



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification – Notification of Changes

May 10, 2024

This notice is in effect until repealed or replaced

Under the authority of 12 M.R.S.A. § 6172; the Commissioner has made the following changes to Growing Area WZ, North Haven, Vinalhaven, and Matinicus; this notice reclassifies the southern cove in Southern Harbor from Restricted to Prohibited, Vinal Cove from Approved to Restricted and a portion of Vinal Falls from Approved to Prohibited due to water quality no longer meeting their respective classification standards. An interactive map that allows the user to zoom in to specific areas can be found on the ME DMR website: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/shellfish-closures-and-aquaculture-leases-map>. All existing pollution and biotoxin closures remain in effect.

The boundary descriptions of the area are as follows (struck text is being removed and underlined text is being added):

Prohibited: Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops taken from the shores, flats and waters of the following Prohibited areas:

- P1. Pulpit Harbor: west of a line formed by the Pulpit Harbor Bridge; AND south of a line beginning at a red painted post on the north tip of the un-named point south of Pulpit Rock running southeast to the southwestern most point of land at the mouth of Pulpit Harbor.
- P2. Vinalhaven and North Haven: north and west of a line beginning at the southern tip of Hopkins Point (Vinalhaven), running northeast to the south tip of Zeke Point (Vinalhaven); ~~AND north of a line beginning at the northeast tip of Ames Knob (North Haven) running northeast to the end of Knot Rd.;~~ AND east of a line beginning at a red painted post on the northeastern tip of land outside of Polly Cove running north to a red painted post on the opposite shore; AND west of a line beginning at the southeasterly tip of Stimpsons Island running south to the northern tip of Ash Tree Pt. (Vinalhaven); AND west of a line beginning at the northeastern tip of Stimpsons Island running northwest to the southwestern tip of Burnt Island (North Haven); AND west of a line beginning at the western tip of Burnt Island running to a red painted post approximately 185 yards north of the end of Coopers Lane on North Haven; AND east of a line beginning at the southeastern tip of Crabtree Pt. (North Haven) running southeast to the northwestern tip of Leadbetter Island; AND west of a line beginning at a red painted post at the center point of Hall Island (Vinalhaven) running north to a red painted post the opposite shore on Vinalhaven; AND north and west of a line beginning at the western tip of Hall Island running southwest to the northwestern shore of an unnamed cove on the northern shore of Leadbetter Island (Vinalhaven).
- P3. Mill River: north of a line beginning at Lelands Point (Vinalhaven) running east to the opposite shore; AND south of a line beginning at the northernmost point of the unnamed cove on the western shore of Mill Pond running east to the opposite shore.

- P4. Vinal Falls: ~~south of a line beginning at the northern shore of Vinal Falls (Vinalhaven) running west to the opposite shore beside Calderwood Neck Road; AND north of a line beginning at the southern shore of Vinal Falls running west to the opposite shore; AND west of a line beginning approximately 400 yards east of Vinal Falls on the northern shore of Winter Harbor in a small unnamed cove running south to the opposite shore.~~
- P5. Seal Bay: west of a line beginning at the northeastern point of land at the end of Steep Rock Rd. (Vinalhaven) running northwest approximately 160 yards to the eastern tip of an unnamed island; AND south of a line beginning at the western tip of the unnamed island located northwest of the end of Steep Rock Rd. running west to the eastern tip of a second unnamed island located approximately 230 yards southeast of Hay Island; AND east of a line beginning at the western tip of the island located approximately 230 yards southeast of Hay Island running south to the shore on Vinalhaven.
- P6. Seal Bay: south of a line beginning at the prominent northern point dividing Smith Cove from a large unnamed cove on the western shore of Coombs Neck running northeast approximately 150 yards to the opposite shore on Coombs Neck; AND north of a line beginning approximately 400 yards southeast of the prominent northern point dividing Smith Cove from the large unnamed cove on the western shore of the unnamed cove running east to the opposite shore on Coombs Neck.
- P7. Southwest Vinalhaven: south and east of a line beginning at the west tip of Barton Island, then running southwest to the south tip of Pole Island, then running southeast to red nun navigational buoy #10, then running south to the north tip of a prominent point of land approximately 317 yards southwest of the north tip of Greens Island; AND south and west of the causeway that separates Old Harbor Pond from Old Harbor; AND north of a line beginning at the south tip of the point of land on the eastern side of the mouth of Indian Creek, then running west to the south tip of Heron Neck (Greens Island).
- P8. Matinicus Island, Ragged Island: inside of a line beginning at Northeast Pt. on the northern end of Matinicus, and extending southeasterly to the western point of West Black Ledge, then extending southerly to Wilson Head on the eastern tip of Ragged Island, then extending southerly to the western tip of Green Ledge, then extending southerly to the northern most point of Brig Ledge, then extending northwesterly to the southwestern most point of Ragged Island, then extending northwesterly to Southwest Pt. on Matinicus Island, then extending northerly to West Pt. then extending northeasterly to Northeast Pt on the northern end of Matinicus Island.

Restricted: Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Restricted area without a special MDMR permit:

- R1. Wooster Cove (North Haven): east of a line beginning at the southern tip of Northwest Point running southwest to the westernmost point of Narrow Place Beach.
- ~~R2. Southern Harbor (North Haven): south of a line beginning at a red painted post at the northeast tip of Ames Knob running northeast to the end of Knot Rd.~~
- R2. Seal Cove: south of a line beginning at the southern tip of Hopkins Point (Vinalhaven), running northeast to the south tip of Zeke Point (Vinalhaven); AND north of a line beginning at the northern tip of Spectacle Island running both east and west to the opposite shores.
- R3. West Inlet of Carver Cove: west of a line beginning at a red painted post on the northeastern tip of land outside of Polly Cove running north to a red painted post on the opposite shore.

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- R4. Seal Bay (Vinalhaven): south of a line beginning at the western tip of Penobscot Island, then running southwest across the narrowest part of the channel to the opposite shore; AND west of a line beginning at the east tip of an un-named point, located in the middle of the southeast shore of Penobscot Island then running southwest to a red painted post located on the tip of an unnamed point 360 yards southwest of the western most tip of Burnt Island.
- R5. Smith Harbor (Vinalhaven): northwest of a line beginning at a red painted post on the shore at the most southern point of Poole's Hill, approximately 230 yards south from the end of Poole's Hill road running southwest to a red painted post on the opposite shore.
- R6. Roberts Harbor and Arey Cove (Vinalhaven): northwest of a line beginning at the eastern point of land beyond the end of Roberts Cemetery Road running northeast to the south tip of Narrows Island; AND northeast of a line beginning at the northeastern tip of Narrows Island running northeast to the southern tip of Bob Meadow Point.
- R7. Old Harbor Pond: east of the causeway that separates Old Harbor Pond from Old Harbor.
- R8. Vinal Cove (Vinalhaven): south of a line beginning at the southern shore of Vinal Falls running west to the opposite shore.

Conditionally Approved (Rainfall): Effective immediately, because of intermittent pollution due to rainfall, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) from the shores, flats and waters of the following Conditionally Approved area(s) when rainfall meets or exceeds 0.75" within a 24-hour period. For current status, please refer to the Statewide Conditional Area Closure Notice on the DMR website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures>

- CA1. North Haven Salt Pond: east of a line formed by the Pulpit Harbor Bridge.

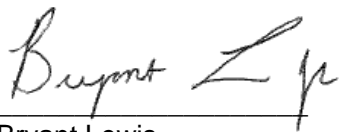
Approved: All other shores, flats and waters not described in the above sections are Approved and it is lawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels or whole or roe-on scallops (from aquaculture leases with an MOU only) when in the open status. For current status, please refer to the Biotxin and Emergency Closure Notices on the DMR website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures>

- A. Growing Area WZ.

If you have questions, please contact Department of Marine Resources, 194 McKown Point Road, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575-0008, Tel: (207) 633-9500 Email: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov. During weekends/holidays, contact on duty Marine Patrol Officers through the appropriate State Police barracks: from New Hampshire border to Brunswick, barracks 1-800-228-0857; from Cushing/Boothbay to Lincolnville/Belfast area, barracks 1-800-452-4664; from Belfast to Canadian border, barracks 1-800-432-7381. This notice can be viewed on the Department's website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/closures>. This information is also recorded on our HOTLINE (207- 624-7727 OR 1-800-232-4733).



Bryant Lewis
Western Maine Growing Area Supervisor
Commissioner's Designee

4:00 PM
(Effective Time)