

# SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TOWN OF LUBEC, MAINE

The Town of Lubec 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 written description of the various conservation measures the Municipality intends to employ to reach these goals.

## **Committee Narrative**

*The Town of Lubec and its Shellfish Conservation Committee has a long history participating in the management, protection and harvesting of our local soft-shell-clams for both the commercial and the recreational diggers of this community. While this area has historically seen other fisheries come and go through its history, clamming has continued to be viable. This local "heritage activity", of digging on the tide flats for clams to eat or sell, is older than the trapping of lobsters and our community of harvesters proudly has generational connection to this longtime practice. As a town, and via it's appointed Shellfish Committee and our Warden(s), Lubec strives to protect, maintain, and continually improve our intertidal flats and clam beds (with the help and guidance from State of Maine DMR and other organizations). This has been a productive approach and will continue.*

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

The goal of the Town of Lubec Shellfish Management Plan is to:

- Maintain and manage sustainable populations of harvestable soft-shelled clams within the intertidal limits of Lubec waters for both commercial and recreational harvest.
- Maximize the opportunity for resident commercial and recreational harvesters to participate in this time honored "heritage activity".
- Help to identify and attempt to reduce predator damage to clam beds while identifying and reporting pollution sources to authorities for closures, monitoring and or remediation.
- Identify each individual clam flat area locally, as part of map-based resource data base, in-order to document specific environmental conditions, predatory evidence, as well as to identify potential conservation projects or needs for each flat, inventory resource populations, closure details, re-seeding or spat projects, brushing activities, beach cleanups, and parking or access information.
- Provide opportunities for the Shellfish Committee/local harvesters to:
  - Maintain access to mudflats
  - Work to improve water quality of closed areas
  - Work with partners to maintain water quality in open areas
- Create genuine interest among harvesters and the public in the management plan, conservation efforts and projects, habitat protection and improvement, and in the historical connection to a local renewable wild food stock.

## SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TOWN OF LUBEC, MAINE *(cont.)*

### Statement of Conservation Measures

- Provide guidance to the Town in regulating the issuance of commercial and recreational clam licenses
- Review and adjust harvest regulations for over harvested soft-shell clams by utilizing town wide limits and through conservation closures with advice from DMR area biologist.
- Work with our Town Clam Warden(s) to make sure diggers are licensed, clamming in open legal areas, and following regulations. Close cooperation between our Clam Committee and our warden(s) will help keep management strategies and goals in check
- Continue to provide information and educational information/data to the harvester community and general public via our meetings and workshops, and through signage, town website, and social media. Encouraging responsible behavior, we will continue communicating regulations, resource/pollution and environmental/rain closures, as well as best practices.
- Address recent intertidal access limitation(s) by interacting with Town of Lubec Comprehensive Plan Committee, Town Planning Board, and residents.
- Utilizing and expanding our “flat by flat” town map-based resource and data base, we can better manage resource health, density, and where we need to prioritize our specific conservation activities.
- Conduct “biomass surveys” to determine population health and resource abundance or decline.
- Continue to engage in construction, deployment, and monitoring of spat boxes (to collect and protect wild spawn) at beneficial flat locations.
- Continue to hold “Conservation Work Events”, throughout the year, involving our diggers and clamming community with specific projects focused on improving clam habitat, increasing clam populations on our flats and reducing predators. Recent conservation projects include walking the flats collecting Moon Snail egg collars for removal, building green crab traps, brushing the flats to enhance spat settlement, and building spat collection boxes to be placed on our flats
- If funding available, purchase clam seed to hand seed targeted flats on an annual basis with the goal of eventually seeding all our flats. May transplant native seed from flat (and/or area of flat with a high density), to another flat/or area of low density in accordance with state regulation.
- Hold monthly meetings of the Lubec Clam Committee, conducting “Resource” reviews and assessments while measuring results throughout the year of any and all actions. Document all meetings with “Minutes”, recording accurately for future reference and future planning.
- Work closely with State DMR biologists and scientists, and continued collaborative work with neighboring towns and organizations (example: Shellfish Advisory Council), including research, education, and best of practice(s) for management of marine resources.
- Help promote our local clam industry at local public events including cookouts and clam bakes, to raise conservation funds and to promote public awareness within our community.

Respectfully Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mike Scrivani - Chairman*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_