



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**For Immediate Release:** May 21, 2015

**Contact:** Lori Severino | (518) 402-8000  
Press Office | [PressOffice@dec.ny.gov](mailto:PressOffice@dec.ny.gov)

## **DEC REOPENS SHELLFISHING AREAS IN SHINNECOCK BAY**

### **Reopening Follows Extensive Testing of Shellfish for Biotoxin**

Effective at sunrise on Friday, May 22, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will reopen approximately 3,600 acres of shellfish lands in the Town of Southampton. These areas were closed on May 7, after DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources detected saxitoxin, a naturally occurring marine biotoxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning, in shellfish in Shinnecock Bay.

The biotoxin closures for shellfish (clams, mussels and oysters) will be rescinded in most of the normally certified shellfish lands in western Shinnecock Bay. Approximately 315 acres in a cove outside the mouth of Weesuck Creek will remain closed for the harvest of shellfish.

The decision to reopen this area was based on the results of extensive testing of shellfish samples from western Shinnecock Bay. DEC's microbiology laboratory has tested more than 85 shellfish samples for biotoxin since late March, with 20 of those samples collected from Shinnecock Bay.

The prohibition on the taking of carnivorous gastropods (conch, whelk and other marine snails) that was implemented on May 7 remains in effect for all of western Shinnecock Bay lying west of the southbound lanes of the Ponquogue Bridge and east of the Post Lane Bridge in Quogue.

For more information on temporary emergency shellfish closures and maps of the affected areas, visit the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7765.html>. A recorded message advising harvesters of the status of temporary shellfish closures may also be heard by calling (631) 444-0480.

###

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## Marine Resources Headquarters

205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1, East Setauket, NY 11733  
P: (631) 444-0430 | F: (631) 444-0434 | FW.Marine@dec.ny.gov  
www.dec.ny.gov

## RECISSION OF EMERGENCY DESIGNATION OF SHELLFISH LANDS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK AS UNCERTIFIED FOR THE HARVEST OF SHELLFISH

Pursuant to the provisions of Subdivisions 13-0307 (1) and (2) and Subdivision 13-0309 (1) of the Environmental Conservation Law and Section 47.4 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, and based on a determination that marine biotoxins are not present in shellfish at levels which may cause shellfish to be hazardous for use as food, I, Debra A. Barnes, Shellfisheries Section Head of the Department of Environmental Conservation, hereby rescind the designation of shellfish lands as uncertified for the harvest of shellfish dated May 7, 2015. **This order is effective at sunrise on Friday, May 22, 2015** and applies only to those portions of the areas that are normally classified as certified for the harvest of shellfish pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 41 "Sanitary Condition of Shellfish Lands."

Accordingly, the harvest of shellfish from the following areas is permitted:


**Town of Southampton:** All the normally certified areas of Shinnecock Bay lying west of the Ponquogue Bridge and south, east and west of a line extending northeasterly from the southernmost point of land at Philips Point to the southernmost point of land at Pine Neck Point.

**NOTE:** The harvest of shellfish from the area lying northerly of a line extending northeasterly from the southernmost point of land at Philips Point to the southernmost point of land at Pine Neck Point remains prohibited.

**NOTE:** The harvest of conchs (whelks) and other carnivorous gastropods also remains prohibited in all that area of Shinnecock Bay lying west of the southbound lanes of the Ponquogue Bridge and east of the western side of the Post Lane Bridge in Quogue, where such activities had been prohibited by a signed order dated May 7, 2015.

I hereby certify that this is the original thereof.

Dated: May 21, 2015  
East Setauket, New York

  
Debra A. Barnes, Shellfisheries Section Head  
Bureau of Marine Resources



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**Marine Biotoxin Closure**  
Shinnecock Bay  
Effective  
May 22, 2015  
Shellfish Harvest Area SS12

