



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

May 5, 2020

Dear NJ Shellfish Dealers:

In April, FDA and the ISSC issued a significant COVID-19 response recommendation for state shellfish programs across the country.

FDA and ISSC jointly recommended that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, "all firms listed on the ICSSL whose certifications are set to expire on or before June 30, 2020, will be extended until December 31, 2020." The NJDOH Shellfish Project has formally accepted this recommendation. **This means that although all current NJDOH shellfish certifications indicate an expiration date of June 30, 2020, all NJDOH shellfish certifications will now expire on December 31, 2020.** In the interim, your firm will remain on the ICSSL and may continue to operate. You may share this official letter with anyone who questions evidence of your shellfish dealer certification.

The Shellfish Project is not currently conducting on-site inspections. However, we are looking into alternative assessments. We will continue to address complaints and emergencies as required. We will resume on-site inspections in due time and in accordance with Governor Murphy's most current Executive Orders pertaining to social distancing and business operation restrictions.

We will not issue new shellfish certificates with the adjusted expiration date until after your on-site inspection(s) can be conducted. Shellfish certificates with adjusted expiration dates will be mailed to you after an official inspection has been completed.

We appreciate your cooperation. For concerns or questions, contact me at virginia.wheatley@doh.nj.gov or 609-826-4935.

Sincerely,

Virginia Wheatley
Environmental Scientist 4/Shellfish Project Coordinator
Public Health and Food Protection Program