

Shellfishing in the Town of Truro Massachusetts

Frequently asked questions

1. Is a permit required for recreational shellfishing in Truro?

Yes, permits are required for the taking of shellfish in Truro. Annual and weekly permits are available. When shellfishing your permit must be worn so it is visible or on your cell phone.

2. How much do permits cost?

Senior Annual permit for Truro residents are **free** for folks 62 years with proof of age

Annual permit for Truro residents are **\$20**

Annual permit for non-residents are **\$125**

Weekly permit for non-residents are **\$35**

Non-resident -Military Veteran Permits are **\$20**

Non-resident employed by the Town of Truro are **\$20**

3. How long are permits good for?

Annual permits are valid from November 1 and expire October 31 the following year.

Weekly permits are valid for seven consecutive days beginning on the date of purchase.

4. Where do I get a permit?

Permits are available for purchase at the Truro Town Hall Selectmen's Office Tuesday – Friday 8am – 4pm. Harbormaster Office during the season when staff is on duty and on Sundays, Or through the mail with a check or credit card payment or on-line

<https://truroharborstickers.townhall247.com/>

5. Where can I go shellfishing in Truro?

All year round shellfish can be collected from Truro bay beaches all days of the week.

Shellfishing in the Pamet Harbor, Pamet River and Little Pamet River is permitted from November 1 to April 1 on Sundays only **(when shellfish signs are posted that the shellfish areas are open)**.

6. When can I go shellfishing in Truro?

One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

Pamet Harbor area is open on Sundays only from Nov. 1 to April 1. **(when shellfish signs are posted that the shellfish areas are open)**.

Bay side beaches are open for shellfishing all year round.

7. What types of shellfish can I harvest?

Quahogs, oysters, soft shell clams, razor clams, sea clams and blue mussels are found in the waters of Truro.

8. How much shellfish can I take home?

The combined weekly catch limit is one 10-quart basket, of which oysters may not constitute more than ½ of the basket (5 quarts). This means you can have a maximum of ½ basket of oysters. The weekly limit for sea clams is 2- 10 quart baskets per week.

9. What are the size limits for shellfish in Truro?

Quahogs must be a minimum of 1" across the hinge

Soft shell clams must be a minimum of 2" long

Mussels must be a minimum of 2" long

Razor Clams must be a minimum of 3" long

Oysters must be a minimum of 3" long

Sea Clams must be a minimum of 5" long

10. Can I take someone shellfishing with me?

Yes. But remember the limit is for the permit holder only. **One Permit One basket per week.**

11. What equipment do I need to shell fish

You are required to have a shellfish gauge in your possession. In addition, a 10-quart wire basket is required. You will also want a rake, boots and gloves.

12. How do I collect shellfish?

Rake the area where you see little holes in the sand. Usually quahogs are about as deep as the tines on your rake. Soft shell clams and razor clams are typically deeper and require digging a hole. Remember to fill in your hole and to replace any undersized shellfish. Do not disturb the eelgrass beds since these are important for shellfish propagation and populations.

.

13. Can I shellfish for crabs?

State law prohibits taking of crab between January 1 - April 31. Use of pots or traps requires a license from the Division of Marine Fisheries.

14. Anything else?

- Display your permit or have it on your phone.
- Please use 10 qt. wire basket. One permit – One basket – per week.
- Please fill in your holes and digging in eelgrass is discouraged.
- Please replace & bury all undersized shellfish.
- Field shucking is not permitted
- Dogs are discouraged on the flats



Use 10 qt. wire basket



Oyster 3" min.



Quahog – If it is less than 1" thick it's too small



Razor Clam 3" min.



Blue Mussel 2" min.



Sea Clam 5" min.



Soft Shell Clam 2" min.