

## What you should keep in mind about the Vp Control Plan:

- **Time**: May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Object**: Control the potential risk of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) infections in humans and protect the quality and safety of shellfish industry in Maine
- **Control species**: American and European oysters (*Crassostrea virginica and Ostrea edulis*) and hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) ONLY
- Control area: All parts of the Damariscotta River
- Prohibited:
  - Recreational harvest prohibited between May and October
  - o Sales from home by harvesters prohibited between May and October
- **Requirements** (all harvesters and primary dealers):
  - o Attend mandatory training annually
  - Submit vibrio harvest plan by March 1<sup>st</sup> to DMR
  - o Keep your shellfish product cool
  - Use ambient air temperature records
  - o Report any violations to Marine Patrol

For full version, please refer to Department of Marine Resources Regulations Chapter 115

## **Tips Box**

- *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp) is a naturally occurring bacteria living in estuaries and ocean throughout the world.
- Shellfish can concentrate high levels of Vp.
- Vp can cause gastroenteritis, wound infections, and septicemia in humans.
- High temperatures can enhance the growth of Vp in shellfish and water.
- Keeping shellfish cool can reduce the chance of Vp infections.

For more information, please visit: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/public\_health/index.htm

If you have any questions, please contact DMR Public Health Bureau: DMRPublicHealthDiv@Maine.gov OR 207-633-9500