

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

Town of Stockton Springs, Maine

Stockton Springs 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 Stockton Springs in order to provide sustainable recreational harvesting.
- To make the shellfish resource more available to harvesters by improving water quality

Objectives:

- Licensing: Limit licenses to maximize individual harvest
- Economic: emphasize recreational harvest
- Conservation: conduct enhancement activities to increase resources AND use closures and harvest limits to maintain resource levels

It is the goal of Stockton Springs's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of [softshell clams, quahogs, surf clams, American oysters, and/or European oysters]. We will emphasize recreational harvest by limiting commercial harvest. We will conduct enhancement activities to increase softshell clam and quahog resources and will use closures to maintain surf clam resources.

Description of Conservation Measures

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

- Limit the number of recreational harvesters
- Restrict the times (seasons, days off, night-time) and/or 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
- Collection of landings data from harvesters
- Enhancing spatfall
- Water quality improvement
- We will maximize recreational harvest by limiting licenses. Recommendations for license numbers will be based on population resource surveys done at four flats on a rotational basis (two flats per year).
- It is the Shellfish Committee's goal to work with local high schoolers through the Waldo County Technical Center to do population surveys, with one of the Committee members present. The Technical Center has a new aquaculture program and the Committee believes this could be a great project for them. This may not happen every year, but it is the Committee's goal to make pursue this. The Shellfish Committee will work with our Nearshore Marine Resource Scientist to access DMR landings data.