

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

TOWN OF CUTLER

The Town of Cutler 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.

It is the goal of Cutler's Shellfish Management Plan to maintain sustainable populations of harvestable shellfish, including softshell clams, within the intertidal. We will emphasize maximizing the opportunity for local harvesters while restricting harvest where we find evidence of overharvesting. Providing opportunities for local harvesters includes (i) maintaining access to mudflats, (ii) working to improve water quality or change potential sources of pollution to open currently closed areas, and (iii) work with partners to maintain water quality in open areas.

Description of Conservation Measures

Description of specific measures we plan on taking through 2024 to achieve these goals include:

- Provide unlimited commercial licenses for residents.
- Add or change regulations to any overharvested species in our ordinance (softshell clams), either through town-wide limits to harvest or through conservation closures, in consultation with our DMR area biologist.
- Explore collaborative work with neighboring towns including research, education, and management of marine resources.
- Advocate for continued preservation and expansion of working waterfront and shore access within the town governance structure, due to both gentrification and shoreline erosion due to sea level rise, including both for a range of recreational and commercial use, both generally and specifically as input into the town comprehensive plan.
- Continue to improve access to information for harvesters both at access points and on the town website, emphasizing both current regulations and transitory public health closures of areas due to possible contamination of shellfish due to onshore pollution, harmful algal blooms, or large rainfall events.