



Shellfish Advisory Council

MUNICIPAL MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

JULY 2024

Purpose of the ShAC

- ▶ Make recommendations to the Commissioner and the Legislature:
 - ▶ How to best utilize state agencies, municipal governments, the shellfish industry and citizen groups to make improvements to and maintain the quality of the State's coastal waters and to expedite the opening of closed shellfish flats; and
 - ▶ Matters of interest to the State's shellfish industry, including, but not limited to, shellfish resource management, public health protection and the activities and recommendations of a multistate organization that promotes shellfish sanitation.
- ▶ The council is responsible for bringing forward to the commissioner matters of concern to the shellfish industry and for assisting the commissioner with the dissemination of information to members of the shellfish industry.

Membership Composition

- ▶ Four commercial shellfish license holders
- ▶ Two shellfish aquaculture lease holders
- ▶ One municipal official involved in pollution permitting or mitigation
- ▶ Two licensed wholesale seafood dealers
 - ▶ One with a sanitation certificate
- ▶ One public member with knowledge of and interest in water quality
- ▶ Two municipal shellfish officials (e.g., warden or committee member)
- ▶ One member who has a shellfish depuration certificate
- ▶ One member with knowledge of biological science (min. Bachelors)

Bylaws - Committees

- ▶ Article V – “The Chair may form committees to address specific topics. Each committee shall consist of at least two Shellfish Advisory Council members and may include members of the public or government agencies...”
- ▶ Current committees include:
 - ▶ Water quality
 - ▶ Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden Training
 - ▶ Retail Rules Committee

How towns can get involved

- ▶ Attend quarterly meetings (in-person or online)
 - ▶ Email issues or recommendation to the Chair, Vice Chair, or DMR
 - ▶ Share DMR emails with the Shellfish/Marine Resource Commission
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- ▶ <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/about-us/councils/shellfish-advisory-council>

Recent Focus Areas

- ▶ Water quality – closed areas due to OBDs and failing septic systems
 - ▶ DEP regulatory changes
- ▶ Preserving harvester access through private property
 - ▶ Current Land Use – Working Waterfront Program/LD 2162
- ▶ Economic valuation of the soft-shell and quahog fisheries
 - ▶ DMR contract with GMRI (Dr. Kanae Tokunaga)
- ▶ Direct to consumer sales
 - ▶ Proposed regulatory changes to allow vehicles as point of sale
- ▶ Shellfish Focus Day at the Maine Fishermen's Forum

EPA Closing America's Waster Gap Technical Assistance Program

- ▶ Conduct an assessment of the community's wastewater needs.
- ▶ Evaluate the feasibility of wastewater solutions, including performing a rate study.
- ▶ Identify funding options, such as grants and financing.
- ▶ Help with completing the preliminary engineering and paperwork requirements for funding applications.
- ▶ Assist community/county with establishing an ordinance for wastewater management.
- ▶ Request no-cost assistance by completing the WaterTA request form: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form> or email SepticHelp@epa.gov

Questions?

- ▶ For more information:
 - ▶ Chair: Jessica Gribbon Joyce – Jessica@tidalbayconsulting.com
 - ▶ Vice-Chair: Lewis Pinkham - milbridgetown@gmail.com