

# **SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**for**

**Town of Bremen, Maine 04551**

The Town of Bremen Maine 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.

## **A. Statement of Management Goals and Objectives**

It is the goal of Bremen's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of softshell clams, quahogs, European oysters and American oysters. We will emphasize commercial harvest by limiting recreational harvest through sale of licenses. We will conduct enhancement activities to increase softshell clam and quahog resources when deemed appropriate and viable and will use conservation closures, as well, to promote regeneration of shell stock levels.

## **B. Description of Conservation Measures**

We will maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses. Recommendations for license numbers will be based on population resource surveys done in conjunction with The DMR regional scientist, Hannah Annis. DMR has traditionally advised the Committee on harvester number vs. Shellfish population data, and we will continue to use this data. In addition, The Shellfish Committee will work with our Nearshore Marine Resource Scientist to access DMR landings data to make this determination, as well.

The Committee will continue to work with Dr. Brian Beal and DEI to gather recruitment data of softshell clams to determine overall health of the clam flats and harvest areas to better predict and plan for changes to the overall conditions of the areas.

We will continue to closely monitor water quality in our clam and shellfish harvesting areas as we have in the past. This effort is in conjunction with the DMR water quality division, the Bremen Code Enforcement Officer, Coastal Rivers Conservancy (a local nonprofit), the harvesters, the riparian landowners, and at times with the consultancy of a third-party expert.

The Shellfish Conservation Committee, in coordination with the Town, will undertake the services of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department to provide a Town Shellfish Warden to protect the resource from poaching and unlicensed harvest of its shellfish resource.

WE PD 2/18/25

June 2/18/25