

Shellfish Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
November 19, 2024, from 11:00 AM - 02:00 PM
Moore Community Center, Ellsworth
Virtual Meeting via [Microsoft Teams](#)

Call to order – **Jessica Joyce** **11:01-11:02**

Roll call – **William Fearn** **11:02-11:04**

[All members were in attendance aside from Jordan Kramer and Bobbie Bernier who were unable to attend this meeting.](#)

Adoption of minutes from last meeting – **Jessica Joyce** **11:04-11:10**

[Minutes were adopted with no comment](#)

ShAC seat appointments – **Jessica Joyce** **11:05-11:07**

- **Bobbie Bernier - Wholesale Dealer Eastern Maine**
 - [Ms. Bernier accepted nomination and was appointed by the Commissioner.](#)
 - [All ShAC seats are currently filled](#)

Growing area evaluations, water quality reviews, and reclassification – **David Miller** **11:07-11:29**

- [David Miller answered a list of questions that were provided by members of the public. During the discussion, David Miller provided information on Sanitary Surveys, Growing Area Surveys, Growing Area Evaluations, FDA Growing Area Evaluations, and who are DMR's Certified Sanitary Survey Officers. Questions were fielded in person and via Microsoft Teams.](#)

Regional Shellfish Meetings – **Kohl Kanwit** **11:29-11:48**

- [Kohl Kanwit re-introduced an idea that ShAC sponsor the regional shellfish meetings, as DMR has seen a decrease in attendance over the two years that these meetings have taken place. DMR is concerned that the meetings are not providing what the constituents are looking for, as stated in the 2022 Municipal Shellfish Management meetings. It was proposed that the ShAC consider putting this item on the 2025 Quarter 1 meeting, allowing time to consider the third round of meetings occurring in December 2024. The idea was broadly supported by council members and participants. Some ideas were offered by attendees, including using the Shellfish Focus Day, changing agendas, changing locations, adding a virtual component, and holding bi-annual meetings. Jessica Joyce moved to put this on the agenda for the Q1 ShAC meeting.](#)

Supporting Modern Shellfish Management – **Kohl Kanwit** **11:48-12:02**

- [Kohl Kanwit gave an overview of statute and rules for municipal shellfish management programs, and the different steps necessary to change statute \(Legislature\) and regulation \(DMR process\). The laws and rules were originally designed to manage soft-shell clams and have periodically been updated to reflect the current practices but lack clarity, uniformity and modernization. Kohl requested that ShAC look at the statutes and regulations to assist in modernizing the language to assist in multi-species management across all municipal programs. A motion was made to put the suggestion on the work plan for the next meeting. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.](#)

1. **Retail Rules Committee: Streamlining Direct to Consumer Sales – Jordan Kramer (Absent) Kohl Kanwit**
gave an update on the retail rules committee and next steps in the process. The proposal is going to the current legislative session. The ShAC discussed drafting and sending out a vote for the proposal prior to the next ShAC meeting.
2. **Shellfish Focus Day – Jessica Joyce/Kohl Kanwit**
Jessica Joyce provided an update on an abstract for a panel discussion for the Shellfish Focus Day.
3. **Water Quality (Committee Update) – Jessica Joyce**
Ms. Joyce discussed an update on DEP's OBD bill. The draft is still with the revisors.
4. **MSCW Training (Committee Update) – William Fearn**
William Fearn gave an update on the prioritization for the Committee and assigning roles within the committee. Dates were set for the MSCW Training (March 26 & 27, 2025). Recertification occurs on the 1st day (March 26, 2025 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm). Notifications will be sent via GovDelivery and direct email. There was a request from the ShAC to make recertification remote.
5. **Increasing/incentivizing shore access through private property – Jessica Joyce**
Jessica Joyce and Lewis Pinkham provided an update on how to qualify for the Working Waterfront Tax deductions and more incentives available to shellfish harvesters. Jessica Joyce also discussed the Private for Public podcast that Inland Fish and Wildlife hosts, and potentially covering harvester access stories. Jessica Joyce put out requests for hosts who may be willing to share their stories.
6. **Communication between DMR and Municipalities**
William Fearn provided an overview and update of the communications and notices that DMR has been streamlining to municipalities. The primary methods of distributions include GovDelivery, DMR staff, website postings, and third-party affiliates. The group discussed other options for distributing important information to ensure maximum municipal participation. William Fearn added that DMR hosted a table at the Maine Municipal Association annual conference and plans to continue this additional route of communication with municipalities.
7. **Shellfish Economic Study**
Kanae Tokunaga and Ben Cotton of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute provided an update on The Economic Impact and Market Forces of Shellfish Harvesting study. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute would like feedback from ShAC on what factors are of the most interest (environmental, macroeconomic, and other socioeconomical factors) to the group.
8. **Priorities Review**
Jessica Joyce discussed the ShAC priorities list generated by the 2022 Municipal Shellfish Management meetings and what the group's next priorities should be. The group discussed adding "softshell clam hatchery seed availability for conservation projects" to the group's priorities list. A discussion on adding other species to this task occurred and quahogs and oysters were added to this

task. Jessica Joyce made a motion to adopt this to the priorities for the group. The motion was unanimously passed. The group discussed reviewing priorities on an annual basis.

Public input – Open floor

01:22-01:55

- A public comment was made regarding the release of landings numbers and asking if they could be released in the summer months or around May or June.
- A question was asked about the requirements required of the municipality when making changes to license availability.
- A public comment was made requesting Long Term Monitoring data be made accessible when it is available.
- Public input was submitted asking DMR to require more site-specific information about landings data, in addition a request was made to move Shellfish Harvesters to swipe card reporting.
- The group discussed a cultchless permit proposal that would eliminate the cultchless permit. In lieu of the permit, potential poaching from an aquaculture lease site would be handled via other tools available to Marine Patrol.

Other business

01:55-01:58

- The group discussed a meeting held in Cherryfield regarding land trusts and harvesters' access to the shore. There was a diverse group of interested persons that are looking to work with land trust groups to create more access points to the shoreline.

Adjourn

01:59