

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory

Hurricane Sandy Update and Shellfish Reopenings 11/14/12

11/17/12

Partial Re-Opening of Waters to Shellfish Harvest

Approved waters in Darien, Norwalk, Westport, Milford: Portions Reopened 11/09/12 Approved waters in Greenwich and Stamford: Portion Reopened 11/15/12

The Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S) § 26-192a has established the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA) as the lead agency on shellfish in Connecticut with the authority to classify shellfish growing areas and enact closures. C.G.S§ 26-192e, paragraphs (a) and (c) provide the DA/BA with authority to classify shellfish growing areas and to enact closures. The DA/BA issued a precautionary closure on 10/28/12 for all CT shellfishing areas from Greenwich to Stonington due to predicted water quality impacts from Hurricane Sandy.

The DA/BA has determined through water and shellfish tissue sampling and sanitary survey of impacted areas that the areas listed above are safe for shellfish harvest. The closure has now been lifted in portions of the Approved offshore commercial shellfishing areas in Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, Westport, and Milford.

Approved areas located nearshore and in shallow water that may have been impacted by the storm remain closed. If a portion of the Approved area remains closed, these specific areas can be found on the attached maps.

Environmental analysts from the DA/BA continue, with the assistance of emergency coordinators, public works departments, fire departments, and health departments, to evaluate the impacts to shellfishing related to sewage and chemical releases following the hurricane. Areas will be reopened as surveys and sampling reveal that the areas have no remaining impacts from the storm.

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