

Shellfish Management Plan
for
Town of Jonesboro, ME

The Town of Jonesboro 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 [**Town of Jonesboro**] plans to achieve as a result of its conservation program
- B. A description of the various conservation measures the municipality [**Town of Jonesboro**] intends to employ to reach those goals.

Statement of Management Goals and Objectives

- A. Maintain sustainable populations of harvestable shellfish, including soft shell clams, within the intertidal.
- B. We will emphasize maximizing the opportunity to our commercial non-resident and resident harvesters up to five(5) bushel limit per tide to prevent overharvesting in open flats.
 - a. Increasing harvestable soft shell clams to remove current limit or potential limit.
- C. Open up closed flats that are currently closed and maintain current water quality in open areas
 - a. Working to improve water quality of the whole Chandler River.
 - b. Working with partners to stay on top of any potential sources of pollution to open flats and protect current open flats..
 - c. Remediating any known bad sewers or suspected points of pollution sources.
- D. Maintaining access to the flats while seeking opportunity to increase accessibility.
- E. Have a renewable natural resource(s) including soft-shell clams for current and future generations of Jonesboro Residents at a commercial level.

Description of Conservation Measures:

- Provide unlimited commercial license for the Town of Jonesboro's residents.
- Appoint a Shellfish Management Manager.
- Add or change regulations to any over harvested species in our ordinance, soft-shell clams, either through town-wide limits to harvest or through conservation closures, in consultation with DMR area biologists, Jonesboro Selectmen, Town shellfish Warden and Shellfish Management Manager.
- Continue to improve re-population by re-seeding from wild or hatchery stock.
- Use protection and seed collecting with brushing, domes, and the introduction of green crab traps in effort to reduce predators in re-seeded areas and various other places.
- Concentrate on areas where the reproduction rates of legal harvestable soft shell clams are the highest.
- Working with neighboring town(s) and local shoreland owners to ensure access to town intertidal zones.

- Continue to improve access to information for harvesters, underline current regulations, conservation courses, and transitory public health closures of certain areas due to possible contamination of shellfish relating to onshore pollutants, harmful algal blooms, and/or large rainfall events.
- Concentrate on water quality to open more flats for commercial and recreational harvesters by pro-actively staying on top of Sanitary Survey reports and proposed seasonal CA.
- Continue having water samples monthly taken by Erick Schaefer and follow recommendations of closures.
- Pro-actively use dye-packs on sewers near streams and rivers that give hot spots in sanitary surveys.
- Surveying each clam producing area at least once (1) each three (3) years to establish size distribution and density and annually estimating the status of the Town's shellfish resources.
- Providing an incentive motivation for Jonesboro commercial licenses holders to re-populate by re-seeding from wild or hatchery stock.
- Restrict and enforce no headlighting/spotlight/ or any non-natural light source usage from **June 1 to September 31** with a grace period of one (1) hour before dawn and one (1) hour after dusk to selected flats and coves on a rotation schedule.
- Use seasonal conservation closures to rotate flats that are being harvested upon.
- Advocate for continued preservation and expansion of working waterfront and shore access within the town governance structure, due to both gentrification and shoreline erosion due to sea level rise, including both for a range of recreational and commercial use, both generally and specifically as input into the town comprehensive plan.

Footnotes:

Harvestable is referring to the legal size the State of Maine sets for legal, marketable soft shell clams.

Shellfish Management Manager would inform and provide reports to the town's clam committee, town officers, and town diggers. The person should be able to offer plans to maintain or improve populations of harvestable shellfish inside the town.

Surveys to be done in Spring and Fall seasons to determine flats conservation measures not limited to but includes: the need to be closed/open; limit harvested; re-seed; or brushed. Adds a level of data of natural marine resources the town has in case of an outside element or event that causes short/long term damages to the resource.

The restrictions of commercial harvest between the June 1 to September 31 under conservation measures are for the following purposes: allow soft shell clams to release sperm and eggs into the water when water temperatures is typically 50 F increasing natural seed into the water; increase accessibility livelihood through minor rule(s) to bridge private shoreland holders and harvesters; and limit the timeframe poachers have inside town's flats.

The intertidal area, also known as the foreshore or littoral zone, is the area between the high and low tide marks, where land and sea meet.