



Shellfishing Newsletter

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation sent this bulletin on 10/23/2018 03:05 PM EDT



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Shellfishing Newsletter

Bay Scallop Season Opens November 5

Bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*) are New York's official state shellfish, and a highly anticipated local seafood option this time of year. They get their name from the shallow waterbodies they're found in, such as the Peconic, Gardiners and Shinnecock bays here in New York's marine waters. Shellfish, which include scallops, clams, oysters, and mussels, can be harvested from [certified waters](#) in New York year-round, with the exception of bay scallops. Bay scallop season opens on the first Monday of November, which this year is November 5th and closes on March 31st.

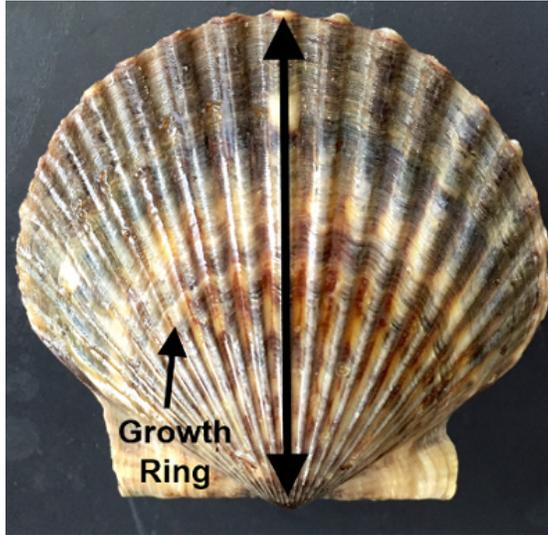
To retain bay scallops, they must be over **2-¼ inches in length** from its mid-hinge to mid-bill and also display an **annual growth ring** (pictured), which ensures they have been able to reproduce prior to being harvested.

Bay scallops have a relatively short life expectancy, averaging about 20-22 months but could live up to 26 months. Spawning occurs from mid-May through October or early November. During these months, shell growth occurs at a rate of about 10-12 mm per month, but can vary depending on environmental factors, including their surrounding habitat, water temperature, and food availability.

Annual growth rings form where the stoppage of growth during the winter meets new growth that resumes in the spring. The location of the annual growth ring on the scallop valve (shell) may vary and is sometimes confused with growth checks on the scallop shell so you need to **carefully check scallops for the presence of an annual growth ring.**

The annual growth ring is typically raised and easy to see. You can also check for the annual growth ring by running your fingernail from the shell edge to hinge; if it catches, this can be a good indicator of where the annual growth ring is. The growth ring can also be associated with a change in shell color and can be seen easier on the bottom shell but this is not always the case.

For more information on harvesting shellfish, visit [Shellfish Harvest Limits](#).



2019 Atlantic Ocean Surfclam Annual Harvest Limit

NYSDEC is accepting comments on the proposal to establish the 2019 annual [harvest limit](#) for surfclams taken by mechanical means from the certified waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The proposed annual harvest limit is 184,558 industry standard bushels, and would maintain the level of harvest that was established from 2016 to 2018. Comments on the proposal are due by **November 7**.

For more information, view the [Notice of Proposed 2019 Atlantic Ocean Surfclam Annual Harvest Limit](#) (PDF).

Send comments on this proposal to:

NYSDEC Marine Resources
 Attn: Jennifer O'Dwyer
 205 N. Belle Mead Road, Ste.1
 East Setauket, NY 11733

Email: jennifer.odwyer@dec.ny.gov

Fax: (631) 444-0496

FLUPSYs Installed in the South Shore Estuary Reserve

Four Floating Upwelling Systems (FLUPSYs) were installed in the South Shore Estuary Reserve FLUPSYs2 as part of the [Long Island Shellfish Restoration Project \(LISRP\)](#), an initiative announced in September 2017, designed to improve water quality, help shellfish populations, and strengthen the resiliency of coastal communities.

FLUPSYs are used to grow shellfish in open water while protecting them until they are large enough to survive on their own. The units provide increased water flow to ensure a constant food supply and promote accelerated growth. Once the clams reach the size of approximately a quarter, they will be transported to one of five Long Island sanctuary sites located in Shinnecock Bay, Bellport Bay, Huntington Harbor, South Oyster Bay and Hempstead Bay.



Important Dates

New York Sea Grant, in partnership with NYSDEC, is requesting proposals for the Marine and Coastal District of New York Conservation, Education, and Research Small Grants Program.

Applications are due by November 16, at 4:30 p.m.

View [New York Sea Grant's announcement](#) for more information about submitting proposals.

Meetings

[NYS Ocean Acidification Task Force Meeting](#)

When: Thursday, November 1, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Stony Brook University's South Campus, 120 Endeavour Hall ([Google Maps](#))

The Ocean Acidification Task Force will work towards assessing impacts of acidification on the ecological, economic and recreational health of New York's coastal waters, identifying contributing factors, and recommending actions to reduce and address negative impacts.

[State of the Science Workshop on Wildlife and Offshore Wind Energy Development](#)

When:

- Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(includes evening poster session, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)
- Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: The Inn at Fox Hollow, 7755 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, New York ([Google Maps](#))

Registration for the workshop is \$95, which includes attendance and lunches on both days of the workshop, and attendance at the evening poster session. [Registration](#) closes on

November 5th.