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**Resolution #2026-31**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAKING OF SOFT CLAMS AND RAZOR CLAMS IN TRUSTEE WATERS**

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of East Hampton:

**WHEREAS**, Section §213-10 (B) of the Town Code prohibits the taking of shellfish in any manner other than by hand power; and

**WHEREAS**, Section §213-16 (B) of the Town Code prohibits the taking of soft clams between May 1 and August 31 of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Section §213-18 of the Town Code recognizes the Trustees' authority to alter the methods, equipment and permissible dates for the taking of shellfish in such areas as the Trustees shall designate; and

**WHEREAS**, Section §213-8 of the Town Code authorizes the Trustees to issue Special Permits entitling holders to take shellfish from designated areas under certain conditions and as set forth in § 213-18; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baymen of Town of East Hampton have requested that the Trustees authorize the taking of soft clams or razor clams by holders of Commercial Shellfish Permits from Trustee waters by the method known as 'churning' or "powering"; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past the Trustees have received similar requests and been advised that "churning", performed properly, will result in little impact of a harmful and/or serious nature and that it is possible that sets of bivalves in the target area could be advantaged, as the "churning" impacts may tend to reduce predator populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trustees have authorized the taking soft clams by "powering" or "churning" on a number of occasions in the past and those experiences have not been proven to be detrimental to the shellfish population or the environment, yet is beneficial to the economic well- being of those who rely upon town shellfish resources for their livelihoods; and

**WHEREAS**, to limit any harmful impact on other users and to maintain a sustainable fishery, the Trustees shall place a restriction on 'churning' or "powering"

- 1- At any time, within one hundred feet on either side of a road end or other vehicle access point to a harbor or kayak rack area.
- 2- At any time, any area containing eelgrass or widgeon grass, plus areas seeded with oysters within the past three years, clams within the past five years and scallops within the past



**Adopted:**

year, as delineated in seeding maps published by the East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

1. Notwithstanding the permissible dates, and methods for the taking of soft clams set forth in Sections §213-10 (B) and §213-16 (B) of the Town Code, the Trustees hereby designate and approve the following Special Season and Designated Areas for the harvesting of soft clams or razor clams by the method known as “churning” or “powering” between sunrise and sunset, on all Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, during the period commencing **June 29, 2026** and ending **December 31, 2026**, inclusive, in all Trustee waters certified for shell fishing.

**EXCEPT**, within one hundred feet of a road end or other vehicle access trail or kayak rack area and, at any time, in any area containing eel grass or widgeon grass, and oyster gardening location and any area seeded by the East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery with oysters within the past three years, with hard clams within the past five years and with bay scallops within the past year as delineated on seeding maps published by the Town Shellfish Hatchery.

2. Only persons who possess a valid applicable Town of East Hampton Commercial Shellfish License shall be eligible to participate in the special season described in Paragraph 1. The special season shall be subject to such conditions, rules and regulations as the Trustees shall impose thereon.
3. By the authorization of, and under the conditions set forth in § 213-8, Special Permits, the Trustees will issue special permits to otherwise eligible persons to participate in the special season described herein. Pursuant to Section 213-8(B), application for a special permit may be made between **June 15, 2026**, and **June 26, 2026**. Applicants may either request a digital application from the Trustee office or apply in person at the Trustee Office, 267 Bluff Road, Amagansett, NY 11930, between 9:30 am and 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Applicants must produce their valid Town of East Hampton Commercial Shellfish License and a New York State Driver’s License or other New York State Identification and pursuant to § 213-8(B)(2) applicants must, at the time of application, execute a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, that the applicant has not been convicted of a violation of this chapter or of former chapter 125 within one year prior to the application therefor.
4. Anyone found guilty of violating chapter 213 or the former chapter 125 within one year prior to the date of application shall be ineligible for a special permit. Further, the Trustees will strongly recommend to the Court that it revoke the special permit for any special permit holder subsequently convicted of a violation of Section 213 or the former chapter 125.
5. The special season shall authorize the taking of soft clams or razor clams by the technique



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**Trustees**  
of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the  
**Town of East Hampton**

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**Adopted:**

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known as “churning” or “powering” with a propeller and only on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, during daylight hours only and only during the time frames and in the areas specified in paragraph 1. No other **out of season** method of taking is authorized.

6. No permit holder shall take more than two (2) bushels of soft clams or razor clams per day from any or all of the areas described in Paragraph 1. All clams so taken shall be placed in either wire or plastic bushel baskets. No person shall possess any quantity of soft clams and/or razor clams that do not fit flush within said baskets.
7. Any boat containing soft clams and/or razor clams in Trustee harbors on days when “churning” or “powering” is permitted, shall be subject to inspection by the Trustees or the Harbormaster.
8. A record be kept by each special permit holder of the quantity of soft clams and/or razor clams harvested by location and date. This record, which will be confidential and for the purpose of Trustee understanding of the state of the resource only, shall be supplied to the Trustee office at the end of the permit period, either by hard or electronic copy and no later than **December 31, 2026**.
9. All other provisions of Chapter 213, Shellfish, shall remain in effect within the areas designated in this resolution.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall take effect upon the filing of the same with East Hampton Town Clerk and posting as set forth in Section §213-18 of the Town Code and shall expire at sunset on **December 31, 2026**.

**By the Order of the Trustees and the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of East Hampton.**  
**Francis J. Bock, Trustee Clerk**