Megansett Harbor, Vineyard Sound and Great Harbor Woods Hole from shore only.
4. Skin and Scuba divers shall display diver’s flag and commercial divers shall display their permit numbers in 3” numbers on their dive flag.
5. Scallop boats shall not position themselves between the shore and diver’s flags. While towing scallop dredges, all boats shall remain outside a 100-foot radius of any dive flag.
6. Commercial season opens on October 1, 2018 in Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound and Great Harbor Woods Hole. All other areas to include Waquoit Bay and West Falmouth Harbor shall open on Monday, October 8, 2018 to commercial scalloping. Commercial permit holders may take (1) bushel per week in coastal ponds from October 1, 2018 until October 8, 2018. NOTE: Family shellfish areas are not open too commercial shellfishing of any species.
7. Beginning on November 1, 2018 until November 30, 2018 dredging will be permitted in marked navigational channels, except in the Seapit River on the Atlantic Oyster Shellfish grant and in West Falmouth Harbor. Dredging of scallops in Great Harbor and Little Harbor Woods Hole shall be permitted from November 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.
8. COMMERCIAL CATCH LIMIT: October 1 through October 31st, on (1) bushel per week. Beginning on November 1st, five (5) bushels per open days in coastal ponds. Beginning October 1st, the limit is ten (10) bushels per open day in the waters of Vineyard Sound, Megansett harbor and Buzzards Bay.
9. Dredges are limited to 3-foot width and two dredges per boat except in the waters of Vineyard Sound, Megansett Harbor and Buzzards Bay where 1 dredge not exceeding 5 feet in width is permitted in place of the 2 three foot dredges. Dredges must have two inch or larger rings in the construction of the bag. Boats shall be limited to two permit holders per boat.
10. All bay scallops take in Falmouth waters shall be landed in Falmouth. Scallops may not be shucked prior to landing.
11. Scallop shells may not be discarded in the water at any town landing.
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 130, Section 52 the following changes to the Shellfish Regulations are hereby adopted:

Closing of Area for Shellfish Resource Management

GREAT POND SC-11

The waters of Great Pond to include all connected inlets and wetland are closed until December 5, 2018 (Wednesday), except:

the Family Shellfish area between Priscilla St and Bourne St. will open on Saturday, November 3, 2018 and shall remain open on Saturdays and Sundays until May 26, 2019 (Sunday). This regulation shall not apply to the taking of scallops in Great Pond.

WAQUOIT BAY SC-15

The Falmouth Waters of Waquoit Bay shall be closed to the taking of soft shell calms and quahogs from November 14, 2018 until May 1, 2019.

SOUTHERN BOURNES POND SC-13

The waters of Southern Bourne’s Pond (Family Area) shall be closed to the taking of soft shell clams and quahogs from November 11, 2018 until May 1, 2019.

GREEN POND SC-12

The waters of Green Pond, to include all connected inlets and wetlands, are closed until December 15, 2018.
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 130, Section 52 the following changes to the Shellfish Regulations are hereby adopted:

A portion of the waters of Green Pond and West Falmouth Harbor shall be closed for all shellfishing for Contaminated and Non-Contaminated Oyster Relays.

The closed areas are as follows:

- Green Pond Relay Area (Recreational and Commercial Area), located in the southwest corner of the estuary shall be closed for shellfish seeding through the fall of 2019, after which time it will be open for harvest.
- West Falmouth Harbor Relay Area I (Family Area) which runs from a sign on the path over to the dock on Associate’s Road) and Relay Area II (Recreational/Commercial Area) (center flat off Old Dock Rd). These areas shall be closed from March 1, 2019 until October 1, 2019.

Area maps and descriptions attached.
Map 1. Green Pond Relay Area (Recreational and Commercial Area): the southwest corner of Green Pond.
Map 2. West Falmouth Harbor Relay Area I (Family Area) which runs from a sign on the path over to the dock on Associate’s Road) and West Falmouth Harbor Relay Area II (Recreational/Commercial Area) (center flat off Old Dock Rd).