Shellfish Division
2019-2020 Annual Shellfish
Resource Management Regulations

September 9, 2019
Family/Recreational: Between **October 1, 2010 and March 31, 2020**, 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. After shucking, oyster shells must be returned to the harvest site or to the shell collection site located at the Falmouth DPW (416 Gifford Street), on the right leading up the hill. *Recreational harvesters are not required to have completed Vibrio training to harvest from areas between October 1, 2019 and October 19, 2019.*

Commercial: Between **October 22, 2019 and March 31, 2020**, both dates inclusive, commercial harvest of oysters shall be limited to no more than (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.
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
2019-2020 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, 2019 through MARCH 31, 2020 are hereby adopted:

1. Scallop season will open for all FAMILY shellfish permit holders on October 1, 2019 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, 2019 until November 30, 2019, 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.
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
2019-2020 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, 2019 through MARCH 31, 2020 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. Scallops 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, 2019 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 7, 2019 to commercial scalloping. Commercial permit holders may take (1) bushel per week in coastal ponds from October 1, 2019 until October 7, 2019.
   NOTE: Family shellfish areas are not open too commercial shellfishing of any species.
7. Beginning on November 1, 2019 until November 30, 2019 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, 2019 to March 31, 2020.
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.
Pursuant to MGL Chapter 130, Section 52 the following changes to the Shellfish Regulations are hereby adopted:

Closing of Area for Shellfish Resource Management

**WAQUOIT BAY SC-15**

The Falmouth Waters of Waquoit Bay shall be closed to the taking of softshell clams and quahogs from November 13, 2019 until May 1, 2020.

**SOUTHERN BOURNES POND SC-13**

The waters of Southern Bourne’s Pond (Family Area) shall be closed to the taking of softshell clams and quahogs from November 10, 2019 until May 1, 2020.
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
SHELLFISH REGULATIONS REFERENCE NOTES:

**GREAT POND SC-11**

In 2018, the waters of Great Pond to include all connected inlets and wetland were opened **December 5**, except for:

the Family Shellfish area between Priscilla St and Bourne St. which opened on Saturday, **November 3**, and remained open on Saturdays and Sundays until **May 26, 2019**. This regulation did not apply to the taking of scallops in Great Pond.

For 2019, the waters of Great Pond to include all connected inlets and wetland will be opened **November 1**, on the earliest state opening date.

**GREEN POND SC-12**

In 2018, the waters of Green Pond, to include all connected inlets and wetlands, were opened **December 15**.

For 2019, the waters of Great Pond to include all connected inlets and wetland will be opened **November 1**, on the earliest state opening date.

No action is required by the Board of Selectmen.