

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR OYSTERS RECREATIONAL HARVEST

The department would like to limit the recreational harvest of oysters.

The topic of managing the recreational harvest of oysters has been discussed at prior advisory commission meetings. The current recreational limit is 1 bushel/person/day. This limit has created a situation where multiple people on a boat are catching many bushels per day and selling the oysters. The sale of recreationally caught oysters is prohibited for many reasons. The department has discussed the topic internally and would like to scope the idea of limiting harvest from a boat. The idea is very similar to recreational crab harvest from a boat, and therefore will create consistency for recreational harvest policy. If there are 2 or more people on a boat, the limit of oysters would be 2 bushels/boat/day. The proposed limit will deter illegal harvest by keeping bushel quantities low and still allow recreational harvest by those seeking some oysters for personal consumption.