



Northeast Region Bulletin

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Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Measures for the 2013 Fishing Year

Effective Date: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

The following measures apply for the 2013 fishing year. These measures have not been changed from fishing year 2012.

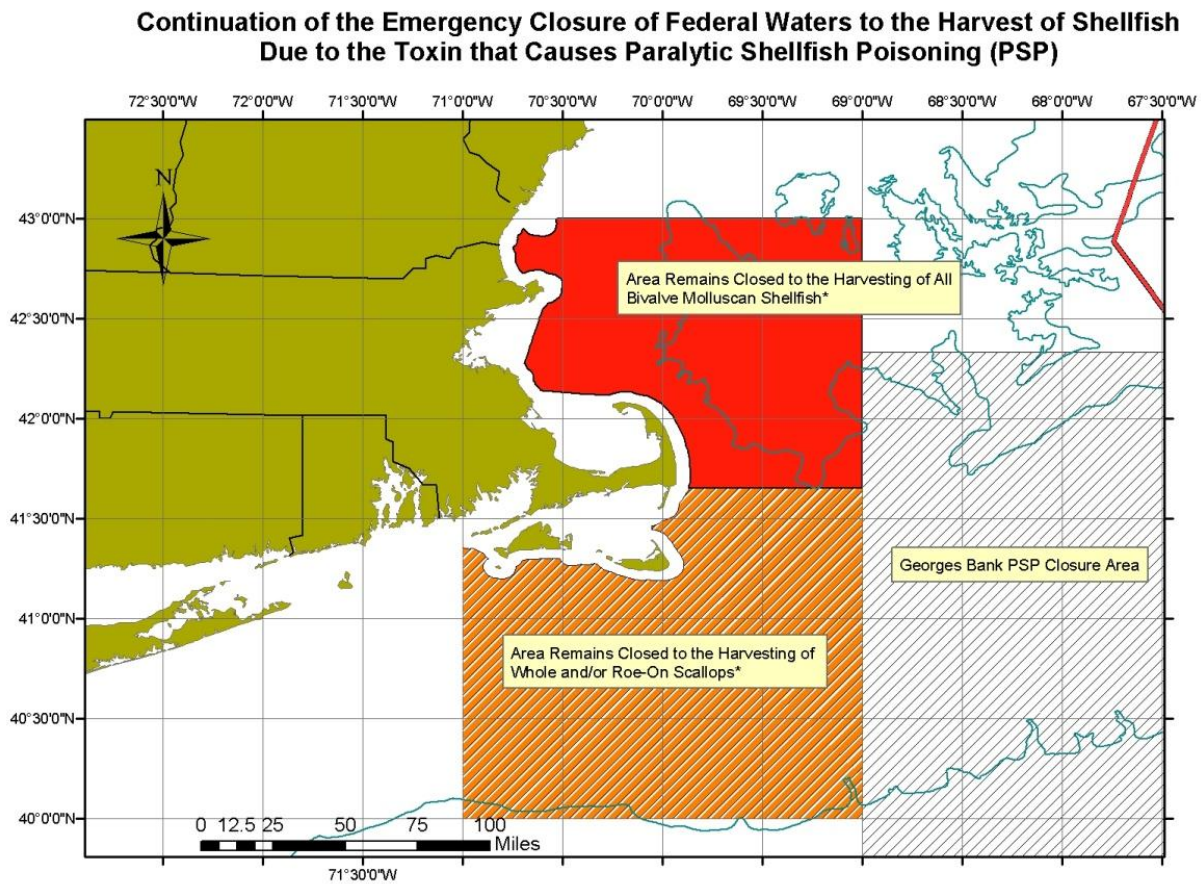
- Due to the possible presence of red tides, which produce the toxins that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, the temporary PSP closure areas are extended for another year through December 31, 2013. These areas remain unchanged from 2012 and are defined in the attachment.
- The quota will remain 3.4 million bushels for surfclams, 5.333 million bushels for ocean quahogs, and 100,000 Maine bushels for Maine ocean quahogs. These quotas are unchanged from fishing year 2012.
- The minimum size limit for surfclams is suspended for the 2013 fishing year.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Why does it seem like the surfclam minimum size limit is suspended every year?	We have the authority to eliminate the minimum size limit when our data show that most surfclams are larger than the minimum size of 4.75 inches. This is often the case, and we want to eliminate the burden of having a minimum size limit in place if it is not necessary, as the regulations allow.
How will I know what the quota is for future years and whether the surfclam size limit has been suspended again?	These decisions are made around the same time each year, generally in the fall, before the start of a new fishing year. We will continue to let you know through letters such as this. In addition, you can visit our website or call the number above.
When will the PSP closure areas be opened?	Due to the size of the area and the nature of red tides, sufficient testing of the area has not been conducted that would provide evidence that it is safe to reopen the area. NMFS also defers to the United States Food and Drug Administration on matters of public health matters and they have not informed us of any change in status of the area.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Northern Temporary PSP Closure Area		
Closed to harvest of bivalve molluscan shellfish fishing, with the exception of sea scallop adductor muscles harvested and shucked at sea.		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	43° 00' N	71° 00' W
2	43° 00' N	69° 00' W
3	41° 39' N	69° 00' W
4	41° 39' N	71° 00' W

Southern Temporary PSP Closure Area		
Closed to the harvest of whole or roe-on scallops with all other bivalve shellfish harvests permitted.		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	41° 39' N	71° 00' W
2	41° 39' N	69° 00' W
3	40° 00' N	69° 00' W
4	40° 00' N	71° 00' W



*Exception allowed for scallop harvesting with onboard shucking of the adductor muscle only.