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To: **Swansea Commercial Shell Fishermen & Junior Commercial Shell Fishermen**
From: Sgt. Daniel Lowney Swansea Police Dept. Shellfish Warden
Re: Change in catch limits, et al., for Commercial & Junior Commercial Shell Fishermen
Date: 01/01/13

Commercial & Junior Commercial Shell Fishermen

As of the opening day, tentatively scheduled for February 1st, 2013 – weather permitting - ,

1. The daily catch limits for **Junior Commercial Shell Fishermen** shall be no more than **1 level bushel of mixed little neck and cherry stone quahogs and 1 level bushel of bull and chowder quahogs** (*See rules and regulations for size dimensions*). Cherrystones will not be incorporated with bulls and chowders and the warden and deputy wardens shall be equipped with measuring devices and encouraged to strongly enforce this regulation.
2. The daily catch limits for **Commercial Shell Fishermen** shall be no more than **2 level bushels of assorted mixed little necks and cherry stone quahogs and 4 level bushels of bull and chowder quahogs.** (*See rules and regulations for size dimensions*). **Cherrystones will not be incorporated with bulls and chowders and the warden and deputy wardens shall be equipped with measuring devices and encouraged to strongly enforce this regulation.**
3. As of **July 1st, 2013**, the daily catch limit for **bulls and chowders** for **Commercial Shell fishermen** shall be changed to **“no more than 3 level bushels”** and shall remain at that amount unless otherwise changed by the shellfish warden.
4. All Commercial and Junior Commercial shell fishing shall be done in commercial areas (*as defined under the rules and regulations*).
5. All Commercial and Junior Commercial shell fishing shall be done from a boat using tongs or bull rakes.
6. All Commercial and Junior Commercial shellfish catches shall be sorted before being brought to shore and shall be contained in a level fashion (**no heaping above top lip**) in plastic bushel baskets approved by the shellfish warden. **ALL bushel baskets shall be tagged** with the appropriate Massachusetts shellfish catch tags and shall be filled in with the proper information including but not limited to the time of day that the shell fishing began. Catches not tagged will not be allowed to leave the shore inspection until properly tagged. Violation of this State mandated regulation will result in loss of license and fines.
7. **All Commercial and Junior Commercial shell fishermen shall, regardless of where they moor or trail their vessels, immediately upon finishing their daily harvesting, report to the boat ramp to be inspected by the shellfish warden and or his deputies.** You are required to call the shellfish warden phone and report that you are ready for inspection. If the on-duty warden or deputy cannot meet with you, you will be advised as such or if there is no answer within 15-20 minutes of your initial call, you are required to call back and leave your information such as name, license number, zone fished, method of fishing and catch amounts.

With the exception of the catch limit changes for both Commercial and Junior Commercial, and the requirement for fishing from a boat for junior commercial license holders, these rules and regulations are already in the books and are now being re-issued to refresh everyone's memory. We expect total compliance with the rules and regulations to ensure the success of the Swansea Shell Fishing Program both Commercially and Recreationally.

Sgt. Daniel Lowney Shellfish Warden Swansea Police Dept.