

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
The Town of Falmouth

The Town of Falmouth 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:

The Town of Falmouth's shellfish management program recognizes the clam flats of the Town are a very valuable resource which is important to its residents. It is the goal of the Town's Shellfish Management Plan, to maximize individual recreational harvest, by limiting commercial harvest, of softshell clams and quahogs.

Additionally, we will conduct enhancement activities and seasonal closures to increase and maintain softshell clam and quahog resources.

Description of Conservation Measures:

We will survey our flats on an as needed basis to maintain current information on shellfish resource abundance. The data gathered will be used to evaluate and assist in the decision making and sustainability of our program, licensing, and the harvest of softshell clams and quahogs. These population survey's will be carried out by members of the Shellfish Conservation Committee, shellfish wardens, and other local license holders.

Additionally, we will facilitate goodwill among landowners in hopes of increasing access by conducting an annual shoreline clean-up day where employees of the Town will remove trash and debris from the beach harvest area at Falmouth Town Landing.

Lastly, we will maximize recreational harvest by limiting commercial licenses, limiting daily harvest amounts, restricting the hours of harvest, and using seasonal closures to maintain our local resource and softshell clam/quahog population. The effectiveness of this will be evaluated by analyzing the results of population surveys.