

**15A NCAC 18A .0615 SHELLFISH COOLING**

- (a) For shellstock that has not been refrigerated prior to processing, shucked meats and in-shell product shall be chilled to an internal temperature of 45°F or less within three hours of shucking or processing.
- (b) For shellstock that has been refrigerated prior to processing, shucked meats and in-shell product shall be chilled to an internal temperature of 45°F or less within four hours after removal from refrigeration.
- (c) If heat shock is used, once shellstock is shucked, the shucked shellfish meats shall be cooled to an internal temperature of 45°F or less within two hours from the time of heat shock.
- (d) Shucked and packed shellfish shall be stored in covered containers at an ambient temperature of 45°F or less or covered in ice.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.2; 143B-289.52;  
Eff. February 1, 1987;  
Amended Eff. April 1, 1997;  
Readopted Eff. April 1, 2024.*