

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD RECREATIONAL SHELLFISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS ACCORDING TO THE MOU SHELLFISH GROWING AREA CLASSIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION EFFECTIVE 5/30/99; AMENDED 5/19/06, 7/14/10, 11/18/2015 & 6/8/16 & 11/9/16**

**Permits**

- No individual age 16 or older shall harvest shellfish from Town of Fairfield shellfish beds without a valid permit issued by the Town of Fairfield Shellfish Commission.
- Individuals under age 16 may harvest shellfish without a permit if accompanied by an adult with a valid permit.
- Permits must be **attached to the permittee at all times and readily** available for inspection on demand.
- Permits shall not be lent, resold, or transferred to any other individual.
- Recreational permit holders shall not offer their shellfish for sale or barter.
- Annual permit fees are as follows:

Resident (R)	\$20.00
Senior Resident (60 years & over)(SR)	\$10.00
Nonresident (N)	\$40.00
- Shellfish permit fees will not be refunded.
- Permits are valid from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> for the year in which issued.

**Area**

- The Recreational Shellfishing Area is located along the shore of Sasco Hill Beach between Kensie Point & the white & orange diamond-shaped demarcation sign on the shore of the Country Club of Fairfield approximately 3/4ths of the way between the road entrance to Sasco Hill Beach & the channel entrance of Southport Harbor as is indicated on the map provided on the reverse side of these Rules & Regulations. Recreational shellfishing is prohibited in all other waters & coastal areas of the Town of Fairfield, which have been classified as Prohibited or Restricted (Closed) for consumption, bait, or other use by the State Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (203-874-0696).

**Times**

- Under the special terms of the Town of Fairfield – State of Connecticut Shellfish Memorandum of Understanding, the Sasco Hill Beach recreational shellfishing area is opened and closed according to specific conditions and events, such as rainfall.
- No shellfishing is allowed between sunset and sunrise or when the Sasco Hill Beach Recreational Shellfishing Area is temporarily closed.
- The Area will be temporarily closed immediately following one inch or more of precipitation within a 24-hour period. The Area will remain closed for at least seven days. The status of the Area is indicated by the red and white sign posted on the Sasco Hill Beach guard booth. The status can also be determined 24 hours a day by telephoning 203-256-3074 or visiting the Fairfield Conservation Department website through: [www.fairfieldct.org](http://www.fairfieldct.org)

**Quantity and Size Limits**

- No more than 1/2 bushel (four gallons) of oysters, hard clams, soft-shell clams, razor (long) clams, or blue mussels, may be harvested per permit holder per day with no more than 1 bushel of shellfish collected per week per permit holder. This regulation includes that a 1/2 bushel contain no more than 24 oysters per permit holder per day.
- The collection of oysters will be prohibited from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Size limits are as follow:
  - Oysters: 3 inches or larger
  - Hard Clams: 1.5 inches or larger
  - Soft Shell Clams: 1.5 inches or larger
  - Razor Clams: 4 inches or longer
  - Blue Mussels: 2 inches or longer

**Inspections**

- By signing and acceptance of a recreational shellfishing permit and its conditions, the permittee consents to inspection of any shellfish on its person, vehicle, or vessel by the Shellfish Commission, its agents, or law enforcement personnel at any time.

**Harvest Methods & Tools**

- Shellfish must be gathered with hand tools.
- Rakes, hoes, and tongs must have teeth spaced at least one inch apart.
- No shovels or spades shall be used for digging, as their use will damage or crush shellfish.
- Permit holders are required to return non-harvestable size oysters and shell to the water. Only single oysters 3-inches or larger shall be collected for harvest.
- Permit holders are encouraged to use proper personal protective equipment during the collection of shellfish.

**Penalty**

- Any person who violates any regulation adopted by the Shellfish Commission shall be fined not more than \$250.00 (Chapter 492, Section 26-257a(b), Statutes of Connecticut).
- To report potential violations of these regulations, please call the Fairfield Police Department at (203) 254-4800.

**Liability Waiver & Warnings**

- The Fairfield Shellfish Commission and the Town of Fairfield are not responsible for injuries or damage suffered while shellfishing within Fairfield’s jurisdictional waters and coastal areas. By applying for and accepting a shellfish permit, the holder recognizes that conditions along shorefront areas contain hazards such as deep holes, uneven ground, and drop-offs that may be hazardous. By shellfishing within Fairfield’s boundaries, the holder of a shellfish permit agrees to assume all risks and liabilities inherent in this activity, including, but not exclusively, those flowing from the natural and man-made hazards of Fairfield’s coastal areas. By accepting a shellfish permit, the holder acknowledges the existence of such hazards and dangers, and agrees that the Town of Fairfield and the Fairfield Shellfish Commission are not responsible for any damage or injury incurred while shellfishing in Fairfield’s coastal areas.

