

In May of 2022, the Shellfish Advisory Council (ShAC) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) held a series of four workshops on shellfish co-management that were attended by over 92 participants. These workshops were held in Machias, Ellsworth, and Brunswick, and one meeting was held online. This letter provides an update about the process, status, and priority recommendations that came out of these workshops.

In August 2022, a [report](#) from the workshop was posted on DMR's website and distributed by email to the DMR Public Health email list. At this time, DMR and ShAC members made a comprehensive list of more than 90 recommendations from these workshops, and presented them to the ShAC at their September 2022 meeting. The ShAC then created a Shellfish Management Committee to review these recommendations and complete information on how these ideas would be addressed, who would work on them, and to compile any existing resources on these topics.

The Committee met monthly from October 2022 through February 2023 to complete this table of recommendations. The ShAC reviewed the progress at their December meeting, and there were opportunities for public comment at this meeting and at Shellfish Focus Day at the Maine Fishermen's Forum on March 2, 2023.

At the [March 2023 ShAC meeting](#), members participated in a polling exercise to prioritize the recommendations where the State had a role, of which there were approximately 70 items. Members of the ShAC identified 18 recommendations across multiple categories as the top priorities. The Committee met in April to review the results of the prioritization process, and plans to propose to the full ShAC that these 18 priorities are added to the work plan, to be addressed a few at a time. Once this initial list is completed, the ShAC will look at the remainder of the list, and review priorities again. The list is attached to the email in an Excel spreadsheet.

At each ShAC meeting, including the next meeting on [June 23 in Ellsworth](#), members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on this process and the recommendations. For reference, all final ShAC meeting minutes are posted on DMR's website.

In addition, the DMR Nearshore Marine Resources Program has already planned dates for regional meetings next fall. Information about these meetings is included on the next page.

Regards,

Shellfish Management Committee:

*Amanda Lyons, Jessica Joyce, Lewis Pinkham, Marissa McMahan, Joanie McDonald, Kevin Brodie, Lori Howell (ShAC members); Kohl Kanwit, Will Fearn, and Mickenzie Breton (DMR Staff); and Bridie McGreavy, Mike Thalhauser, and Chris Petersen (members of the public)*

DMR Public Health will be holding three regional meetings in fall of 2023. The goal of these meetings is to provide an in-person, accessible, and interactive opportunity for you to engage with the DMR Bureau of Public Health and local shellfish community members to build upon shared knowledge.

- Southern - Tue, Nov 14 at 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - [Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick](#)
- Eastern - Mon, Nov 20 at 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM - [UMaine Reynold Center, Machias](#)
- Central - Mon, Dec 4 at 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - [Bucksport Town Hall, Bucksport](#)