

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for
Town of Cumberland

Cumberland 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

It is the goal of Cumberland's Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of softshell clams, quahogs, razor clams, 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 and razor clam resources.

Description of Conservation Measures

The Cumberland Shellfish Commission prioritizes the responsible stewardship of our shared shoreline and natural resources. These efforts include a conservation driven ordinance that is endorsed by the Commission, and the Town on an annual basis. Currently the ordinance limits the number of commercial and/or recreational harvesters, restricts times for harvesting as well as the amount of harvest per day for commercial and recreational harvesters.

License allocations are based upon available data from flat surveys, harvester logs and landings data, and requires endorsement from both the Cumberland Town Council and the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

The Town of Cumberland also supports the routine collection of samples for monitoring water quality, infrastructure upgrades for managing sewer and stormwater quality improvements, and are vigilant about identifying any non-point sources of pollution.

In the year ahead the Shellfish Commission will seek to enhance the softshell clam resource by seeding an area of flats in Broad Cove flat with softshell clam seed purchased from the Downeast Institute. The seeding will happen in June or July, depending on seed availability and public notice requirements, and will be completed by license-holders in exchange for conservation credits, as well as by volunteers. This area would then be closed to harvesting until 50% of the resource has reached market size.