

# Oyster Aquaculture Harvest Regulations: A Quick Reference Guide for RI Farmers

You **must** keep your oysters **cool** to **avoid Vibrio illnesses**. Keep oysters cool **no matter the season!**

**Start of harvest** is defined as **the time the first oyster breaks the surface of the water**  
You **must** record this time on your tags

## Non-Vibrio Season is October 1st - May 31st

You have **12 hours** from **the start of harvest** to transfer your oysters to the dealer, **but do not let them warm up**

## Vibrio Season is June 1st-September 30th

**Shade is required within 30 minutes of harvest. Sooner if practical**

Ice counts as shade **if it blocks the sun & keeps the oysters from heating up**

Ideal cooling method: ice slurry @ 40-45 °F for 8 minutes **OR** use ice layers

Refrigerator trucks **ARE NOT** an approved cooling method - they do **not** chill warm oysters

**You are required to follow re-submergence protocols:**

Resubmerge **48+ hours** prior to sale if oysters were removed from water for **4-12 hours**

Resubmerge **5+ days** prior to sale if oysters were removed from water for **12+ hours**

**You must** record re-submergence **start** and **end times & segregation/tagging procedures**

*If your lease is **NOT** in a Thermally Impacted Area (TIA) or Designated Temperature Control (DTC) area:*

You have **5 hours** from the **start of harvest** to get your oysters to the dealer, but you should still **do everything you can to keep your oysters cool**

*If your lease **IS** in a Thermally Impacted Area (TIA) or Designated Temperature Control (DTC) area:*

**Harvest early** and get your oysters to the dealer **before 11am** June 1st - Sept 14th & **before 12pm** Sept 14th-Sept 30th

OR

You have **2 hours** from the **start of harvest** to transfer your oysters to the dealer

OR

**Ice** your oysters and transfer to dealer within **5 hours**

## List of Thermally Impacted Areas:

Winnapaug Pond

Quonochontaug Pond

Ninigret Pond

Potter Pond

Point Judith Pond

Island Park Cove

Hog Island Cove

Great Salt Pond