

Shellfish Management Plan

Foor

Blue Hill

The Town of Blue Hill submits the following information as required by DMR Regulations Chapter 7.20, which states that the Shellfish Management Plan shall consist of:

- A. A written statement of goals and objectives the municipality plans to achieve as a result of its conservation program
- B. A description of the various conservation measures the municipality intends to employ to reach those goals.

Statement of Management Goals and Objectives

The management plan goal for the Town of Blue Hill is to ensure the protection of the soft-shell clam (*mya arenaria*) resources within its limits by limiting licenses with an emphasis on commercial harvest.

The objective is to ensure optimum utilization of the soft shell clam resources within its limits.

Description of Conservation Measures

The Shellfish Conservation Committee will ensure the protection and optimum utilization of the soft-shell clam resource (*mya arenaria*) by the following measures, but are not limited to:

- Licensing
- Limited number of shellfish harvesters
- Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted
- Limiting the size of clams taken
- Limiting the amount of clams taken by a harvester daily

Shellfish licenses, except for resident commercial, are limited to protect the resource and maximise individual harvest. License numbers are determined by harvester input and demand. The Town Clerk shall issue licenses to residents and nonresidents as allocated from March 1 and until May31st after which licenses shall be without regard to residency on a first come, first served basis or by lottery.

Opening and closing Flats:

The Board of Selectmen and the Shellfish Conservation Committee, upon the approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, may open or close areas for shellfish harvest.

Minimum Legal Size of Soft-Shell Clams:

It is unlawful for any person to possess soft-shell clams within the municipality which are less than two (2) inches in the longest diameter (with the exception that they comprise less than 10% of any lot).