



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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*Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
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*Lt. Governor*

### **Public Notice of the Suspension of Harvest from Shellfish Beds Dangerous to Health**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 58:24-1, the Department has inspected places within the jurisdiction of the State from which oysters, clams or other shellfish are taken to be distributed or sold for use as food, for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary conditions of such oyster and clam beds and other places. As a result of those inspections, the Department has determined that certain waters, variously classified as Approved, Seasonally Approved, and Special Restricted, may be affected by discharges of untreated waste from compromised sewage holding tanks in the Delaware Bay coastal communities of Gandy's Beach and Money Island. Data suggest that the holding tanks have impacted near shore water quality and present a public health concern, as discussed in the Money Island/Gandy's Beach Impact Study, August 2014 (available at the Reports link at [www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bmw](http://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bmw)).

The Department has determined that the discharges constitute an intermittent pollution episode that may have a deleterious impact on public health. Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:12-1.5(a) and the statutory authority granted the Department of Environmental Protection at N.J.S.A. 58:24-2 to ensure that the public health is not at risk from the consumption of shellfish that may have been subjected to pollution or other condition that may render the shellfish dangerous to health, I hereby immediately suspend the harvest of shellfish from the following waters, as further described below:

*Money Island  
Gandy's Beach  
Nantuxent Cove*

Shellfish within the area of suspended harvest (described below) located within Nantuxent Cove and the immediate area around the communities of Money Island and Gandy's Beach may be affected by the discharge of raw sewage. Located at the shoreline of these waters are approximately 120 single-family homes with sewage holding tanks. The Department's recent shoreline surveys demonstrated that beach erosion compromised the tanks such that at high tide the tanks were close to or under water. During summer 2014, the Department intensively sampled near shore water quality for bacterial indicators. The sampling indicated that fecal coliform levels for all samples were high enough to exceed the National Shellfish Sanitation Program classification criteria for "approved" shellfish classification and a percentage of the samples exceeded the acceptable level for "special restricted" classification. Other indicators also suggested the existence of an ongoing pollution source and not a one-time occurrence.

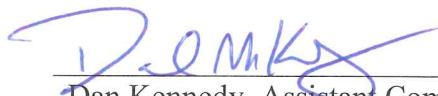
Samples containing the highest levels of E. coli were tested for antibiotic resistance; fifty percent of those samples tested indicated a domestic animal signature while nearly seventy percent indicated a human signature. The weight of the evidence suggests that the compromised sewage holding tanks are creating a public health concern for shellfish consumption. Therefore, the Department calculated a buffer zone using FDA dilution modeling to establish which areas of the waters would be unsafe to harvest shellfish. In determining the extent of the buffer zone, the Department factored in the number and locations of the sewage holding tanks, the tidal flows, and the depth of the water near shore to ensure that the sewage would be sufficiently diluted. Shellfish located within the area of suspended harvest may be unsafe for human consumption.

The suspension of harvest in the above-referenced waters shall take effect immediately and continue until the intermittent pollution episode has ceased and the Department has determined that the public health is not at risk from the consumption of shellfish from the above-referenced waters.

***Delaware Bay – Money Island / Gandy’s Beach / Nantuxent Cove (164 acres)***

All of the waters of the Delaware Bay southwest of Gandy’s Beach and west of Money Island beginning at a point southeast of Gandy’s Beach at latitude 39 degrees 16 minutes 8.4 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 13 minutes 36.8 seconds W., then a line bearing southeast to a point at latitude 39 degrees 16 minutes 4.3 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 13 minutes 34.2 seconds W., then a line bearing southwest to a point 402 feet from the shoreline at latitude 39 degrees 16 minutes 2.6 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 13 minutes 39.9 seconds W., then following the shoreline at 402 feet to a point 402 feet northeast of Money Island at latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 0.4 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 14 minutes 21.2 seconds W., then a line bearing north across the mouth of Nantuxent Creek to a point at latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 5.3 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 14 minutes 21.1 seconds W., then a line bearing northwest across the mouth of Nantuxent Creek to a point at latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 6.4 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 14 minutes 24.0 seconds W., then a line bearing east along the northern shore of Nantuxent Creek to a point at latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 0.80 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 13 minutes 36.3 seconds W., then a line bearing south across the Nantuxent Creek to a point at latitude 39 degrees 16 minutes 58.8 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 13 minutes 37.2 seconds W., then a line bearing west along the southern shore of Nantuxent Creek to a point at latitude 39 degrees 17 minutes 3.6 seconds N., longitude 75 degrees 14 minutes 16.3 seconds W., then a line south and southwest along the shoreline of Money Island around Nantuxent Point, including the unnamed tributary southeast of Nantuxent Point, along the shoreline of Gandy’s Beach and back to the point of origin and terminating.

DATE: 12/10/14



Dan Kennedy, Assistant Commissioner  
Water Resources Management



## Suspension of Harvest for Gandys Beach/Money Island/Nantuxent Cove

