

TOWN OF TRURO
REGULATIONS FOR THE RECREATIONAL TAKING
OF SHELLFISH, SEA WORMS, EELS, AND CRABS

Regulations effective January 1, 2002; amended December 11, 2007; July 4, 2015; November 1, 2015; January 12, 2016; Revised September 12, 2023-Effective November 1, 2023

The following regulations are adopted by the Select Board, under the authority of Chapter 130, s.52, of the Acts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purpose of regulating the taking of shellfish, eels, crabs, and sea worms. Shellfish include clams, conchs, limpets, mussels, oysters, periwinkles, quahogs, razor clams or razor fish, scallops, sea clams, sea quahogs, sea scallops, and winkles.

1. All persons are prohibited from taking eels, clams (soft-shelled), quahogs, sea clams, razor clams, oysters, mussels, sea worms, scallops, sea quahogs, and sea scallops within the said Town of Truro without a permit.
2. Permits shall be issued by the Licensing Agent for individual and family recreational use only and are issued subject to subsequent revision in these regulations, as the Board may hereafter deem necessary or appropriate. (One License = One 10-Qt Basket) (9.12.2023)
3. Permits shall not be transferable and must be prominently displayed through a badge holder.
4. Commercial permits will not be granted in the Town of Truro without further authorization from the Select Board.
5. All Annual Permits shall have an effective date of November 1st and shall expire October 31st each year. (9.12.2023)
6. Recreational permits shall be issued to residents of the Town of Truro and to other persons owning and paying taxes on property within the limits of the Town of Truro. The annual fee for such permit shall be \$20.00. (9.12.2023)

7. Recreational permits shall be issued to non-residents, with the exception of Veterans, as follows:

- Non-Resident Annual Permit - \$125.00
- Non-Resident One Week Permit - \$35.00

(9.12.2023)

8. Recreational Permits for any United States Veteran shall be the same as a Resident Annual fee which is \$20.00. Proof of Veteran status is required.

(9.12.2023)

9. A Truro resident who is 62 years of age or older may obtain a shellfish permit for their own use, free of charge, from the Licensing Agent by presenting proof of age, and receive a license that must be renewed each year.

10. Recreational permits for any non-resident person that is employed by the Town of Truro shall be the same as a Resident Annual fee which is \$20.00.

(9.12.2023)

11. No eels shall be taken within the Town of Truro by use of a fyke, unless a special permit is obtained from the Select Board or Shellfish Warden for good cause shown.

12. Persons holding a permit may take the following types of shellfish with a combined weekly (defined as 12:00 AM Sunday thru 11:59 PM Saturday) maximum catch of one (1) ten (10) quart basket in the shell, with the exception of Sea Clams as defined in 10d, and in the quantities specified below within designated time periods as follows:

(9.12.2023)

A. Clams (soft shell) must be a minimum size of two (2) inches, may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one ten-quart basket, in the shell, per week. (9.12.2023)

B. Quahogs, must be a minimum size of one (1) inch across the hinge, may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one (1)

ten (10)-quart basketed, in the shell, per week. If both clams and quahogs are taken, the limit is one (1) ten (10)-quart basket in the shell per week. (9.12.2023)

- C. Oysters must be a minimum size of three (3) inches and may constitute only one (1) five (5) quart basket per week-may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of five (5) quarts, in the shell, per week. If taken in conjunction with other types of shellfish, the combined limit is one (1) ten (10)-quart basket per week. (9.12.2023)
- D. Mussels must be a minimum of two (2) inches and may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one (1) ten (10)-quart basket per week. If taken in conjunction with other types of shellfish, the combined limit is one (1) ten (10)-quart basketed per week. (9.12.2023)
- E. Sea clams may be taken at the rate of two (2) ten (10)-quart baskets per week in the shell and must be a minimum size of five (5) inches. (9.12.2023)
- F. Razor Clams must be a minimum of three (3) inches and may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one (1) ten (10) – quart basket per week.
If taken in conjunction with other types of shellfish, the combined limit is one (1) ten (10)-quart basket per week. Harvesting may only be done by hand digging and/or scratching. No salting is allowed. (9.12.2023)
- G. Sea worms may be taken at the rate of one pint per day. (9.12.2023)
- H. Bay Scallops harvesting is closed. The Shellfish Constable may post an opening and establish size and catch limits as deemed appropriate.
- I. There are no restrictions on the taking of eels, crabs and types of shellfish not otherwise referred to herein, except that one must hold a valid shellfish permit, and report the quantity taken to the Shellfish Warden upon request. By state law, crabs may not be taken between

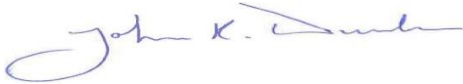
- January 1st and the last day of the following April, nor by pots or traps except under a license issued by the Division of Marine Fisheries.
- J. No person shall dig, take or carry away any shellfish between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise by any method whatsoever from any waters, flats or creeks of the Town of Truro.
 - K. No person shall drag or dredge from a boat for any type of shellfish in any waters of the Town of Truro.
 - L. No person shall plant, place or transplant shellfish of any kind in any waters, flats or creeks of the Town of Truro without the permission of the Select Board.
 - M. The opening or shucking of shellfish while actively shellfishing is prohibited on tidal flats or beaches within the Town of Truro. (9.12.2023)
 - N. No motorized vehicles may be operated within any designated recreational shellfish areas in the Town of Truro. (9.12.2023)
 - O. Permit holders are asked to fill in holes and replant any shellfish they uncover but do not place in their harvest baskets. (9.12.2023)
 - P. Permit holders shall not dig or rake in areas where eelgrass or sedge grass (spartina) is present. These grasses are critical to many shellfish populations. Damaging these grass beds will effectively lead to the reduction of natural born populations of shellfish and/or increased potential for sand migration. (9.12.2023)
 - Q. Permit holders are required to use wire baskets while shellfishing. (9.12.2023)
 - R. Questions as to the status of persons as residents or eligibility of any person to obtain a permit shall be referred by the Licensing Agent to the Select Board for determination.

- S. The times and places at which shellfish may be taken shall be posted in the Town Hall and published in one newspaper of general circulation within the Town.
 - T. The penalty for each violation of these regulations shall be not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$300.00.
 - U. These regulations replace all existing regulations on this subject and shall remain in effect until revoked by the Select Board.
13. Any person seeking to obtain a shellfish permit, including lifetime permit holders shall first satisfy the Licensing Agent that he/she has a shellfish gauge in their possession. Gauges should be on your person while shellfishing. (9.12.2023)
14. The Shellfish Constable shall have the right to adjust catch limits as seen fit and in the best interest of the shellfishing areas. (9.12.2023)

Effective November 1, 2023



Kristin Reed, Chair



John Dundas, Clerk



Susan Areson, Vice-Chair



Robert Weinstein



Stephanie Rein

Truro Select Board Members