



**Town Recreational Shellfish Crier**  
**April 29, 2023**

**1. Tomorrow, Sunday, April 30, is the Last Day for Chipman's Cove Until October 29, 2023**

As it does each year, at sunset on Sunday, April 30, 2023, Chipman's Cove will close for the season to the harvest of shellfish. Low tide is at 2:52 p.m. and it is a 1.7. On Monday, May 1, the Shellfish Department will begin the contaminated quahog relay to the Cove.

**2. On Thursday, May 4, Burton Baker Beach on Indian Neck Will Close to Shellfishing**

As part of the contaminated quahog relay, starting Thursday, May 4, the Shellfish Department will place hundreds of bushels of mixed quahogs (littlenecks, cherrystones, chowders, etc.) in between the two rock groins of Burton Baker Beach at the Indian Neck recreational-only area. We will get the quahogs from the Taunton River through a tightly monitored state-run program that allows towns to move quahogs that are lightly contaminated to our waters for natural purification. The state makes us close the area to allow the quahogs to spawn during the summer, increasing the potential for baby quahogs to settle and grow there in the future. The quahogs are stringently tested before they can be harvested and eaten by the public. Click [here](#) for quick facts.

As a point of clarification: Our waters are not contaminated; the clams are lightly contaminated and able to purge themselves completely. This does not affect the surrounding water; in fact, clams are filter feeders and purify the water as they feed. Quahog samples will be sent to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries for testing before we open the area to shellfishing. This program helps us create well-stocked clam beds and sustainable clam populations into the future. The area will re-open June 1, 2024.

**3. Area by Breakwater on Indian Neck Is Still Closed to Shellfishing Until June 1, 2023**

The area of the Indian Neck recreational-only area by the jetty remains closed to the harvest of shellfish until June 1, 2023. The area is bordered by the jetty on the right, and on the left, by a line from the candy-striped pole on the beach near the grasses out to the green channel marker. Here is a [map](#). Since Burton Baker Beach will also close on Thursday, this means shellfishing can only happen in the middle area of Indian Neck. The area south of Burton Baker Beach and all of South Wellfleet remain open to recreational shellfishing every day until June 1, 2023.

**4. Please Report Your Catches**

It is important for us to quantify how much shellfish is harvested in Wellfleet. At this time of year, when shellfishing is open seven days a week in many places in town, it can be hard for the Shellfish Department to be everywhere at once, and we may not get a chance to check you. We ask that you please email your catches each week to us at: [shellfish@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:shellfish@wellfleet-ma.gov). This will help us communicate the actual value of our recreational shellfishery to our community.

**5. The 2023 Winning Beach Stickers All Feature the Wellfleet Shellfishing Community ~ Come See the Art Show at the Wellfleet Adult Community Center during the month of May**

This year's winning beach sticker artists, Nora Clark-Jennings, Amy Herold, Nicole Mordecai and Josh Yeston, are having a Group Exhibition in the Great Pond Gallery at the Adult Community Center (ACC) during the month of May. The three photographs and one drawing chosen all captured shellfishing in action. Don't miss it! The ACC is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 715 Old King's Highway, 508-349-5058.

**6. Parking Passes Available for Non-Residents**

Non-resident recreational shellfishing permit holders can pick up their parking passes at the Beach/Shellfish Office at the pier (255 Commercial Street), Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. These are required for parking at the Indian Neck recreational-only shellfishing area during the summer season from the third Saturday in June through Labor Day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**WELCOME TO THE SUMMER OF 2023!**

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