

**Town of Falmouth
Oyster Regulations
2015-2016 Season**

Family/Recreational: Between October 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, 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.

Commercial: Between October 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, 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.

2015-2016 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, 2015 through MARCH 31, 2016 are hereby adopted:

1. Scallop season will open for all FAMILY shellfish permit holders on **October 1, 2015** throughout the town including areas "Closed to Shellfishing" for quahogs, clams, oysters and mussels.
2. Skin diving using mask, 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 is prohibited in West Falmouth harbor and all family shellfish areas.
7. Beginning on November 1, 2015 until November 30, 2015, 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, 2015.
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.

2015-2016 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, 2015 through MARCH 31, 2016 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, 2015** in Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound and Great Harbor Woods Hole. All other areas to include Waquoit Bay and West Falmouth Harbor shall open on Saturday, October 10, 2015 to commercial scalloping. Commercial permit holders may take (1) bushel per week in coastal ponds from October 1, 2015 until October 9, 2015. NOTE: Family shellfish areas are not open to commercial shellfishing of any species.
7. Beginning on November 1, 2015 until November 30, 2015 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, 2015 to March 31, 2016.
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. Boast 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

Area: Great Pond SC 11.0

The Waters of Great Pond to include all connected inlets and wetlands shall remain closed to the taking of shellfish until **November 16, 2015**, except the Family Shellfish area between Priscilla St and Bourne St. will open on Sunday **November 1, 2015** and shall remain open on Saturdays and Sundays until May 1, 2016. This regulation shall not apply to the taking of scallops in Great Pond.

Area: Waquoit Bay SC 15.0

The Falmouth Waters of Waquoit Bay shall be closed to the taking of soft shell calms and quahogs from **November 15, 2015** until May 1, 2016.

Area: Southern Bourne's Pond

The waters of Southern Bourne's Pond (Family Area) shall be closed to the taking of soft shell clams and quahogs from **November 15, 2015** until May 1, 2016.

**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

Area: Green Pond SC 12

The waters of Green Pond, to include all connected inlets and wetlands, shall remain closed to the taking of shellfish until **December 14, 2015**.

Town of Falmouth

Shellfish Regulations

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

Shellfish Gear Restrictions

The use of jerk rakes, bull rakes and “T” handled like rakes is prohibited in the three Little Pond Oyster Relay Areas.

SC 12.4 Green Pond: Southeast corner

BB 8.2 Quissett Harbor: North end of inner harbor

BB 54.0 West Falmouth Harbor: Area near Chapaquoit Bridge