

Steuben Shellfish Conservation Committee Intertidal Shellfish Management Plan

This document is written in accordance with 12 M.R.S. §6671 and DMR Regulation Chapter 7.70.

The ultimate goal of this plan is to successfully resolve conflicts with other resource-user groups through the encouragement of communication and coordination between the SSCC conservation program, procedures for enforcement and processes at the municipal level. Once these “specified” areas are approved, the defined areas will be posted online at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/smd/index.htm> or may be obtained by writing the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Area Biologist Supervisor, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008.

An Intertidal Mussel Harvest permit, issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources, is required before mussels can be harvested by drag or dredge in the areas specified.

Procedures: The details of this document are intended to be used and amended as appropriate for each mussel harvest application.

While it is certainly not a condition to obtaining an Intertidal Mussel Harvest permit, the SSCC would welcome and encourage applicants to communicate with the SSCC of their intent prior to submitting an application.

- A. Prior to issuance of an Intertidal Mussel Harvest permit, the applicant shall submit their permit application to, and consult with, the SSCC and shall obtain the SSCC recommendation in writing. The permit application and SSCC recommendation must be provided to the Department for permit consideration, in accordance with 12 M.R.S. §6671(3)(A)(5).
- B. Persons may apply in writing to the Department, the contact information is: Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Area Biologist Supervisor, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575-0008; Telephone: (207)624-6550; Fax: (207)624-6024; or may obtain an application online at: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/crd/smd/index.htm>.
- C. The completed application must be submitted in person to the Steuben Town Office, 294 US Route 1, Steuben, ME 04680; Telephone: (207)546-7209. Upon receipt of an application presented in accordance with Chapter 7.70(2), the SSCC shall provide its recommendation to the applicant within 21 days of the date of receipt of the application.
- D. A meeting between the applicant and SSCC will be scheduled to take place. During the meeting, the applicant and SSCC members will review any and all information in the application.

- E. Applications will be evaluated by SSCC with intent to achieve the goals of the SSCC for shellfish under the jurisdiction of SSCC. The SSCC will provide, in writing, recommendations to the applicant.
- F. The SSCC would like to request that the Steuben Shellfish Warden be allowed to periodically observe aboard permitted vessels during harvest activity.

Enforcement: The specified areas will be enforced by the Steuben Shellfish Warden, Michael Pinkham (546-5034) and Harbor Master Elwood Pinkham (546-2649) who is also a certified shellfish warden for the town of Steuben serving on a volunteer basis. Both are on an on-call basis but Michael Pinkham is allocated 20 hours weekly. The Town Office phone is 546-7209.

Compliance: In accordance with DMR Regulation Chapter 7.70(3): Any failure to comply with permit conditions shall be grounds for the Department of Marine Resources to refuse future permit applications.

Steuben Intertidal Mussel Limitation Areas

The Steuben Shellfish Conservation Committee (SSCC) has specified the following areas of the intertidal zone to be limited for mussel harvesting by drag, in accordance with 12 M.R.S.A. §6671.

The listed areas are either historic or current important shellfish producing areas within the jurisdiction of the SSCC. The SSCC has an active management program which currently includes conservation closure rotations as well as enhancement activities such as brushing and reseeded. It is the hope of the SSCC that these measures will assist in building an effective and sustainable clam management program.

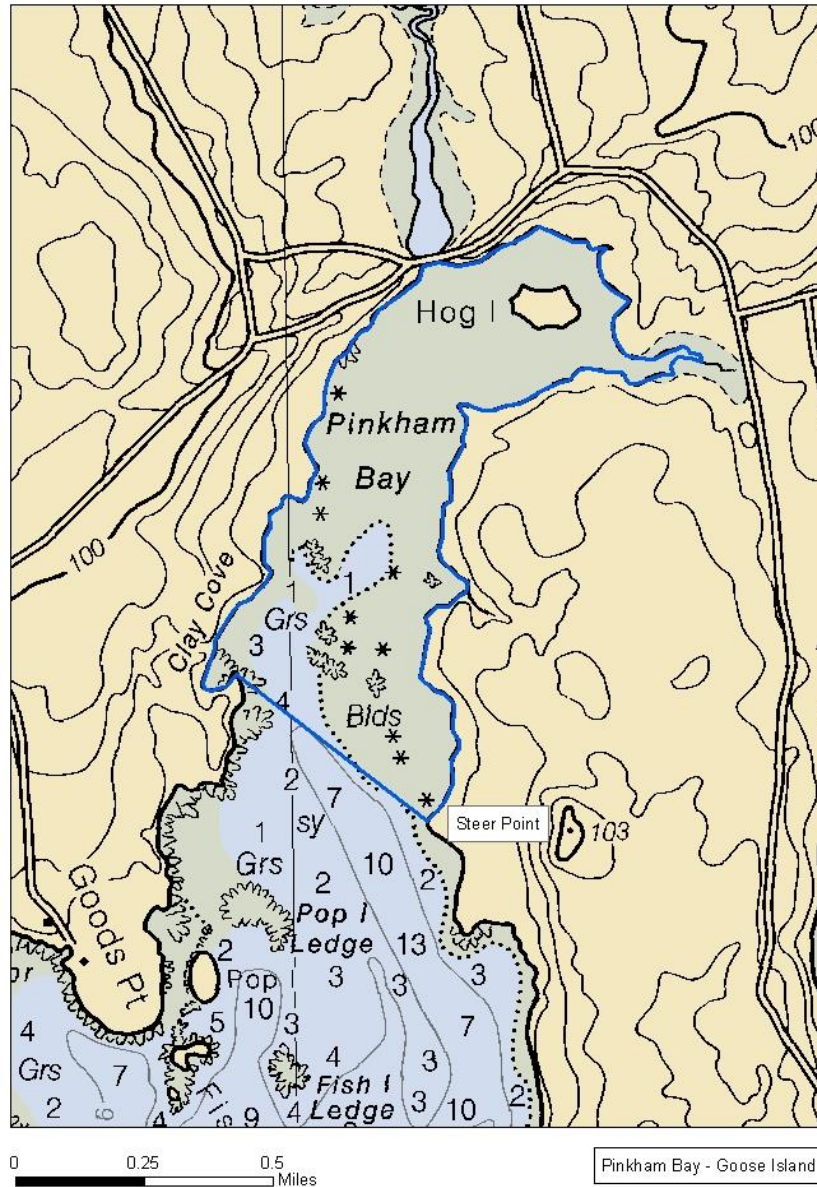
The following specified areas are utilized by other commercial industries, which can create conflict for access to/use of the intertidal resources. The SSCC is charged with the responsibility to actively and vigorously pursue a management program. Toward that end, the SSCC is submitting the following plan for the Commissioner's approval. An approved plan will become part of and enhance the efforts of the Steuben shellfish conservation program.

1. Pinkham Bay – Goose Island: Inside and north of a line from the point on the east side of Clay Cove to Steer Point on the east side of Pinkham Bay. This area is inclusive of Goose Island.
2. Joy Bay: East of a line from Baker Point, south to the northernmost point of Rogers Point.

Enforcement: The SSCC Shellfish Warden and Harbor Master have been equipped with all the necessary tools to enforce this plan. Both have strong knowledge of the area; there are public access points available, and they have obtained permission to enter private access points that will allow for sufficient visual observations to enforce the specified areas.

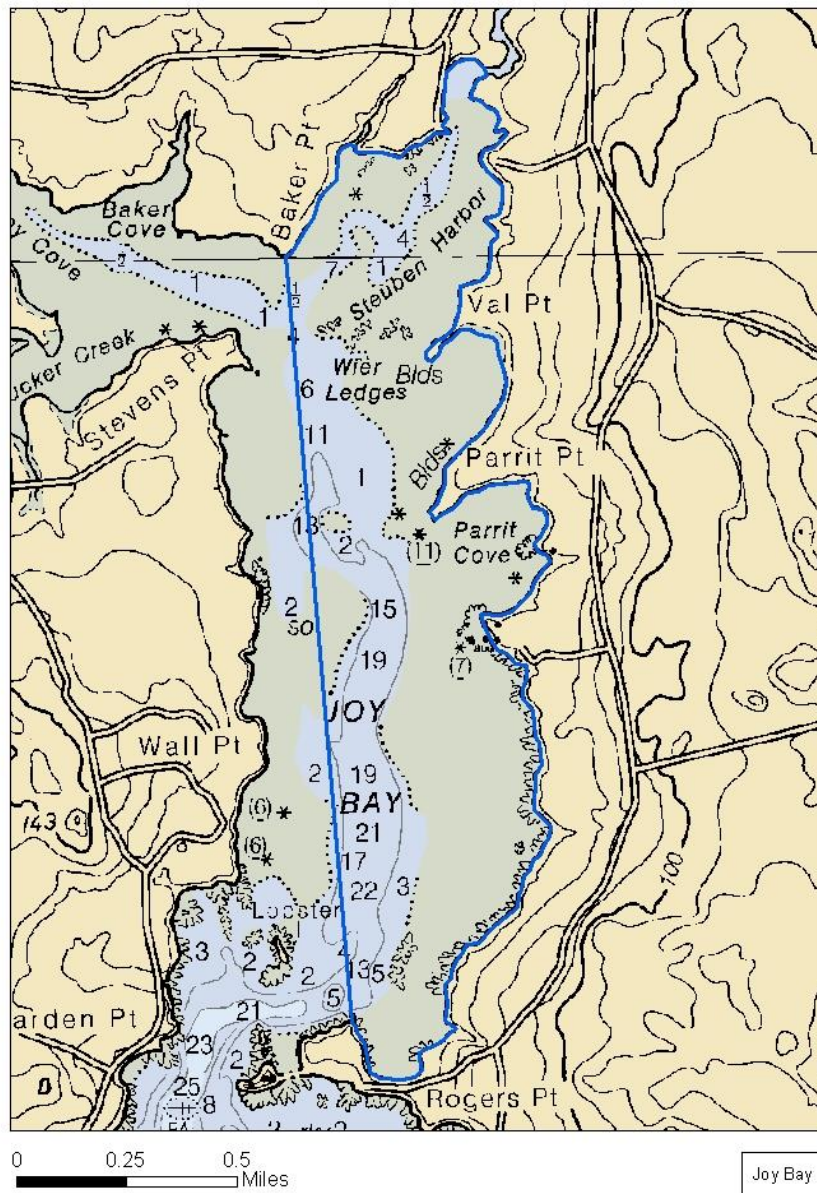
Maps and Descriptions

Steuben Intertidal Mussel Plan Map 1



Pinkham Bay: Goose Island, within Pinkham Bay, is our seed bed and our most reliable clam area year-round. Mussel beds line the channel bank and are dug regularly.

Steuben Intertidal Mussel Plan Map 2



Joy Bay: Joy Bay with its extensive soft mud coves surrounded by channels with mussel beds has always provided reliable spring and summer clamming. During the fall and winter only by boat can one access the exposed mussel beds for the best winter digging in the town of Steuben. The northern end of the bay is closed for conservation and pollution.