

Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation

Shellfish Management Plan

For the Municipalities of

**Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine,
Sorrento, Sullivan, and Trenton**

As adopted in 2024



Mission Statement: These towns will act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well-being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to ensure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those who make their living on the tide.

Frenchman Bay Region Shellfish Conservation Program submits the following information as required by DMR Regulations Chapter 7.20, which states that the Shellfish Management Plan consist of --

- A. A written statement of goals and objectives the municipality* intends 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

To manage Shellfish resources in the Frenchman Bay Region Area* in order to provide an income to commercial harvesters by way of limiting non-resident licensing, open and closing of flats, and minimizing the size of shellfish.

Description of Conservation Measures

1 – Limiting Non-Resident Commercial Licensing

The Town of Franklin, acting as the Administrative Municipality shall issue licenses as allocated. On the first day of license sales, the total number of non-resident commercial licenses shall be issued in accordance with DMR Regulations 7.4 Section 1. Thereafter, non-resident licenses will be issued in accordance with the 10% rule as described in 12 MRSA § 6671 and DMR Regulations Chapter 7.

2 – Opening and Closing Flats

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

3 – Minimizing Size of Shellfish

It is unlawful for any person to possess softshell clams within the Frenchman Bay Region Area, which are less than two (2) inches in the longest diameter (with the exception that they comprise less than 10% of any lot). The FBRSP shall refer to the current DMR minimum size for other Shellfish species.

Definitions

Frenchman Bay Region Area – For the purpose of this management plan, municipality shall mean the municipalities of Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan, and Trenton.

Municipality – For the purpose of this management plan, municipality shall mean the municipalities of Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan, and Trenton.

Shellfish Species -- Shellfish, Clams, and Intertidal Shellfish Resources

For the purpose of this management plan, the words "shellfish", "clams", and "intertidal shellfish resources" mean soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*), quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), razor clams (*Ensis directus*), American/eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), and hen clams (*Spisula solidissima*).