



# PECONIC ESTUARY

THE HEALTH OF OUR ESTUARY IS STRONGLY TIED TO THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

## PECONIC WATERSHED

ESTUARIES: WHERE RIVERS MEET THE SEA

- A watershed is an area of land that drains surface runoff and groundwater into a specific body of water.
- The Peconic Watershed contributes significantly to the local economy and can be used for many recreational activities, such as hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, and more.



### How can you help?

Reduce/eliminate fertilizer use.  
Update septic system/cesspool.  
Educate others!

## STORMWATER POLLUTION

KEEPING OUR WATERS CLEAN

When it rains, pollutants from the land are washed into storm drains. This dirty water, often untreated, travels directly into our local water ways where we work, play, and fish.



## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABS)

EXCESS NITROGEN CAN LEAD TO HABS

- Harmful algal blooms can occur when certain types of algae grow in excess.
- Blooms occur naturally but excess nutrients, mostly from fertilizers and septic systems, can "feed" the algae, resulting in more frequent and intense blooms.
- HABS can shade underwater plants, be toxic to people and animals, and use up oxygen when they die and decay - suffocating marine life and leading to mass fish kill events.
- You can get sick by consuming fish or shellfish from waters with harmful algal blooms
- HABS have negative impacts on our economy, environment, and health!

## SAFETY FIRST

HEALTHY BODY; HEALTHY BAY

If you plan to enjoy recreational activities in the Peconic Estuary, such as fishing or swimming, be smart and be safe by doing your research first!

- ★ Know what areas are closed to fishing or swimming due to HABS and pathogens.
- ★ Follow fishing regulations (see reverse side).
- ★ Leave no trace!

# Before you head out to catch dinner...

...make sure you have the proper permits and know all the rules and regulations!

Each species has its own fishing season, and you are only permitted to keep a certain number of animals per day in a specific size range. Some species, including Atlantic Sturgeon, American Shad, Alewife, and Blueback Herring may never be kept. For a full list of species and their catch limits and restrictions, please visit the NYSDEC website but note that there are separate webpages for shellfish and recreational crab and fish regulations.

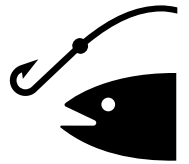
## SHELLFISH

### Bay Scallop

- 2 1/4" long with at least one annual growth ring
- 1 bushel
- Dredges allowed except Sundays, with 36" max. width and no mechanical retrieval methods

### Hard Clam

- 1 " thick
- 100 clams
- No mechanical means.
- Rakes and tongs allowed.
- Teeth: 1" spacing
- Basket: 15/16" spacing



SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY LIMIT	OPEN SEASON
Striped Bass	Slot size: 28" - 35"	1	April 15 - Dec 15
Black Sea Bass	15"	3 7	June 23 - Aug 31 Sept 1 - Dec 31
Winter Flounder	12"	2	April 1 - May 30
Summer Flounder	19"	4	May 4 - Sept 30
Yellowtail Flounder	13"	None	All year
Bluefish	None	3 or 5 if aboard a licensed party/charter boat	All year
Scup (porgy)	9	30	All year
Horseshoe Crab	None	5	All year
Blue Crab	3" Peeler 3.5" Soft 4.5" Hard	50	All year

\*Regulations are subject to change - Updated in September 2020