



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AQUACULTURE

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January 21, 2026

Connecticut River Area Health District, Director of Health  
Scott Martinson, MPH, MS, RS  
455 Boston Post Road, Suite 7  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

**RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Clinton, CT**

Mr. Martinson,

The Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (DoAg) is required to reevaluate shellfish growing area classifications in the State on an annual basis, to accurately reflect the appropriate designated use of the area and remain in compliance with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). The DoAg has completed the 2024 Annual Report for the Town of Clinton, covering the period 01/01/2022 through 12/31/2024, and analyzed the data from 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2025. The Clinton Shellfish Commission has collected satisfactory water quality samples to support upgrading waters offshore of the Conditionally Approved Seasonal Outer Clinton Harbor area. Additionally, the DoAg is reclassifying the Clinton Harbor Conditionally Restricted Relay area to Prohibited and Restricted Relay to reduce management burdens; this change is administrative.

The following shellfish growing areas in Clinton are reclassified effective January 1, 2026:

- The new Clinton Conditionally Approved recreational and commercial area is bounded by the Madison-Clinton town line to the west, commercial lot 606 to the east, and the CT-NY jurisdiction line to the south.
- The Clinton Harbor Conditionally Restricted Relay area is reclassified to Prohibited around marina piers and Restricted Relay in portions without marina piers.

For additional information on the NSSP requirements for classifying shellfish growing areas, please see the NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter IV. Shellfish Growing [Areas@.02](#) Microbiological Standards and [@.03](#) Growing Area Classification.

<https://www.fda.gov/food/federalstate-food-programs/national-shellfish-sanitation-program-nssp>

The changes became effective January 1, 2026. A legal notice has been placed in the local newspaper announcing this change. A copy of the written description of the current classifications and all relevant maps are attached. Copies of the new classification descriptions for the shellfish growing areas in Clinton are being provided to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Clinton Town Manager.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

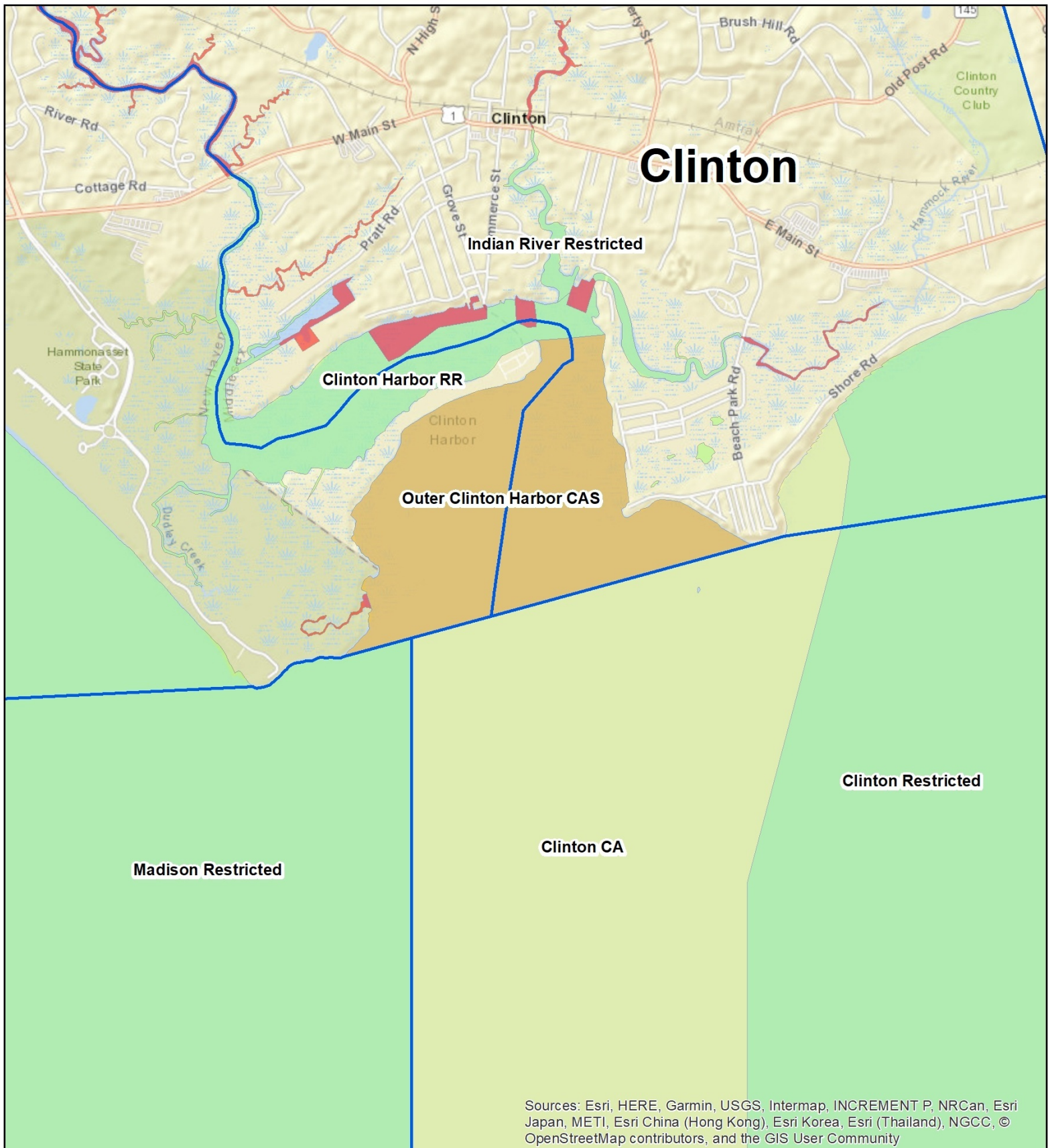
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Cc: Amy Fitzpatrick, USDA Regional Shellfish Specialist, [Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov), Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, [Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov](mailto:Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov), Keith Williams, CT DEEP Environmental Conservation Police, [Keith.Williams@ct.gov](mailto:Keith.Williams@ct.gov), Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Environmental Analyst, [Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov](mailto:Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov), Michelle Benivegna, Clinton Town Manager, [mbenivegna@clintonct.org](mailto:mbenivegna@clintonct.org), Mary Schettino, Executive Assistant, [MSchettino@clintonct.org](mailto:MSchettino@clintonct.org)



## Clinton

Classification Effective Date:  
1/1/20206

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map not intended for navigation

### Shellfish Area Classification

Town\_Line

#### Classification

- Approved
- Conditionally Approved
- Conditionally Approved Seasonal
- Conditionally Restricted-Relay
- Restricted-Relay
- Prohibited

**CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture**

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**TOWN OF CLINTON, CONNECTICUT  
SHELLFISH GROWING AREA CLASSIFICATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026**

**PROHIBITED AREAS**

**Hammonasset River:** The portion of the Hammonasset River and its tributaries north of the Route 1 bridge.

**Hammonasset River Marsh:** The entirety of the branch that feeds into the Hammonasset River at station 027-13.1.

**Riverside Basin Marinas:** The portion of the Hammonasset River occupied by the Riverside Basin Marina and Hammonasset Yacht Club.

**Clinton Harbor Marinas:** The portion of Clinton Harbor around the Cedar Island Marina, Clinton Town Dock, Harborside Marina, and Lang's Dock, as defined by 41.267674, -72.536529 to 41.268986, -72.528107 along the shoreline.

**Port Clinton Marina:** The portion of Clinton Harbor occupied by the Port Clinton Marina.

**Old Harbor Marina:** The portion of Clinton Harbor occupied by the Old Harbor Marina adjacent to the Clinton Town Beach.

**Indian River:** The portion of the Indian River and its tributaries north of the Route 1 bridge.

**Hammock River:** The portion of the Hammock River and its tributaries east of the Beach Park Road bridge.

**CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED AREAS**

None

**RESTRICTED AREAS**

**Hammonasset River, Clinton Harbor, and their tributaries:** The area north of the Conditionally Approved Seasonal Outer Clinton Harbor boundary, not inclusive of the previously defined Prohibited areas. Inclusive of the Hammonasset River and its tributaries.

**Eastern Restricted Area:** The area east of the Clinton Conditionally Approved area to the Westbrook town line.

## **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS**

**Outer Clinton Harbor Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area, Clinton/Madison:** The area of Outer Clinton Harbor beginning at the demarcation sign located at the southern end of the Clinton Town Beach and extending south along the shore to Hammock Point, then southeast to Kelsey Point, then west to Hammonasset Point, then north along Hammonasset marsh, then east along the south shore of Cedar Island to the easternmost point of land on Cedar Island, then east to the demarcation sign located at the southern end of the Clinton Town Beach, exclusive of Prohibited and Restricted areas previously defined. This Conditionally Approved area shall be seasonally closed from May 1-October 31, inclusive of both dates, due to a decline in water quality.

**Clinton Conditionally Approved Area:** The area enclosed by a western boundary of the Madison-Clinton town line; southern boundary of the CT-NY state line; and eastern boundary defined by the seawall at 59 Shore Road, south to station 027-8.0, south to the northeastern corner of commercial lot 606, southwest along lot 606, and then due south to the CT-NY state line.

## **APPROVED AREAS**

None