

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for
Town of Phippsburg

Phippsburg 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

Goals:

- *To conserve the shellfish resources in the Town of Phippsburg in order to provide an income to commercial harvesters.*
- *To make the shellfish resource more available to harvesters by monitoring and improving water quality when possible.*

Objectives:

- *Licensing: limit commercial licenses to maximize individual harvest.*
- *Economic: emphasize commercial harvest while allowing recreational access.*
- *Conservation: conduct enhancement activities to increase resources.*

Example:

*It is the goal of Phippsburg's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*), quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), razor clams (*Ensis Directus*), Atlantic surf clams (Hen Clams-*Spisula solidissima*, American (*Crassostrea Virginica*) oysters and European (*Ostrea Edulis*) oysters. We will emphasize commercial harvest by limiting recreational harvest. We will conduct enhancement activities to increase softshell clam and quahog resources and will use closures to maintain surf clam and razor clam resources.*

The Town will look to amend its license numbers in the future to limit the amount of issued recreational licenses to both protect the resources on Phippsburg's flats while also allowing for maximum commercial harvests. The Town has reduced commercial license allotments in recent years and is in the process of identifying the need for recreational license allotments in the future. The Town has consistently undersold its allotment of recreational licenses over recent years.

Description of Conservation Measures

- *Limit the number of commercial and recreational harvesters by evaluating license allotments annually including reductions in recreational license allotment.*
- *Restriction of night harvesting from April 1st-October 31st.*
- *Limit the amount of harvest per day for recreational harvesters (One peck)*
- *Reseeding from wild or hatchery stock annually.*
- *Populations surveys of flats to determine resource abundance annually.*
- *Water quality testing and improvement. Addressing point source pollution when found.*

Examples:

- *We will maximize individual harvest by limiting commercial and recreational licenses. Recommendations for license numbers will be based on population resource surveys done at four flats on a rotational basis (two flats per year), and on DMR landings data from Phippsburg over the previous five years. Population surveys will be carried out by members of the Shellfish Commission and by license-holders in exchange for conservation credits. The Shellfish Commission will work with our Nearshore Marine Resource Scientist to access DMR landings data.*