

**Shellfish Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2024, from 11:00 AM - 02:00 PM**  
**DMR Augusta Room 118**  
**Virtual Meeting via [Microsoft Teams](#)**

Call to order – **Jessica Joyce** **11:03-11:04**

Roll call – **William Fearn** **11:04-11:05**  
**All Council Members present**

Adoption of minutes from last meeting – **Jessica Joyce** **11:06-11:06**  
**Minutes were adopted with no comment**

ShAC seat nominations – **Jessica Joyce** **11:12-11:25**

- Wholesale Dealer Eastern Maine
  - Nominee named (Mike Danforth seat replacement)
    - The Chair and Co-Chair contacted most dealers in Downeast Maine, but no one has accepted. The Council is asked to think of additional nominees. Lewis offered to reconnect with Maine Shellfish, and Jessica offered to reach back out to a few shops she hadn't heard back from.
    - If a seat member can't be found, we do have the option to move the geographic location but that is not our preference.
- Municipal Official Eastern Maine
  - Nominee named (Kevin Brody seat replacement)
    - Mike Pinkham – Mike spoke about his nomination and reviewed his background.
    - A vote was taken, and Mike Pinkham was nominated.
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Economic Impact Study – **Kanae Tokunaga and Ben Cotton** **11:26-11:50**

The Gulf of Maine Research Institute shared their findings that they compiled using community resources including DMR compiled landing data. The group discussed the types of economic impacts and market forces of shellfish harvesting. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute is interested in feedback from SHAC and harvesters to capture both timescale and knowledge of the groups lived experiences.

Overboard Discharge update – **Brian Kavanah** of the DEP **11:51-12:04**

The group discussed updates and plans for the legislative session. The DEP is working to revise the laws to facilitate the removal of more Overboard Discharges (OBDs). They want to utilize grant funds to remove targeted OBDs. They will work with DMR to prioritize selected areas using these funds. The proposed agency bill, currently under review, would require all property sales to disclose OBDs and their required alternative evaluation process within the sales process. There is also language that would change income limits to make grant funds available for septic upgrades. Those eligible can currently get a reimbursement for removal and upgrades, but need to provide upfront funding, which can be up to \$50K. The bill proposed language to shift away from reimbursements and provide upfront payments. They are also looking at variances to tech setbacks, splitting the flows leach fields, etc. This law would also allow DMR the option to have a second site evaluator reviewing the alternatives to ensure maximum benefits to all parties.

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/overboard-discharges>

Overboard Discharge assistance page – **Will Fearn**

**12:30-12:40**

The OBD page of the DMR website found under Fisheries – Shellfish was reviewed. If you would like more information on this topic visit: [www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/overboard-discharges](https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/overboard-discharges)

Sea Level Rise and Storm Impacts on Mudflats – **Marissa McMahan**

**12:15-12:24**

Marissa McMahan presented on preliminary research by (Manomet Conservation Science) on the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on the mud flats.

Municipal Marine Resource Management Training – **Will Fearn**

**12:51-1:07**

William Fearn reviewed the three training opportunities that we had in July and the future of these trainings. We will consider changes to the program, based on the survey results that DMR received. The group discussed venue/virtual options and styles for future meetings. [Municipal Marine Resource Management Training Materials](#)

Work plan

**1:07-01:38**

1. Retail Rules Committee: Streamlining Direct to Consumer Sales – **Jordan Kramer and Kohl Kanwit** gave an update on the retail rules committee. Jordan Kramer reviewed the committee's direct to consumer sales improvements they are hoping to make. The vote passed 10 to 1 on a motion to share the SHAC approval with the Commissioner.
2. Shellfish Focus Day – **Jessica Joyce/Kohl Kanwit**  
Ms. Joyce and Ms. Kanwit talked about the plans for Shellfish Focus Day. The SHAC will put together a presentation for the event.
3. Water Quality (Committee Update) – **Jessica Joyce**  
The group discussed this previously in the meeting.
4. MSCW Training (Committee Update) – **William Fearn**  
William Fearn reviewed the MSCW committee findings and plans for future trainings.
5. Increasing/incentivizing shore access through private property – **Jessica Joyce**  
Ms. Joyce discussed the Private for Public podcast that Inland Fish and Wildlife hosts, and potentially covering harvester access stories. There is outreach planned for working waterfront landowners to discuss eligibility in the new tax deductions available in 2025.  
There was discussion about current court cases pertaining to intertidal ownership.
6. Communication between DMR and Municipalities – **William Fearn** - Regional Meetings have been planned and a Public Notice will be released with these dates, times and locations. SHAC Council attendance is advised. The future of Regional Meeting integration into the SHAC's purview was discussed.

7. Shellfish Economic Study – The group discussed this previously in the session

Public input – **Open floor**

**01:54-01:54**

Due to the incident involving PFAS in Brunswick, the group discussed the possible option of government assistance for Harvesters due to economic impact of the closures.

Council ruled to adjourn the meeting

Adjourn

**2:04**