



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PO Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue, East Lyme, CT 06460

*Bureau of Aquaculture*



December 31, 2019

Ledge Light Health District  
Steven Mansfield, Director of Health  
216 Broad Street  
New London, CT

## **RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in East Lyme and Waterford, CT**

Mr. Mansfield,

The Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture is required to reevaluate shellfish growing area classifications in the State on an annual basis, in order to accurately reflect the appropriate designated use of the area and remain in compliance with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP).

The following shellfish growing areas in East Lyme are being reclassified effective December 30, 2019:

- A portion of the Niantic River in East Lyme and Waterford are reclassified from Restricted and Conditionally Restricted to Conditionally Approved Seasonal based upon the results of the 2019 sanitary survey and bacteriological water quality improvements that show that the area now meets the fecal coliform standard for an Approved shellfish growing area when it would be in the open status;
- A portion of Niantic Bay in East Lyme and Waterford has been reclassified from Restricted and Conditionally Approved to Approved based upon the results of the 2019 sanitary survey and bacteriological water quality improvements that show that the area now meets the fecal coliform standard for an Approved shellfish growing area when it would be in the open status;
- East Lyme Area F was expanded based upon the presence of vessels in the mooring field that are located outside of the existing boundaries of the Conditionally Approved Seasonal area

For additional information on the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) requirements for classifying shellfish growing areas please see the NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter IV. Shellfish Growing Areas@.02 Microbiological Standards and @.03 Growing Area Classification.

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FederalStateFoodPrograms/UCM505093.pdf>

These changes became effective December 30, 2019. A legal notice has been written which will be placed in the local newspaper announcing this change. A copy of the written description of the current classifications and all relevant maps are attached. Copies of the new classification descriptions for the shellfish growing areas in East Lyme are being provided to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the East Lyme, Waterford and WELSCO Shellfish Commissions and the Town Clerks of East Lyme and Waterford.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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