

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for
Arrowsic

Arrowsic 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 Goals

It is the goal of Arrowsic's Shellfish Management Plan to make 3 commercial shellfish licenses for softshell clams available to regional harvesters to support their income. However, we must acknowledge that Arrowsic's clam stocks are falling, local clams have weak shells that limit harvesters' ability to sell them, and for the past several years we have not sold all the available licenses.

Conservation Measures

We do not believe that there are any conservation measures that can increase the number of clams in our flats, so we are now focused on increasing monitoring of flat ecosystems, cleaning up the flats, and engaging the town in understanding and appreciating this unique area.

Over the past decade, the ASCC has engaged in conservation activities: conservation closure, softshell clam seeding, an extensive seeded clam farm with netting, quahog seeding, spat monitoring, and green crab monitoring. However, none of these activities have been effective at increasing numbers of clams in two of the town's three flats, which now have almost no clams.

The sole productive flat, Crow Island, still has clams and is reachable only by boat. The site is very small, positioned in a busy marine channel, contains a house on the portion that is above the tide line, and is poorly suited to conservation activities. Beyond surveying, we do not intend to do any conservation activities on Crow Island.

Today ASCC's conservation efforts are focused on population surveys, monitoring flat ecosystems by engaging the community in identifying and recording life (milky ribbon worm, green crabs, declining seagrass) found on the flats; removing garbage from the flats; engaging the community in discussions of marine debris through clean up and art.

Final Note:

The ASCC recognizes that the dwindling productivity of our flats, the uncertain trajectory of softshell clam populations in this region, and the town's small size make us out of step with the DMR's current approach to municipal shellfish management.