

*As amended March 26, 2025*

# Town of Orleans

## **SHELLFISH REGULATIONS, Orleans Town Code CHAPTER 176**

<b>Section 1. Definitions</b>	<b>4</b>
.....	
<b>Section 2. Permits, fees, permit restrictions , and fines</b>	<b>5</b>
§2.1) Types of permits	
§2.2) Possession of permit	
§2.3) Transferability and carrying of permits	
§2.4) Display of permit upon demand	
§2.5) Commercial permit eligibility	
§2.6) Shellfishing rights of residents of Eastham	
§2.7) Commercial permit and apprentice permit issuance	
§2.8) Free commercial permits and free apprentice permits	
§2.9) Dual permit prohibition	
§2.10) Commercial permit required for dredging	
§2.11) Planting or transplanting without a permit	
§2.12) Family permit issuance and fees	
§2.13) Suspension of commercial and family permits	
§2.14) Fines	
<b>Section 3. General regulations</b>	<b>8</b>
.....	
§3.1) Enforceability	
§3.2) Display of shellfish upon demand	
§3.3) Seizure of shellfish	
§3.4) Closed areas	
§3.5) Restricted methods	
§3.6) Possession of seed shellfish	
§3.7) Shellfishing during the nighttime	
§3.8) Temperature restrictions	
§3.9) Clam holes shall be filled	
§3.10) Digging in the sedge grass	
§3.11) Power dredging	
§3.12) Family areas described	
3.12.1. Yacht Club Area	
3.12.2. Asa's Area	
3.12.3. Mill Pond Area	
3.12.4. Lonnie's Pond Area	
3.12.5. Quanset Pond Area	
§3.13) Family area prohibition	
§3.14) Landing of shellfish	
§3.15) Commercial permit catch limits	
3.15.1. Limits, general	
3.15.2. Limit for commercial dredging of quahogs in Cape Cod Bay	
§3.16) Family permit catch limits	
§3.17) Registration of commercial boats	

**Section 4. Specific**

**regulations.....1 2**

§4.1) Mussels

- 4.1.1. Culling of mussels
- 4.1.2. Dragging for mussels
- 4.1.3. Restricted areas

§4.2) Eels

- 4.2.1. Methods of harvest
- 4.2.2. Family permit limit
- 4.2.3. Registration of eel pots
- 4.2.4. Obstruction of or interference with migration of eels

§4.3) Whelk/Conchs

- 4.3.1. Size restrictions
- 4.3.2. Harvest season

§4.4) Scallops

- 4.4.1. Harvest seasons
  - 4.4.1.a) Cape Cod Bay
  - 4.4.1.b) Nauset estuary
  - 4.4.1.c) Pleasant Bay estuary
- 4.4.2. Hours for scalloping
- 4.4.3. Landing of scallops in totes
- 4.4.4. Catch limits
  - 4.4.4.a) Cape Cod Bay
  - 4.4.4.b) Nauset estuary
  - 4.4.4.c) Pleasant Bay estuary
- 4.4.5. Landing of scallops, locations
- 4.4.6. Seed scallops described
- 4.4.7. Landing of scallops in the shell
- 4.4.8. Evidence of intent to scallop
- 4.4.9. Scallop dredge frame measurements
- 4.4.10. Diving for scallops
- 4.4.11. One (1) trip/boat/day
- 4.4.12. Returning to waters prohibited

§4.5) Razor Clams

- 4.5.1. Methods of harvest

§4.6) Oysters

- 4.6.1. Harvest season

§4.7) Horseshoe Crabs

Appendix 1) Cape Cod Bay Chart

The Selectmen of the Town of Orleans acting under and by virtue of the authority upon them conferred by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 130, as amended by Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1945, and all acts in amendment thereof or in addition to, and by virtue of a bylaw of said Town, adopted at the Annual Town Meeting of said Town held on February 21, 1944 to become effective from and after the Annual Town Meeting in the year 1945, and approved by the Attorney General on May 10, 1944, hereby make and publish the following regulations concerning the taking of eels, clams, quahogs, scallops, mussels, sea worms, whelk, and any and all kinds of shellfish within the Town. These regulations shall remain in effect and full force until modified, changed, or revoked by the then Board of Selectmen or by action of the Town.

## Section 1. Definitions

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words shall have the following meanings:

“American eel”, a facultative catadromous fish of the species *Anguilla rostrata*.

“Batch”, all shellfish in each separate container.

“Blood Ark Clam and Ponderous Ark Clam”, marine mollusks of the species *Anadara ovalis* and *Noetia ponderosa* commonly called blood arks due to the presence of hemoglobin in their blood.

“Bushel”, a standard measure of volume equaling one (1) level wire basket whose interior volume measures two thousand one hundred fifty (2,150) cubic inches.

“Clam”, a marine mollusk of the species *Mya arenaria* commonly called the soft-shell clam.

“Container”, any bag, box, basket, cage, or other receptacle containing shellfish.

“Chowder quahog”, a quahog not able to pass through a two and three quarter ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ ) inch ring.

“Family permit”, a recreational license issued which permits a husband, wife, and/or domestic partner and dependent(s), who are domiciled and living under the same roof to harvest shellfish.

“Gauge”, any device that provides accurate measurement.

“Mussel”, a marine mollusk of the species *Mytilus edulis*, commonly known as the blue mussel.

“NaCl”, Sodium Chloride

“Oyster”, a marine mollusk of the species *Crassostrea virginica*, commonly known as the American oyster.

“Possession”, in the immediate control of a person e.g. in a boat, car, box, bag, etc. belonging to an individual.

“Quahog”, a marine mollusk of the species *Mercenaria mercenaria*, commonly called the hard-shell clam.

“Razor Clam”, a marine mollusk of the species *Ensis directus*.

“Salting”, a method used to harvest razor clams using a saline solution derived solely from table salt (NaCl) and water.

“Scallop”, a marine mollusk of the species *Aequipecten irradians*, commonly known as the bay scallop.

“Seed”, any shellfish of a size less than the minimum prescribed in section 3 sub-section D and section 4 sub-section D.6 herein and useable for planting purposes only.

“Shellfish”, clams, conchs, mussels, oysters, quahogs, razor clams or razor fish, scallops, sea worms, whelk and winkles.

“Take”, any method of harvest of the related species from its habitat.

“Ten-quart bucket”, a standard measure of volume equaling one (1) level wire basket whose interior volume is six hundred seventy-two (672) cubic inches.

“Week”, seven (7) consecutive days beginning on Sunday at 12:01 am and ending on Saturday at 11:59 pm.

## **Section 2. Permits, fees, and permit restrictions**

### **§2.1) Types of permits:**

Shellfish permits shall be of two (2) types: commercial permits, whereby the holders thereof may sell the shellfish taken under such permits; family permits, whereby the holders thereof may not sell shellfish taken under such permits.

### **§2.2) Possession of permit:**

All persons are prohibited from taking shellfish or eels from the coastal waters of the Town without a shellfish permit. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

### **§2.3) Transferability and carrying of permits:**

Shellfish permits are not transferable and shall be carried while shellfishing. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

### **§2.4) Display of permit upon demand:**

All persons taking, carrying away, or having in their possession shellfish of any kind in any boat, vehicle, or container shall exhibit, on demand of the Shellfish Constable, assistants, or a police officer, their permits to take such shellfish for inspection by the Shellfish Constable, assistants, or a police officer. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section may have their permit to-shellfish in the Town of Orleans suspended for a period of no less than seven (7) days, subject to the provisions of section 2 sub-section 13 herein.

### **§2.5) Commercial permit eligibility:**

Each applicant for a commercial shellfish permit shall be a resident and domiciled in the Town for a period of twelve (12) months prior to application; If at any time the permit holder should change domicile to another town, the permit holder shall immediately notify the Shellfish Constable and the permit shall be automatically revoked and must be surrendered to the Shellfish Constable. In case of hardship, temporary retention or issuance of permit may be allowed subject to approval by the Orleans Select Board based on recommendation of the Shellfish Constable. In order to prove residence/domicile, applicants shall provide a minimum of three (3) of the following documentary evidence:

1. A current motor vehicle driver’s license;
2. A current motor vehicle excise tax bill issued by the Town;
3. A current real estate tax bill issued by the Town;
4. A current lease or rental agreement of the applicant’s residence/domicile in the Town;
5. A current listing on the Town census;
6. Or any other documentation as approved by the Shellfish Constable.

### **§2.6) Shellfishing rights of residents of Eastham:**

Domiciled persons of Eastham shall enjoy the same right to the shellfisheries of Orleans as they, enjoyed since the incorporation of the town after first obtaining a permit from the Town of Orleans.

### **§2.7) Commercial permit issuance ( effective September 1, 2019):**

Applications for commercial permits shall be submitted to the Shellfish Constable between January 1 and March 31 annually. Applications may be subject to a thirty-day (30) day review period. Commercial permits are valid April 1 of each year and expire on March 31 following the date of issuance. The fee for a commercial permit for persons sixteen (16) years of age to sixty-nine (69) years of age shall be two hundred dollars. The fee for a commercial permit for persons seventy (70) years of age or older shall be fifty dollars.

**§2.8) Free commercial permits:**

Any person domiciled in the Town of Orleans or Eastham fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age with a work permit shall be entitled to a commercial permit free of charge. At sixteen (16) years of age to sixty-nine (69) years of age, the regular commercial permit fee shall be charged.

**§2.9) Dual permit prohibition:**

No person holding a commercial permit shall hold at the same time a family permit for the taking of shellfish. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

**§2.10) Commercial permit required for dredging:**

Each person actively engaged in the dredging of shellfish in Cape Cod Bay in Orleans shall hold a commercial permit issued by the Town of Orleans. For the purposes of this regulation, "actively engaged" shall be defined as handling or harvesting shellfish or operating harvesting gear. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**§2.11) Planting or transplanting without a permit:**

No person shall plant, place or transplant shellfish in or onto the waters or shellfish areas within the Town of Orleans without first obtaining a special permit from the Orleans Select Board. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§2.12) Family permit issuance and fees:**

Family permits are valid April 1 of each year and expire on March 31 following the date of issuance. A fee of twenty dollars (\$20) shall be charged for a family permit to domiciled persons of the Town of Orleans or Eastham and for persons not domiciled but owning real estate within the Town of Orleans. A fee of seventy dollars (\$70) shall be charged for a family permit to persons not owning real estate in the Town of Orleans.

A fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be charged for a family permit to domiciled persons of the Town of Orleans or Eastham and for an individual not domiciled but owning real estate within the Town of Orleans sixty-five (65) years of age or over.

**§2.13) Suspension of commercial and family permits:**

The Select Board may suspend or revoke, for cause, any commercial or family permit granted by them for such times as they shall deem proper. Due notice, in writing, shall be given to the permit holder of said suspension. Said suspension shall occur provided that the suspension or revocation of the right to shellfish in either Orleans or Eastham shall result in the suspension or revocation of the right to shellfish in both towns during the period of any such suspension or revocation. Any person whose permit has been suspended shall return the same to the office of the Town Clerk, where the permit shall remain until the period for which it was suspended has expired. No fee received for a shellfish permit which has been suspended or revoked and canceled shall be refunded.

**§2.14) Fines:**

Whoever violates any rule or regulation made under authority of Chapter 130, General laws of Massachusetts, unless otherwise provided, shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars, nor more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars. Chapter 130, Section 2.

Town By-Law affords enforcing persons an additional option of enforcing these rules and regulations by non-criminal disposition. If the method of non-criminal disposition is used by an enforcing person, the specific penalties for a violation of these rules and regulations shall be:

Possession of permit-----	200
Transferability / carry permit-----	50
Dual permit prohibition-----	50
Comm. perm. required for dredging-----	100
Planting/transplanting w/o permit-----	200
Display of shellfish (MGL130ss98) -----	ARR
Closed areas-----	200
Restricted methods-----	100
Possession of seed (per batch) -----	200
Shellfishing during nighttime-----	200
Temperature-----	200
Clam holes to be filled-----	50
Digging in sedge grass-----	100
Power dredging-----	200
Family area prohibition-----	200
Landing of shellfish-----	200
Catch limits (commercial)-----	200
Catch limits (family)-----	200
Registration of commercial boats-----	50
Mussels (4.1.1 – 4.1.3) -----	100
Eels (4.2.1 – 4.2.4) -----	100
Whelk (4.3.1 – 4.3.2) -----	200
Failure to tag-----	100

**Scallops**

Closed seasons-----	200
Hours-----	200
Landing in totes-----	50
Catch limits-----	200
Landing locations-----	200
Possession of seed (per batch) -----	200
Landing in shell-----	200
Dredge frame sizes-----	50
Snorkeling / diving-----	100
One trip per day per boat-----	100
Returning to waters prohibited-----	200

**Section 3. General regulations**

**§3.1) Enforceability:**

The Shellfish Constable and assistants shall be empowered to enforce all applicable sections of Chapters 130 and 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws and 322 CMR of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries pertaining to shellfish in the Town of Orleans.

**§3.2) Display of shellfish upon demand:**

All persons taking, carrying away, or having in their possession shellfish of any kind in any boat, vehicle, or container shall exhibit, on demand of the Shellfish Constable, assistants, or a police officer, all shellfish in their possession for inspection by the Shellfish Constable, assistants, or a police officer. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section may, in addition to any penalties specified in M.G.L. Chapter 130, have their permit to shellfish in the Town of Orleans suspended for a period of no less than seven (7) days subject to the provisions of section 2 sub-section 13 herein. Whoever throws or dumps overboard or into the water shellfish contained within a pail, bag, barrel or other receptacle, after having been requested or signaled by the Shellfish Constable or assistants to stand by for inspection shall be deemed to have violated this sub-section.

**§3.3) Seizure of shellfish:**

All shellfish taken, held, possessed or dealt with contrary to any section or sub-section of these regulations made under authority thereof may, in addition to any or all of the penalties contained therein, be seized, photographed, and replanted in the waters of the Commonwealth by the Shellfish Constable or assistants.

**§3.4) Closed areas:**

The Select Board may restrict the use of areas for the taking of all shellfish as they deem expedient, either absolutely or generally or for some particular use, or for the taking of certain kinds of shellfish only and allowing other kinds to be taken from such restricted areas, and such restrictions shall have the same force and effect as any rule or regulation made herein. No shellfish shall be taken from any area waters of the Town of Orleans unless such areas have been declared open for the taking of shellfish by the Select Board. Shellfish areas that have been classified as "Prohibited", "Restricted", "Conditionally Restricted", or placed in a "Closed" status by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health shall also be considered closed for the taking of all shellfish by the Orleans Select Board. All private shellfish grant lease sites shall be closed for the harvesting of shellfish by anyone other than the lessee or their agents.

**§3.5) Restricted methods:**

The taking of clams, quahogs, razor clams or mussels from the waters and flats of the Town of Orleans by any other method than what is commonly known as the "long rake", "scratcher", "tongs", "pitchfork", "plunger", "clam hoe", or "salting (for razor clams only)" is prohibited unless the taker has a special permit. No shovel, spade, trowel or other edged tool may be used in the harvesting of shellfish. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**§3.6) Possession of seed shellfish:**

No person shall take or have in possession seed mussels or clams less than two (2) inches in longest diameter, razor clams less than five (5) inches in longest diameter, or seed oysters less than three (3) inches in longest diameter, or seed quahogs less than one (1) inch in thickness, or whelk less than two and three-quarters (2 3/4) inches shell width, or seed scallops as defined in section 4 sub-section 4.6, exceeding five percent (5%) by number of any batch. All shellfish shall be culled immediately at the location of harvest and all seed shall be returned to the water in the immediate area from which it was taken. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars per offense.

**§3.7) Shellfishing during the nighttime:**

No person shall dig, take or carry away any shellfish or shells between the hours of one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise by any method whatsoever, from any water, flat or creek of the Town of Orleans. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§3.8) Temperature restrictions:**

No person may dig or scratch any shellfish on dry ground or on shoal areas that may become dry on any day's tide when the air temperature reads under 28 degrees F. All shellfish shall be culled immediately at the location of harvest and all seed shall be returned to the water in the immediate area from which it was taken. Official temperature gauge to be utilized for this regulation is located at <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/435/Shellfish-Harbormaster>. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§3.9) Clam holes shall be filled:**

All holes dug while harvesting shellfish shall be refilled and all seed shall be replanted immediately. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

**§3.10) Digging in the sedge grass:**

There shall be no digging of shellfish in the sedge grass (spartina). Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**§3.11) Power dredging:**

Power dredging shall be restricted to the waters of Cape Cod Bay and to the taking of bay scallops in other town waters. The Town of Orleans prohibits the use of hydraulic dredging, hydraulic jetting, or any means similar thereto for the harvesting of any species of shellfish within town waters. Only vessels permitted by the State to harvest surf clams may operate a hydraulic dredge in the waters of Orleans seaward of "the spire line" from Jeremy Point, Wellfleet, to the "Spire" in Brewster. Dredging for surf clams is prohibited shoreward of "the spire line" from Jeremy Point, Wellfleet, to the "Spire" in Brewster 24 hours per day / 365 days per year in Orleans (see appendix 1 for GPS coordinates) A State permitted vessel hydraulically dredging for surf clams (*Spisula solidissima*) in Town waters may not retain incidental catch of any Town regulated species of shellfish.

A vessel with the means to operate a hydraulic dredge on board shall not possess any Town regulated species of shellfish besides surf clams in the Town of Orleans.

**§3.12) Family permit areas described:**

The following areas shall be designated as Family Permit Only Areas:

3.12.1. "Yacht Club Area"; The area in Town Cove, South of an imaginary line from the seaward end of the Cove Road municipal pier to the sign posted in the Southeast corner below Sea Call Farm. The "Yacht Club Area" shall be open annually for the taking of shellfish by family shellfish permit holders on Wednesdays and Sundays only, during the period from the third Sunday in September to the third Sunday in May, inclusive. This area shall be closed for the taking of shellfish at all other times.

3.12.2. "Asa's Area"; The Town Cove, from the end of Asa's Landing Road, going West along the shoreline to the point of rocks, out to a depth of three (3) feet measured at Mean Low Tide.

3.12.3. "Mill Pond Area"; The Mill Pond, from the boat launching ramp at the end of Mill Pond Road, going West along the shoreline to a sign posted at the point, at the entrance to Little Mill Pond, and out to a depth of three (3) feet measured at Mean Low Tide.

3.12.4. "Lonnie's Pond Area"; Lonnie's Pond, from the boat launching ramp, going South along the shoreline to the mouth of the Herring Run, and out to a depth of three (3) feet measured at Mean Low Tide.

3.12.5. "Quanset Pond Area"; The entire shoreline of Quanset Pond out to a depth of three (3) feet measured at Mean Low Tide.

**§3.13) Family area prohibition:**

Persons holding a commercial permit shall be prohibited from shellfishing in all areas designated for family permit holders only. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§3.14) Landing of shellfish:**

All shellfish commercially harvested in the Town of Orleans, except for scallops as provided for in section 4 sub-section 4.5 shall be landed at the following locations unless the Shellfish Constable is notified of an alternate location at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to landing: Quanset Pond Landing, Portanimitcut Landing, Namequoit Landing, Arey's Pond Landing, Lonnie's Pond Landing, River Road Landing, Sparrowhawk Landing, Barley Neck Landing, Route 28 Landing, or Meetinghouse Pond Landing in the Pleasant Bay estuary; Cove Road Landing, Goose Hummock Landing, Asa's Landing, Snow Shore Landing, Priscilla Landing, Mill Pond Landing, Tonset Road Landing, Collins' Landing, Hemenway Landing, or Salt Pond Landing in the Nauset estuary; Rock Harbor or Skaket Beach in Cape Cod Bay. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§3.15) Commercial permit catch limits :**

The following catch limits shall apply to holders of commercial permits:

3.15.1. No person having a valid commercial permit from Orleans or Eastham may take daily from the Nauset estuary, Pleasant Bay estuary, or Cape Cod Bay, except as provided for in section 3 sub-section 15.2 herein, in excess of the following: two (2) bushels of quahogs with the option of two (2) additional separate bushels of strictly chowder quahogs; ten (10) bushels of mussels; three (3) bushels of razor clams; ten (10) bushels of ark clams (including shells); or may take weekly in excess of one (1) ten-quart pail-full of oysters for family use only. Said limits shall be subject to resource assessments. In addition, no such permit holder shall have in his possession while in, on, or adjacent to the waters or flats of the Town, or at any landing within the Town, shellfish in excess of the above specified limits.

3.15.2. The total limit for commercial dredging of quahogs in Cape Cod Bay shall not exceed thirty-five (35) eighty-pound bushels per day per boat.

Whoever violates any provision of section 3 sub-sections 15.1-15.2 shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§3.16) Family permit catch limits:**

The taking of shellfish by family permit holders shall not exceed one (1) ten-quart pail-full of any and all kinds of shellfish per week, except for mussels, the taking of which shall not exceed one-half (1/2) bushel per week. During the season specified for the harvesting of scallops in section 4 sub-section 4.4, family permit holders shall be allowed one (1) bushel of scallops per week. A week in this context shall begin on Sunday at 12:01 am and end on Saturday at 11:59 pm. Whomever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

**§3.17) Registration of commercial boats:**

Any boat engaged in commercial shellfishing in the Town of Orleans shall be registered or documented in the Town of Orleans or Eastham, and the owner shall hold a valid commercial permit issued by the Town of Orleans. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

**Section 4. Specific regulations**

**§4.1) Mussels; culling, dragging, restricted areas**

4.1.1. All mussels shall be culled and all mussels less than two (2) inches in longest diameter shall be returned to the water in the immediate area from which they were taken.

4.1.2. Dragging for mussels shall be allowed by special permit only, issued by the Shellfish Constable, from October 1 to March 31.

4.1.3. The harvesting of mussels in the Mill Pond shall be restricted to family permits only.

Whoever violates any provision of section 4 sub-sections 1.1-1.3 shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**§4.2) American eels; size restrictions, methods, limits**

4.2.1. No person shall have in possession any eel less than nine (9) inches in overall length.

4.2.2. Eels may be taken by pot, trap, hook, line, or spear only. No other methods shall be employed, except by special permit from the Select Board.

4.2.3. A family shellfish permit holder may take no more than twenty-five (25) eels per week.

4.2.4. Any person who sets five (5) or more pots must hold a valid Orleans commercial shellfish permit. All pots shall be registered annually with the Orleans Shellfish Department.

4.2.5. No freshwater lakes, rivers, ponds, creeks, bogs, or any part of a saltwater estuary shall be obstructed in any way so as to interfere with the habits and migration of eels.

Whoever violates any provision of section 4 sub-sections 2.1-2.4 shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

**§4.3) Whelks/Conchs; size restrictions, season**

4.3.1. In this regulation, whelk/conch refers to either knobbed whelk (*Busycon carica*) or channeled (smooth) whelk (*Busycotypus canaliculatus*). (See CMR 322 Section 6.21: Minimum Size for Conch.)

4.3.2. The harvesting of whelk shall be prohibited annually from December 15 through April 14, inclusive. All whelk harvested shall be returned to shore in the shell. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§4.4) Scallops; seasons, hours, tote requirements, catch limits, landings, possession of seed, etc.**

4.4.1. The following seasonal restrictions shall apply to the harvest of scallops by any commercial or family permit holder:

4.4.1.a) The waters and flats of Cape Cod Bay in the Town of Orleans shall be open for the taking of scallops annually from October 1st through March 31st of the following year. The taking of scallops shall be prohibited in Cape Cod Bay between April 1st and September 30th, inclusive.

4.4.1.b) The waters and flats of the Nauset estuary shall be open for the taking of scallops annually from the third Sunday in October through March 31st of the following year. The taking of scallops shall be prohibited in the Nauset estuary between April 1st and the third Saturday in October, inclusive.

4.4.1.c) The waters and flats of Pleasant Bay in the Town of Orleans shall be open for the taking of scallops annually from November 1st through March 31st of the following year. The taking of scallops shall be prohibited between April 1st and October 31st, inclusive.

Whoever violates any provision of section 4 sub-sections 4.1.a-4.1.c shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

4.4.2. Hours for scalloping shall be from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until 4:00 pm, seven (7) days per week. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

4.4.3. All scallops taken by commercial permit holders shall be landed in plastic totes measuring eighteen (18) inches long by twelve (12) inches wide by ten and five tenths (10.5) inches deep, inside measurements, and containing two thousand two hundred sixty-eight (2,268) cubic inches. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

4.4.4. The following catch limits shall apply to the commercial harvest of scallops:

4.4.4.a) The daily commercial limit of scallops taken in Cape Cod Bay shall be ten (10) level totes per day per permit holder, and there shall be a maximum of two (2)

commercial permit holders allowed per boat. If two (2) limits are to be harvested, both commercial permit holders must be actively engaged in the harvesting. For the purposes of this regulation, “actively engaged” shall be defined as handling or harvesting scallops or operating harvesting gear.

4.4.4.b) The daily commercial limit of scallops taken in the Nauset estuary shall be five (5) level totes per day per permit holder, and there shall be a maximum of two (2) permit holders per boat. If two (2) limits are to be harvested, both commercial permit holders must be actively engaged in the harvesting. For the purposes of this regulation, “actively engaged” shall be defined as handling or harvesting scallops or operating harvesting gear.

4.4.4.c) The daily commercial limit of scallops taken in Pleasant Bay shall be five (5) level totes per day per permit holder, and there shall be a maximum of two (2) permit holders per boat. If two (2) limits are to be harvested, both commercial permit holders must be actively engaged in the harvesting. For the purposes of this regulation, “actively engaged” shall be defined as handling or harvesting scallops or operating harvesting gear.

Whoever violates any provision of section 4 sub-sections 4.4.a-4.4.c shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

4.4.5. Scallops taken in Cape Cod Bay in the Town of Orleans shall be landed at Rock Harbor. Scallops taken from Pleasant Bay shall be landed at Quanset Pond Landing, Portanimicut Landing, River Road Landing, Meetinghouse Pond Landing, or Mill Pond Landing. Scallops taken from Nauset Harbor shall be landed at Goose Hummock Landing, Cove Road Landing, or Asa’s Landing. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

4.4.6. All scallops taken in the waters of the Town of Orleans shall be scallops with a well-defined, raised annual growth ring and that ring shall measure at least ten (10) millimeters from the hinge of the shell. Scallops that have a raised annual growth ring located less than ten (10) millimeters from the hinge of the shell shall be lawful to harvest and possess if the shell height is at least two and one-half (2.5) inches. Any scallop that does not meet the aforementioned requirements shall be deemed a seed scallop and shall be returned to the water immediately. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished in accordance with section 3 sub-section 6.

4.4.7. All scallops shall be taken to shore in the shell. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

4.4.8. The presence of a scallop dredge overboard at any time shall be considered evidence of intent to take scallops.

4.4.9. Scallop dredge frames shall not measure more than thirty-six (36) inches in width except for Cape Cod Bay where maximum width is sixty (60) inches. Whoever violates any provision of this sub-section shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars.

4.4.10. No scallops shall be taken by scuba, snorkel, or any other means of diving except in designated areas. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

4.4.11. Any boats used for commercial scalloping in the Town of Orleans shall make only one (1) trip per day. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars.

4.4.12. No shellfish permit holder shall land scallops and return to the waters for the purpose of additional scalloping without written permission from the Shellfish Constable. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of two hundred dollars.

**§4.5) Razor Clams; methods of harvest**

4.5.1. The harvesting of razor clams by salting is allowable provided there are no other species (such as soft-shelled clams or quahogs) within the inter-tidal zone of a given area. Areas of mixed species will be assessed and determined in the sole and unfettered discretion of the Shellfish Constable. Dry salting (salt not in a water solution), broadcast salting (spreading dry salt over a tidal flat), or spraying of any other solution is prohibited.

**§4.6) Oysters; season**

4.6.1. The harvesting of oysters shall be prohibited annually from May 1 through October 31, inclusive.

**§4.7) Horseshoe Crabs**

Being in possession of horseshoe crabs for any reason requires a State permit. (See CMR 322 6.34: Horseshoe Crab Management.)