

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for
OGUNQUIT

Ogunquit 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 [Required]

Goals:

- *To make the shellfish resource more available to harvesters by improving water quality*

Objectives:

- *Licensing: limited licensing and limited dig days to maximize individual harvest*
- *Economic: emphasize recreational harvest*
- *Conservation: use closures and harvest limits to maintain resource levels*

It is the goal of Ogunquit's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting dig days for the harvesting of softshell clams. We will conduct enhancement activities to increase softshell clam resources and will use closures to maintain softshell clams.

Description of Conservation Measures [REQUIRED]

Examples of conservation measures include, but are not limited to:

- *Limit the number of recreational harvesters*
- *Restrict the times and areas of harvest (conservation closures)*
- *Limit the amount of harvest per day for recreational harvesters*
- *Use predator protection through netting, trapping, etc.*
- *Reseeding from wild or hatchery stock*
- *Populations surveys of flats to determine resource abundance*
- *We will continue our aggressive reseed program and are installing nets over seed clams. Due to a change in the availability of seed clams, we now are reseed in July.*
- *We will maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses. Population surveys will be carried out by members of the Shellfish Committee.*
- *We will enhance the softshell clam resource by seeding with softshell clam seed purchased from the Downeast Institute. The seeding will happen in June or July, depending on seed availability, and will be completed by Shellfish Committee Members, as well as by volunteers. Seed will be protected by netting until the following November, and the flat will be closed to harvest until 50% of the resource has reached market size. This effort will be evaluated through annual resource population surveys from the spring following the seeding effort until 50% of the resource has reached market size.*