

Westport Island 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 goals of the Westport Island Shellfish Management Plan to enhance individual harvesting by limiting the number of commercial and recreational licenses for the harvesting of soft-shell clams, quahogs, razor clams, surf clams, American oysters, and European oysters. Activities to increase soft shell clam populations include seeding and brushing of flats.

Goals:

- Conservation of shellfish resource

Objectives:

- Enhancement activities in certain flats to help with soft shell clam populations
- License limitations

Description of Conservation Measures:

The Westport Island will limit Commercial and Recreational licenses determined by the resource population data that will be retrieved by flat surveys carried out by members of the Shellfish Committee and by license holders in exchange for Conservation Credits. The data retrieved will be sent to DMR Scientists. We will enhance the soft-shell clam population by seeding McCarty Cove with clams purchased from Down East Institute. The seeding will take place in April or May (2024) and will be conducted by Shellfish Committee members and Shellfish license holders in return for conservation credits. The seed will be protected by netting and green crab traps may also be used for predator control. McCarty Cove will then be closed for two years to allow the soft-shell clams to mature. Surveys will be done annually to evaluate the population of soft-shell clams. In 2022 a seeding of both soft shell clams and quahogs was placed in McCarty Cove and covered with netting for predator protection.

Examples of conservation measures include, but are not limited to:

- Re-seeding and brushing flats
- Limiting the amount of commercial and recreational licenses sold
- Predator elimination efforts (green crab traps in McCarty Cove)