

# **SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

for

**Town of Beals**

**October 26, 2023**

Beals 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 Beals plans to achieve as a result of its conservation program
- B. A description of the various conservation measures the Beals intends to employ to reach those goals.

## **Statement of Management Goals and Objectives**

Goal: To conserve the softshell clam resources in the Town of Beals in order to provide an income to commercial harvesters.

Objectives:

- Licensing: Provide open licenses to maximize opportunity
- Conservation: Use closures to maintain resources levels and work with Downeast Institute to find the most productive method to seed flats to get the best production. Allowing DEI to use flats (Molly Cove) for new trials.

It is the goal of the Town of Beals Shellfish Management Plan to conserve the softshell clam resources in order to provide an income to commercial harvesters. We will provide open licenses to maximize opportunity. We will conduct enhancement activities by allowing DEI to use flats to find the most productive methods to seed flats and will use seasonal conservation closures to maintain softshell clam resources.

## **Description of Conservation Measures**

We will use seasonal conservation closures to rotate which flats are open or closed December 1 until June 1 of each year. We will enhance the softshell clam resource by seeding Molly Cove (AKA Sand Cove North) with softshell clam seed from Downeast Institute. Molly Cove is closed 12-1-2022 to 11-30-2025 for this purpose. DEI with the help of students from Jonesport Beals High School did the Molly Cove Seeding Project over a three day period between 5-9-2023 and 5-24-2023. They put down sixty-three 14' x 14' nets seeded with 5,000 8-12mm clams each. The plan is to take in the nets on December 11, 2023. DEI is monitoring the growth rate, may plan to re-net in 2024, and open to harvest after a growth of 2 and ½ inches is reached. DEI plans to get harvester reports of yield per tide. These plans may change due to storm damage of September 15-16, 2023.

Submitted by  
Town of Beals Shellfish Committee