



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2014-09

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1D-1 et seq. to formulate, implement, and enforce policies for the protection of the environment;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner shall have full control and direction of the shellfish industry and resource, and of the protection of shellfish per N.J.S.A. 50:1-5;

WHEREAS, the Sedge Islands Conservation Zone (SICZ) is an ecologically sensitive tidal ecosystem;

WHEREAS, the SICZ is perceived as a valuable resource for the health of the entire Barnegat Bay;

WHEREAS, due to NJDEP conservation efforts, the SICZ attained an extremely high density of shellfish population creating a unique habitat thereby contributing a higher growth rate of shellfish therein as compared to areas outside the SICZ;

WHEREAS, this high density of shellfish population is susceptible to depletion by unlimited shellfish harvesting such as that permitted by commercial activity;

WHEREAS, this dense shellfish population in the SICZ creates on the bottom a hard substrate, which is a physical marine fisheries habitat;

WHEREAS, the SICZ is a prime area for submerged aquatic vegetation;

WHEREAS, the submerged aquatic vegetation is critical as a part of the tidal marsh ecosystem as an essential nursery area for fish and shellfish;

WHEREAS, commercial shellfishing activities of a frequent nature conducted in the SICZ are disruptive and detrimental to the protection of these ecologically sensitive areas;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to my authority as provided above and my duty to protect and conserve the natural resources of the State, commercial shellfish activity, specifically, the taking of more than 150 clams per day by any person, is hereby prohibited within the SICZ.

This Order shall take effective upon signing and shall remain in effect until further Order.

Dated: 7/18/2014

  
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Bob Martin  
Commissioner