



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PO Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

*Bureau of Aquaculture*



December 31, 2019

City of Milford Health Department  
Laura M. Miller, REHS/RS, Chief, Environmental Health Division  
70 West River Street  
Milford, CT 06460

## **RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Milford, CT**

Ms. Miller,

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 Milford are being reclassified effective December 30, 2019:

- A portion of Milford Approved in the west shore area has been reclassified as Conditionally Approved. This change reflects the need to close these waters following a sewage release from the Milford or Stratford Water Pollution Control Facilities, based on recent US Food and Drug Administration hydrographic dye dilution study results. Please note that this is an administrative change only and the area should not be closed more frequently than it has been historically, as this area has always been managed to close following sewage releases into the Housatonic from these plants;
- The Milford Gulf Conditionally Approved area has been downgraded to Restricted. The bacteriological water quality at stations in the Gulf no longer meet fecal coliform standards for an Approved shellfish growing area under the conditions when the area would be open for harvest. These stations will continue to be sampled and evaluated on an annual basis, and the classification may be revisited in the future;
- The Pond Point Conditionally Approved area and a portion of the Conditionally Approved area south of Milford Gulf have been reclassified as Approved due to an improvement in water quality;
- A portion of the Southwest Milford Conditionally Approved area has been reclassified as Restricted due to bacteriological water quality at stations that no longer meet fecal coliform standards for an Approved shellfish growing area under the conditions when the area would be open for harvest.

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 Milford are being provided to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Town Clerk of Milford.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristin DeRosia-Banick  
Environmental Analyst 3  
[Kristin.DeRosia-Banick@ct.gov](mailto:Kristin.DeRosia-Banick@ct.gov)  
Cell: 203-231-8662

Cc: Amy Fitzpatrick, USFDA Regional Shellfish Specialist, [Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov)  
Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, [Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov](mailto:Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov)  
Keith Williams, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Environmental Conservation Police, [Keith.Williams@ct.gov](mailto:Keith.Williams@ct.gov)  
Katie O'Brien-Clayton, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Environmental Analyst, [Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov](mailto:Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov)  
Karen Fortunati, City Clerk Milford, [KFortunati@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:KFortunati@ci.milford.ct.us)  
Laura Miller, Chief, Environmental Health Division, [LMiller@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:LMiller@ci.milford.ct.us)