

TOWN OF DARIEN

Recreational Shellfishing Rules and Regulations



General Requirements:

- No individual age 16 or older shall harvest shellfish from Town of Darien shellfish beds without a valid permit issued by the Town of Darien Health Department.
- Individuals under age 16 may harvest shellfish without a permit if accompanied by an adult with a valid permit.
- Permits must be readily available for inspection on demand.
- Permits are not transferable.
- Recreational permit holders cannot offer their shellfish for sale or barter.
- Shellfish permit fees will not be refunded.
- The Town Recreational Shellfishing Area is located along the eastern shore of Long Neck Point as indicated on the map provided on the reverse side of these Rules and Regulations.
- No shellfishing is allowed between sunset **and** sunrise *or* when the Recreational Shellfishing Area is temporarily designated “Closed.”
- Shellfishing areas will be temporarily closed immediately following three (3.0) inches or more of continuous precipitation or any other type of pollution event impacting the area.

Annual permit fees:

- Darien/Stamford Resident - \$20.00,
- Senior Resident (65 years and over) - Free.
- Non-resident - \$40.00.



Quantity and Size Limitations

- No more than one half (1/2) bushel (four gallons) of hard clams, soft-shell clams or razor (long) clams, oysters, or mussels in any combination, may be harvested per permit holder per day.
- Size limits in length are as follows:
Hard Clams: 1.5 inches or longer,
Soft Shell Clams: 1.5 inches or longer,
Razor Clams: 4 inches or longer,
Mussels: 2 inches or longer, and
Oysters: 3 inches or longer.

Inspections

- By applying for and accepting a recreational shellfishing permit and its conditions, the permittee consents to inspection of the catch on their person, vehicle or vessel by the Darien Police Department Marine Division, State of Connecticut DEP Environmental Conservation Police, and the Darien Department of Health.

Harvest Methods & Tools

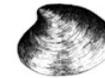
- Shellfish must be gathered with hand tools.
- Rakes, hoes and tongs must have teeth spaced at least one inch apart.
- No shovels or spades shall be used for digging as their use will damage or crush shellfish.

Penalty

- Any person who violates any regulation issued by the Town of Darien Health Department and Board of Selectmen shall be fined: 1.) in accordance with Darien Town Ordinance not more than \$50.00 or imprisoned not more than 30 days or both as provided in Section 26-257a(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes **OR** 2.) in accordance with CGS 26-192e and f.

* Liability Waiver & Warnings

- The Board of Selectmen and the Town of Darien are not responsible for injuries or damage suffered while shellfishing within Darien’s jurisdictional waters and coastal areas. By applying for and accepting a shellfish permit, the holder recognizes that conditions along shorefront areas contain hazards such as deep holes, uneven ground and drop-offs that may be hazardous. By shellfishing within Darien’s boundaries, the holder of a shellfish permit agrees to assume all risks and liabilities inherent in this activity, including, but not exclusively, those flowing from the natural and man-made hazards of Darien’s coastal areas. By accepting a shellfish permit, the holder acknowledges the existence of such hazards and dangers, and agrees that the Town of Darien and the Board of Selectmen are not responsible for any damage or injury incurred while shellfishing in Darien’s coastal areas.



- ❖ **Consumer Advisory:** Persons with underlying illness should consult their physician before consuming any raw or undercooked protein, including but not limited to eggs, poultry, beef and shellfish.



**Call the “Shellfish Hotline”
(203) 838- 9807 to find out whether
the area is open or closed to shellfishing**