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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 8, 194 MCKOWN POINT RD
W. BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE
04575-0008

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

November 11, 2015

Dear Shellfish Committees and Town Clerks:

News and Updates:

In 2016, we will no longer be making exceptions for applications received outside of the deadlines for submission. Applications for:

- Transplant activity applications must be submitted, fully completed, to DMR no less than 10 days in advance of the scheduled activity as required by DMR Regulations Chapter 7. Requests received less than 10 days in advance will cause delay in approval for the activity.
- Conservation Closure **AND** Opening applications must be submitted, fully completed, to DMR at least 20 days in advanced of the scheduled closure/opening as required by DMR Regulations Chapter 7. Permit requests submitted less than 20 days in advance will be denied or delayed beginning in 2016. DMR also reminds you that there is a mandatory 5 day notification period for all conservation closures. Please be sure notification and public postings are made accordingly. The reason for these tight deadlines is due to any violation of these closures/openings is a Class D criminal violation and proper notice is required by statute.

As most of you are already aware, we are now uploading permits, maps, and ordinances for each town to our website to make them more accessible for the public. The link is: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/msf/towninfo.htm>. New information is uploaded as it becomes available.

Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Reports (DMR Regulations Chapter 7.30(4)):

These forms can be found as fillable electronic forms on the Department of Marine Resources webpage:

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/msf/forms/index.htm>. If you have any problems locating or using these forms, please contact Angel Ripley or your Area Biologist for assistance. Enclosed is the list of towns covered by each Area Biologist. The newest versions of these forms **MUST** be utilized whether printed and completed or filled out online. Old versions of applications will no longer be accepted and will be sent back to the towns for revision.

The Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Report identifies the key management components within municipal shellfish programs that must be completed in order for your program to meet statutory and regulatory requirements under Title 12, Section 6671 and DMR Regulation Chapter 7. Properly completed, the Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Report also serves as the shellfish management plan, as required under DMR Regulations Chapter 7.20.

The completed Annual Shellfish Management Review for the year 2015 must be submitted directly to the DMR to the Shellfish Program Coordinator; PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008 no later than **April 1, 2016** for review and approval. Incomplete reports will be returned. Any municipality that has not submitted their Annual Review within 30 days of the due date will receive a letter from the Commissioner giving notice of his intent to rescind their ordinance. As a reminder, several supplemental forms are required including the Transplant Activity form, the Budget Worksheet, Enforcement Worksheet, New Warden Form if applicable, and any resource survey data. Copies of all forms are included in this packet and are also available online.

Should you have questions concerning these issues and/or requirements, please contact me, your Area Biologist or the Shellfish Program Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Denis-Marc Nault
Supervisor, Shellfish Management Program

<http://www.Maine.gov/dmr>

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