

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

BRISTOL

Bristol 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

Shellfish, Clams, and Intertidal Shellfish Resources: When used in the context of this plan, the words, “shellfish”, “clams”, and “intertidal shellfish resources” mean soft-shell clams (*Mya arenaria*), hard-shell clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), American/Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea Virginica*), European Oysters (*Ostrea edulis*), and razor clams (*Ensis directus*)

It is the goal of Bristol’s Shellfish Management Plan to maximize individual harvest by limiting licenses for the harvesting of shellfish. We will conduct enhancement activities to increase shellfish resources and will use closures to maintain shellfish resources.

Goals:

- To conserve the shellfish resources in the Town of Bristol to continue to provide an income to commercial harvesters.
- To make the shellfish resource more available to harvesters by improving water quality

Objectives:

- **Licensing:** Because shellfish resources are limited and because commercial or recreational harvesters can be expected to harvest a certain volume of shellfish pre year, the number of harvesters must be controlled. This number will vary from year to year based upon estimates of the resource capabilities and management requirements consistent with good resources utilization.
- **Conservation:** Based on the status of shellfish resources and other factors bearing on sound management, openings/closings will be made upon recommendation of the Shellfish Conservation Committee and concurrence of the Department of Marine Resources area biologist. The town will provide written notification to the public of the conservation closure/openings in accordance with Department Regulations Chapter 7.50 (1) (c). This section requires 5- day notice of openings and closings.

It is the goal of the Bristol Shellfish Management Plan to preserve the shellfish resources so commercial harvesters can continue to provide income for their families. Our committee is motivated to improve water quality, so shellfish beds remain open and we hope to expand open harvest areas in the Pemaquid River. We limit licenses because Bristol’s shellfish beds are limited in size and resource.

Description of Conservation Measures

- Limit the number of commercial and/or recreational harvesters
- Limit recreational harvest to one peck to preserve resource
- Restrict the times (seasons, days off, night-time) and/or areas of harvest (conservation closures)
- Reseeding from wild or hatchery stock
- Populations surveys of flats to determine resource abundance
- Water quality improvement through installation of dog waste stations and water quality testing with FBEnvironmental
- Trapping of green crabs to reduce predation
- Management of Canadian Goose population with proper permitting from the appropriate Federal and State Agencies to limit water pollution