



Public Hearing

Shellfish Recreational Regulations Changes

The Provincetown Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 14, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Judge Welsh Room, Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 to receive comments from the public on the following proposed changes to the Provincetown Recreational Shellfishing Regulations and associated fee:

- 1) The Provincetown tidelands shall be closed to the taking of quahogs, soft-shelled clams, oysters, and mussels except in areas designated by the Board of Selectmen under the conditions herein imposed.
 - 2) The Town Clerk, to any legal resident or real estate taxpayer, upon receipt of a \$15.00 annual fee shall issue a family permit for the non-commercial recreational taking of shellfish. Residents or taxpayers shall be issued a free shellfish permit at age 65 or older. The fee for a non-resident shellfish permit is \$50.00 and the fee for a weekly permit is \$25.00.
 - 3) Quahogs must be one inch thick, soft-shelled clams must be two inches long, and oysters and razor clams must be three inches long and sea clams must be five inches long. Possession of a gauge is required or you will be denied access to the tidal flats.
 - 4) The weekly limit for recreational permit holders for any combination of quahogs, soft-shelled clams, and oysters is either one level 10 quart pail or a peck shellfish basket. No other containers are allowed ~~on the tidal flats.~~ The sea surf clam limit is one bushel 2 pecks per week and may be taken any day with no time of year restrictions. If bay scallops are abundant the Shellfish Constable will post the days and location of their taking and the recreational limit shall be two pecks per week.
 - 5) Certain days of the week may be specified for the recreational taking of quahogs, oysters and soft-shelled clams. This information will be posted in the Town Clerk's office. Harvesting is limited to daylight hours, sunrise to sunset.
 - 6) No permit is required for sea worms, moon snails, periwinkles and mussels, which may be taken year round.
 - 7) Upon leaving the flats, ~~all~~ recreational shellfish harvesters must report to the Shellfish Constable who maintains a record of the town's yearly harvest.
 - 8) Violations of the above regulations shall be punishable by a fine of no less than \$50 and no more than \$300 and/or revocation of license or permit.
 - 9) All persons harvesting shellfish are asked to ~~must~~ re-bury undersize shellfish to protect them from both the weather and predators, such as crabs and seagulls. It takes about two years for a soft-shelled clam to reach legal size and three or four years for a quahog to reach legal size.
(Moved from preamble to numbered regulation)
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Comments may be submitted in writing to the Office of the Board of Selectmen, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 or selectmen@provincetown-ma.gov by Tuesday, November 8, 2016, or in person at the hearing.

Raphael W. Richter
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

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