

Hard Clam Commercial and Recreational Regulations for States Along the East Coast

State	Fishery	License Requirements	Trip Limit	Size Limit	Gear Limit	Open Season/Areas
Maine	Recreational	No State License. License by town.	1 peck per person/day (peck is 1/4 of a bushel)	Minimum 1 inch hinge width (from the hinge down)	Limited to hand rakes and tongs	
	Commercial	State shellfish license				
New Hampshire	Recreational	None	Closed			
	Commercial	Need a license	500 Bu/day	No limit	Dredge blade/knife/manifold: max 48 inches.	
Massachusetts	Recreational	No State, towns have local restrictions & permits	Consult town regs	1 inch shell thickness		
	Commercial	Town permit and shellfish ID card issued by Mass DMF	40 Bu/Day	1 inch thickness (wild)		n/a
Rhode Island	Recreational	Required only for non-residents	(Shellfish management areas) Resident limit : 1 peck/person. Non resident: 1/2 peck/person. (Non-management areas) Resident: 1/2 Bu/person. Non resident: 1 peck/person	1 inch hinge width		
	Commercial		Bay Quahog: Shellfish management areas: 3 Bu/person/day with exceptions. Non management areas: 12 Bu/person/day		Bay Quahog: No person shall dig and/or take any bay quahogs from the waters of this State by dredge(s), rakes, or other apparatus operated by mechanical power or hauled by power boats, unless otherwise provided for in these Regulations.	
Connecticut	Recreational	No State, towns have local restrictions and permits	1/4 - 1/2 Bu variable by town	1.5-2 inches variable by town		
	Commercial	License from Dept of Agriculture				
New York	Recreational	No State, towns have local restrictions on permits, and residency requirements	100 clams/day	1 inch thickness	Only rakes and tongs allowed	Year round to open areas
	Commercial	Shellfish digger permit required	No limit		No mechanical	
New Jersey	Recreational	Need a state license.	150 clams	1.5 inches length	Hand implements only	No harvest on Sundays
	Commercial	License + training course		1- 1.5 inches length	No mechanical or motive power	
Delaware	Recreational	Need a state license. For >100 but <500 clams need a non-commercial clamming permit.	Residents: 100 clams/day. Non Residents: 50 clams/day	1.5 inches or larger	Hand held rake only	Clamming prohibited 30 min before sunrise and after sunset.
	Commercial	Commercial clam tong/rake license Commercial dredge clam license	2500 clams/day No limit			
Maryland	Recreational	None, must be state resident.	250 clams/day	1 inch transverse measurement	Hand operated gear only. No mechanical harvesting.	
	Commercial	Need license	No limit	1 inch transverse measurement	Hydraulic Dredge: Harvest only in Pocomoke and Tangier Sound. 1/1 - to sunset Other gear: sunrise 5/31 & 9/15 - 12/31	
Virginia	Recreational	None	250 clams/day by hand or tongs from open areas		Hand or ordinary tongs	
	Commercial	Need a license				
North Carolina	Recreational	None	100 clams/person/day	1 inch thick	Hand or rake	Year round
	Commercial	Need a license	Hand Harvest 6,250 clams/trip. Mechanical harvest limits vary by open water body	1 inch thick	Hand or mechanical implements	Hand harvest open year round. Mechanical harvest is second Monday in Dec - March 31
South Carolina	Recreational	Need a state license	1/2 Bu clams/person/day	1 inch thick	Hand operated gear	No harvest from 5/15 - 9/1
	Commercial	Need a state license	No limit			
Georgia	Recreational	Need a state license and free permit	1 Bu clams/person/day	3/4 inch depth (perpendicular to hinge)	Hand or handheld implements	Clamming prohibited 30 min before sunrise and after sunset. Approved locations
	Commercial	Need license	No limit?			
Florida	Recreational	Need a state license	One 5-gallon bucket/person/day	1 inch thick across the hinge		Year round
	Commercial	Aquaculture license				