

REVERE ADVOCATE

-FREE-

www.advocateneews.net

Free Every Friday

781-286-8500

Friday, June 3, 2016

Mass clam fatality stinks up Revere Beach

September 20, 2018

Tara Vorcino



Hundreds of thousands of baby Atlantic Surf Clams have washed up on Revere Beach this summer, creating the strange odor that smells like — well, rotting clams, that once lived in the surf.

“Today, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation took measures to clean the shores of Revere Beach State Reservation in an environmentally-friendly manner by burying juvenile surf clams that washed up along the beach area,” Department of Recreation and Conservation spokesperson Troy Wall said. “The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is investigating the cause of the clams washing ashore.”

The state parks and environmental agencies are trying to determine the cause of this mass die-off. Late Wednesday afternoon, as waves crashed nearby, bulldozers dug a large trench between the pavilion across from the Markey Memorial Bridge and State Police barracks to dump the clams.

“The smell began in late July, and it gets worse when the tide is low, or when the temperature is high,” said Bruce Berman, a Save the Harbor/Save the Bay spokesperson, an environmental advocacy group. “With the wild and wild weather we’ve been having, some clams are getting washed ashore and dying.”

Berman said Wednesday night that climate change and global warming is likely to blame, but the Department of Marine Fisheries and Wildlife will test the clams to confirm.

He thanked State Rep. Roselee Vincent (D-Revere), who lives along

the beach, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, who declined to comment on scene but has visited the beach three times.

Wall said they are working with the city of Revere’s Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to ensure approval and compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act. The Department of Conservation and Recreation buried the clams that washed up along the beach, Wall added.

Berman, who has never seen anything like this in his 30-year tenure with the organization, said there are equal amounts of live and deceased clams.

“When the clams stay wet, they’re fine,” Berman said. “It was good to see DCR on the beach Wednesday with the bulldozer. They’re trying, and that means a lot. I really appreciate our State Representative’s attention to this, and the state’s.”

Berman said people aren’t allowed to dig for clams along Revere Beach, but added that Atlantic Surf Clams are delicious in chowders. But the answer is coming soon.

“The Division of Marine Fisheries is investigating the incident and collected samples from the beach, which have been sent to an out-of-state laboratory for analysis,” Wall said. “The DMF expects preliminary results in the coming days.”