



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

July 2, 2008

-EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY PSP CLOSURE-

Dear Federal Permit Holder or Dealer:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has requested a revision of the emergency regulations of October 18, 2005, which implemented a temporary paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) closure (i.e., the Northern and Southern Temporary PSP Closure Areas) due to the presence of high levels of the toxin that causes PSP. *See chart of the revised closure areas on the reverse side.* This action supersedes the prior rule, and is effective through December 28, 2008. If warranted, the emergency regulations may be terminated at an earlier date by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of termination.

This action will expand the Northern Temporary PSP Closure Area south to include the Federal waters southeast of Massachusetts around Nantucket Island, and eastward to the George's Bank PSP Closure Area. The boundary of the Southern Temporary PSP Closure area is also revised and contracted.

The revised and expanded Northern Temporary PSP Closure Area prohibits the harvest of all bivalve molluscan shellfish, with the exception of sea scallop adductor muscles harvested and shucked at sea. The Northern Temporary PSP Closure Area includes all Federal waters bound by the coordinates in Table 1.

The revised and contracted Southern Temporary PSP Closure Area is open to the harvest of Atlantic surfclams, quahogs, and scallops harvested for the adductor muscle and shucked at sea. The harvest of whole or roe-on scallops is prohibited. This is necessary because scallop viscera and roe can retain PSP toxins longer than other species of molluscan shellfish. The Southern Temporary PSP Closure Area includes all Federal waters bound by the coordinates in Table 2.

Table 1. Revised Northern Temporary PSP Closure Area Coordinates

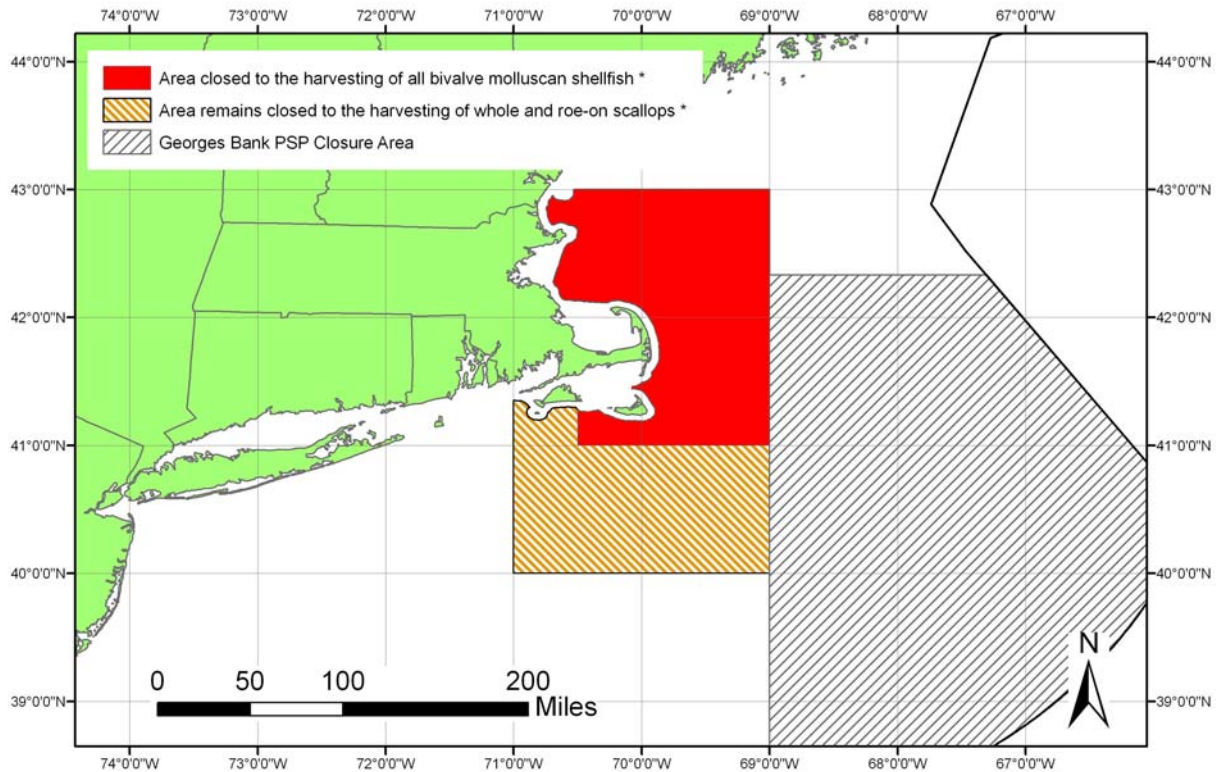
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	43° 00' N	71° 00' W
2	43° 00' N	69° 00' W
3	41° 00' N	69° 00' W
4	41° 00' N	70° 30' W
5	41° 39' N	70° 30' W
6	41° 39' N	71° 00' W
7	43° 00' N	71° 00' W

Table 2. Revised Southern Temporary PSP Closure Area Coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	41° 39' N	71° 00' W
2	41° 39' N	70° 30' W
3	41° 00' N	70° 30' W
4	41° 00' N	69° 00' W
5	40° 00' N	69° 00' W
6	40° 00' N	71° 00' W
7	41° 39' N	71° 00' W



Federal Water Closure Due to the Presence of the Toxin that Causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning



* Exception allowed for scallop harvesting with onboard shucking of the adductor muscle only

A copy of the temporary emergency rule is available at NMFS's Northeast Regional Office Web Site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you have any questions on this emergency action, please call Edward Stern at (978) 281-9177.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator