TOWN OF TRURO

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

The following regulations are adopted by the Board of Selectmen, 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.

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 Board of Selectmen.

5. 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 $15.00.

6. Recreational permits shall be issued to any other person for an annual fee of $100.00 and one week non-resident license for $25.00.

7. All permits will be issued on November 1st and shall expire October 31st each year.

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

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

10. Persons holding a permit may take the following types of shellfish in the quantities specified below within designated time periods as follows:

a. Clams (soft shell) measuring two inches, may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one ten-quart bucket in the shell per day. Quahogs, measuring one inch across the hinge, may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one ten-quart bucket in the shell, per day. If both clams and quahogs are taken, the limit is one ten-quart bucket in the shell per day.

b. Oysters measuring at least three inches in length may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of five quarts in the shell, per day. If taken in conjunction with other types of shellfish, the combined limit is one ten-quart bucket per day.

c. Mussels may be taken on a designated day in a designated area at the rate of one ten-quart bucket per day. If taken in conjunction with other types of shellfish, the combined limit is one ten-quart bucket per day.

d. Sea clams may be taken at the rate of two ten-quart buckets per day in the shell.

e. Sea worms may be taken at the rate of one pint per day.

f. Legal size for the taking of bay scallops shall be a well-defined growth ring, and they may be taken at the rate of two ten-quart buckets per day, in season.

g. 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.

h. 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.

i. No person shall drag or dredge from a boat for any type of shellfish in any waters of the Town of Truro.

j. 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 Board of Selectmen.

k. The opening or shucking of shellfish is prohibited on tidal flats or beaches within the Town of Truro.

l. No motorized vehicles may be operated within any designated shellfish areas in the Town of Truro.

m. 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 Board of Selectmen for determination.

n. The times and places at which shellfish may be taken shall be posted in Town Hall, and published in one newspaper of general circulation within the Town.

o. The penalty for each violation of these regulations shall be not less than $25.00 nor more than $300.00.

p. These regulations replace all existing regulations on this subject, and shall remain in effect until revoked by the Board of Selectmen.

11. Any person seeking to obtain a shellfish permit, including a lifetime permit, shall first satisfy the Licensing Agent that he/she has a shellfish gauge in his/her possession.

These regulations went into effect January 1, 2002. Fees revised December 11, 2007. Revised July 14, 2015-*Effective November 1, 2015*

Paul Wisotzky, Chair

Jan Worthington, Vice-Chair

Maureen Burgess, Clerk

Jay Coburn

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Board of Selectmen
Town of Truro