

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR OYSTERS

The department would like to make it clear that a person may not harvest oysters in a harvest reserve area when it is not open.

There is not currently a statement in regulation that specifically says that you cannot harvest in a harvest reserve area if it is not open. Harvest reserve areas are areas reserved on a rotational basis for restoration and restricted harvest and are managed by regulation and public notice. When the harvest reserve areas were established in 2003 it is clear that the intention was to keep the areas closed and prohibit harvest until the oysters were able to be harvested. Since the intention is for the areas to be closed, planted with oyster seed and occasionally opened for harvest, a statement would be added to regulation that specifically prohibits harvest in those areas unless they are specifically opened.