



Shellfish Program Definitions

Term	Definition
Actual Source	Shall mean any source that currently exists in fact or is present at the time of the sanitary survey.
Approved	Is a Rhode Island Shellfish Program water quality classification that is used to identify a growing area where harvest for direct marketing and human consumption is allowed.
Authority	Shall mean the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management by agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Health which share responsibility for the enforcement of the NSSP code in Rhode Island
Conditionally Approved	Is a Rhode Island Shellfish Program water quality classification that is used to identify a growing area which meets the criteria for the approved classification except under certain conditions described in a management plan.
Dealer	Shall mean a person to whom certification is issued for the activities of shellstock shipper, shucker-packer, repacker, reshipper, or depuration processor.
Direct Source	Shall mean a source of pollution to the shellfish growing area that discharges whether actually or potentially directly to those receiving waters
Direct Marketing	Shall mean the sale for human consumption of shellfish which: (a) Does not require depuration or relaying prior to sale; or (b) Has been subjected to depuration or relaying activities.
FDA	Shall mean the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Fecal Coliform	Shall mean that portion of the coliform group which will produce gas from lactose in an EC or A-1 multiple tube procedure liquid medium within 24 (\pm 2) hours in a water bath maintained at 112 °Fahrenheit (44.5 ± 0.2 ° Centigrade).
Geometric Mean	Shall mean the antilog (base 10) of the arithmetic mean of the sample result logarithm (base 10).
Growing Area	A saltwater body of the state of Rhode Island that has been delineated and assessed as to its ability to support or has the potential to support the propagation of shellstock by natural or artificial means.
Harvest	Shall mean the act of removing shellstock from growing areas and its placement on or in a manmade conveyance or other means of transport.
Harvester	Shall mean a person who takes shellstock by any means from a growing area.
Harvester Education Under Construction	Under construction A program to educate shellfish harvesters on issues related to safe shellfish harvesting principles and practices.
Indirect Source	Shall mean a pollution source that may actually or potentially impact the shellfish growing area receiving waters in a non-direct way, i.e. overland, via a secondary conveyance or by nature of its source such as deposition or rainfall.
Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List (ICSSL)	Shall mean an FDA publication of shellfish dealers, domestic and foreign, who have been certified by a state or foreign Authority as meeting the public health control measures specified in the NSSP Ordinance.
Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC)	Shall mean the organization which consists of agencies from shellfish producing and receiving States, FDA, the shellfish industry, the National Marine Fisheries Service of the United States, Department of Commerce, and the EPA. The ISSC provides the formal structure wherein Rhode Island regulatory authorities i.e., RIDEM and RIDOH, with FDA concurrence, can establish updated guidelines and procedures for sanitary control of the shellfish industry.

License	Shall mean the document issued by the Authority to a person to harvest or transport shellstock for commercial sale. [In those States issuing permits as opposed to licenses, the term license would be replaced with the term "permit" which would be defined the same as "license".]
Marina	Shall mean any water area with a structure (docks, basin, floating docks, etc.) which is: (a) Used for docking or otherwise mooring vessels; and (b) Constructed to provide temporary or permanent docking space for more than ten boats.
MPN (Most Probable Number)	Shall mean a statistical estimate of the number of bacteria per unit volume and is determined from the number of positive results in a series of fermentation tubes
Marine Sanitation Device See Pump Out Page for more information	Recreational boats are not required to be equipped with a toilet, but if they are, the Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) must be Coast Guard approved, designed either to hold sewage for shore-based disposal or to treat the sewage prior to discharge. If the boat operates only in a No Discharge Zone only a Type III MSDs that holds all septic waste is allowed.
National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP)	Shall mean the cooperative State-FDA-Industry program for the sanitary control of shellfish that is adequate to ensure that the shellfish produced in accordance with these guidelines will be safe and sanitary.
No Discharge Area See Pump Out Page for more information	The Rhode Island waters include territorial seas within three miles of shore, including all of Narragansett Bay. A No Discharge Area is a designated body of water in which the discharge of treated and untreated boat sewage is prohibited (this does not include greywater or sink water).
Open Water Aquaculture	Shall mean the cultivation of bivalve shellfish in natural shellfish growing areas.
Point Source	Shall mean any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance including any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel or conduit that carries pollution.
Poisonous or Deleterious Substance	Means a toxic substance occurring naturally or added to the environment for which a regulatory tolerance limit or action level has been established in shellfish to protect public health

Potential Source	Shall mean any source that may currently exist in fact but is not impacting the receiving waters at the time of the sanitary survey. i.e. a drainage pipe that is not flowing at the time of inspection but has the potential to convey storm water under certain conditions.
Prohibited	Shall mean a classification used to identify a growing area where the harvest of shellstock for any purpose, except depletion or gathering of seed for aquaculture, is not permitted.
Pump Outs See Pump Out Page for more information	Marine pump out facilities whether dock side or contained on a pump out boat and made available to all recreational boaters for the emptying of on vessel holding tanks (Type III MSDs) of septic waste.
Raw	Shall mean shellfish that have not been thermally processed: (a) to an internal temperature of 145 ° Fahrenheit or greater for 15 seconds (or equivalent); or (b) altering the organoleptic characteristics.
Relay	Shall mean to transfer shellstock from a growing area classified as restricted or conditionally restricted to a growing area classified as approved or conditionally approved for the purpose of reducing pathogens as measured by the coliform indicator group or poisonous or deleterious substances that may be present in the shellstock by using the ambient environment as the treatment process.
Remote status	Shall mean a designation applied to a shellfish growing area that has no human habitation and is not impacted by any actual or potential pollution sources.
Restricted Areas	Is a Rhode Island Shellfish Program water quality classification used to identify a growing area where harvesting shall be by special license and the shellstock, following harvest, is subjected to a suitable and effective treatment process through relaying or depuration.
Sanitary Survey	Shall mean the written evaluation report of all environmental factors, including actual and potential pollution sources, which have a bearing on the water quality in a shellfish growing area.
Shall	Means mandatory and required.

Shellfish	<p>Shall mean all species of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Oysters, clams or mussels, whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Shucked or in the shell; (ii) Raw, including post-harvest processed; (iii) Frozen or unfrozen; (iv) Whole or in part; and (b) Scallops in any form, except when the final product form is the adductor muscle only.
Shellfish Gardening	<p>Shall mean a non-commercial shellfish culture for the purposes of enhancing water quality, or enhancing natural stocks and not for sale for consumption.</p>
Shellstock	<p>Shall mean live molluscan shellfish in the shell.</p>
Should	<p>Shall mean recommended but is not required.</p>
<p>Vibrio Bacteria</p> <p><u>See Safe Shellfish Consumption for more information</u></p>	<p>Vibrio vulnificus (V. vulnificus) and Vibrio parahaemolyticus (V. parahaemolyticus) are bacteria that occur naturally in warm coastal areas. These bacteria are found in higher concentrations in the summer months when water gets warmer. Vibrios typically cause disease in people who eat contaminated seafood.</p>