

November 8, 2006

**To: 2007 Potential Oyster Fishery Participants**

The following is a review of the procedures that will apply for the 2007 fishery.

- Permit applications and fees for the 2007 fishery will be accepted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) in Courtenay from **November 8, 2006 to January 31, 2007**. Cheques may be post-dated to January 31, 2007 and one cheque may be submitted to cover multiple applications.
- Please keep the deadline date in mind when mailing your application(s) as it may take up to a week for postal delivery – facsimiles will not be accepted. **All applications and/or fees received in our office after January 31, 2007 will be rejected and returned to sender.**
- Permits are not issued to companies. Only the following persons are entitled to apply for and obtain a permit:
  - 1) a Canadian Citizen;
  - 2) a person who is serving or has served in the Canadian Armed Forces; or
  - 3) a person who has been lawfully admitted to Canada under the *Immigration Act* (Canada) for permanent residence.**A copy of your photo identification (driver's licence, birth certificate, etc.) must be submitted with your application.**
- **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that contact information is accurate.** Any changes to your phone number, address etc. should be reported as soon as possible. Every attempt will be made to reach you with regard to the issuance of your permit. However, you should note that harvests will not be delayed and/or rescheduled due to our inability to contact you.
- A maximum of one application per applicant per area will be accepted. **It is the applicant's responsibility to assess stock in the requested area(s) prior to submitting an application.**
- **Permit holders (and all their harvest helpers) must possess a valid 2007 Fisher Registration Card** (FRC – issued annually by Fisheries and Oceans Canada).
- **The \$75 application fee (per application/area) is non-refundable**, regardless of whether a permit is issued or the application is declined. Cheques and money orders should be made payable to the Minister of Finance. Your application, map (identifying the requested harvest area), applicable fee(s), FRC and a copy of your DFO Contaminated Shellfish Harvest Licence application (if applicable) should be submitted to:

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
2500 Cliffe Avenue  
Courtenay BC V9N 5M6

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- Application areas that **may be available** for harvest are listed below and a map of each area has been enclosed for your reference. Applications will be accepted outside of these areas but they must include a specific description of the area requested and a map showing the area under application.

Jervis/Strait of Georgia Areas

1. Blind Bay
2. St. Vincent Bay
3. Goliath Bay
4. Killam Bay
5. Perketts Creek
6. Sechelt Inlet
7. Davie Bay
8. Scottie Bay
9. False Bay

West Coast Vancouver Island

1. Tahsis Inlet
2. Marvinas Bay
3. Galiano Bay
4. Toquart Bay & Stopper Is.
5. Mayne Bay
6. Hisnit Inlet
7. Mooyah Bay
8. Jane Bay

Desolation Sound Areas

1. Bird Cove
2. Carrington Bay
3. Smelt Bay
4. Seaford
5. Lloyd Point
6. Atrevida
7. West Hernando
8. East Hernando

- The following areas are “**contaminated**”:

Jervis/Strait of Georgia

1. Westview
2. Myrtle Rock
3. Booth Bay

Desolation Sound

1. Theodosia Inlet

**NEW!**

In order to be considered for permit issuance for Schedule 1 Closure (fecal contamination) areas, you must attach a copy of your completed Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) application for a “Licence to Harvest Shellfish in a Contaminated Area” to your wild oyster harvest application. **Failure to provide this information will result in your MAL Wild Oyster Harvest application being denied.**

For more information and/or an application please contact the Depuration Manager, Fisheries & Oceans Canada (2457 E. Stanford Avenue, Parksville, BC V9P 1V7 phone: 250-954-2676).

- Permits will only be issued in areas where Ministry staff have carried out a stock assessment and determined that a harvestable surplus is available. Once a permit has been issued, the dates for picking will not be revised or extended except when approved by the licensing authority. The maximum quota for a permit will be ten tonnes and the minimum quota will be one tonne.
- If there are more applications than the harvestable surplus can satisfy, permits will be issued on the basis of a random draw. The permit duration will be determined by the amount of time deemed sufficient to allow the quota to be harvested. In all cases, no permit will be granted for a period greater than 30 days. Permits are not transferable. **Permit holders must have their permits on site and available for inspection during harvesting.**
- No permits will be issued in areas closed for PSP or chemical pollutants.

- Permits will not be issued in areas directly fronting Indian Reserves without written consent of the First Nations Band Council, or in areas deemed important for aboriginal food fishery purpose. The latter areas will be determined through ongoing consultation with First Nations.
- Permits will not be issued for areas judged to be important for recreation or conservation. This includes but is not limited to areas fronting National and Provincial Parks or Ecological Reserves as well as the entire southern Gulf Islands region.
- For conservation purposes and until further notice, no permits will be issued for the following areas:
  1. The waters of Pendrell Sound bounded by a line drawn from Walter and Durham Points;
  2. The waters of Hotham Sound bounded by line drawn from Elephant Point and the headland south of Granville Bay;
  3. The waters of Pipestem Inlet, Barkley Sound bounded by a north-south line running through Bazett Island;
  4. The waters of Nesook Bay, Nootka Sound, bounded by a line drawn from Santa Saturnina Point to Perpendicular Bluff;
  5. The south shore of Cortes Island from Mary Point to Smelt Bay;
  6. The north shore of Hernando Island from Spilsbury Point to the unnamed point east of Dog Bay, including the foreshore of Stag and Dog Bays;
  7. Savary Island;
  8. The waters of Von Donop Inlet, Cortes Island;
  9. The waters of Stewardson Inlet, Holmes Inlet and Bottleneck Cove, Clayoquot Sound;
  10. The waters of Vanguard Bay, Nelson Island
  11. The waters of Storm Bay, Sechelt Inlet bounded by a line drawn from Cawley Point to Sockeye Point.
- Every effort will be made to reschedule harvests where/when closures have been identified. However, **it is the permit holders responsibility to ensure that the area has not been closed** (due to contaminates) **prior to beginning (and during) the harvest**. Current closure information can be obtained from your local Fisheries and Oceans Canada office (local phone numbers can be found in the blue page (Government of Canada) section of your phone book); via the DFO web site at: [http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/shellfish/default\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/shellfish/default_e.htm); or through a 24 hr/day recorded message (604-666-2828).
- Permittees are required to complete a log of daily harvesting activities. Anyone exceeding their quota or otherwise contravening the *Fisheries Act Regulations* may be liable for prosecution and if convicted, may be ineligible for future permits.

Wild Oyster Harvest Log/Royalty Return

Each permit will be accompanied by a "Wild Oyster Harvest Log/Royalty Return" form. This form must be completed in ink after each daily harvest, prior to the harvester leaving the harvest area. It is strongly recommended that a weatherproof pen (such as a "Rite-in-the-Rain pen) is used. The harvest log and royalty amount owing (\$25 per tonne – or portion of the tonne – ie: 0 to 1 tonne = \$25; 1.1 to 2 tonnes = \$50) must be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands at the address provided, within 10 days of the expiration date of the permit. The form must be submitted even if no harvesting takes place. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of Section 9(3) and (4) of the *Fisheries Act Regulations (RSBC)* and those permit holders will be turned over to enforcement staff. If harvest logs and/or royalties are not received within the timeframe specified, the permit holder will be ineligible for permits.

Enclosed is an *Application for a Permit to Take Oysters from Vacant Crown Foreshore*. If you require additional application forms, please photocopy the form or contact our office. To eliminate long distance charges, you may call Enquiry BC at 250-387-6121 (Victoria), 604-660-2421 (Vancouver) or 1-800-663-7867 (for all other areas) and be transferred to our office.

Sincerely,

Susanne Armstrong  
Commercial Fisheries Licensing Clerk

Enclosures

cc: Kathy Evans, Section Head, Licensing Unit  
Scott Pilcher, Shellfish & Marine Plant Biologist  
Bryan Williams, First Nations Liaison Officer  
Sam Hall, First Nations Liaison Officer  
Gary McLelan, First Nations Liaison Officer