

March 24, 2009

Important Notice to Shellfish Permit Holders

The State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture has notified the Town of Darien that they will be reclassifying and downgrading the recreational shellfishing status of a significant portion of Scott's Cove area from "APPROVED" to "PROHIBITED." This reclassification is intended to be permanent and will be official on April 1, 2009, but we feel it is important to inform Permit holders immediately of this impending action. According to the Bureau of Aquaculture which oversees the shellfishing program, the reclassification is due to deterioration in water quality noted in samples collected over the past several years and their inability to complete a federally mandated "Sanitary Survey" of properties served by septic systems in the area.

A map of the redefined shellfishing area is included for your reference. Approved areas are open except when they are closed following heavy rains. Be sure to call the Shellfishing Phone Line at (203-838-9807) for current status before visiting the shellfish beds.

Please note that Zeigler's Cove has been reclassified and is closed to recreational shellfishing during the boating season, from May 1 through October 30.

Further attempts to complete the survey will be made by State and local Health officials. Successful completion of the survey could lead to further changes in the status of the area. You will be notified of any official reclassifications should there be any.