

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
The Town of Surry 2024

The Town of Surry 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.

Mission Statement: The Town of Surry shall act as a steward to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well-being of its shoreline, within the scope of Title 12 MRS §6671, and to ensure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for individual harvesters (Surry residents) and to limit those who make their living on the tide.

Goals:

- It is the goal of Surry's Shellfish Management Plan to conserve shellfish resources in the Town of Surry to maximize the health of the intertidal mudflat ecosystem, **within the scope of Title 12 MRS §6671**, which includes improving the water quality, protecting native species from predation, and to make shellfish more available to the harvesters.
- To conserve the shellfish resource for the benefit of Surry residents.
- To restore individual harvest through management control.
- To provide for recreational harvesting in preference to commercial harvesting of softshell clams, quahogs, razor clams, surf clams, American oysters, and/or European oysters.
- To explore ways to maximize the economic value of the resource to help cover the costs of a year-round Shellfish Warden.

Objectives:

Work with an Ad Hoc Shellfish Committee under the Surry Conservation Commission to draft an updated shellfish ordinance to:

- Establish limited commercial licenses (as described in the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan) to commercial harvesters and to maximize recreational harvests by Surry residents.
- Hire a shellfish warden.
- Conduct populations surveys of flats to determine resource abundance.
- Carry out enhancement activities to increase softshell clam and quahog resources and use closures and harvest limits to maintain resource levels.

- Explore ways to maximize the harvest of invasive green crabs to restore softshell clams, quahogs, razor clams, surf clams, American and/or European oysters.
- Work with the Department of Marine Resources and Shaw Institute-(Carrying Place beach) in water quality studies.
- Engage youth in a citizen science program through the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (underway: Fall 2023) to study the effects of climate change on Surry's shoreline.

Description of Conservation Measures

- The Town of Surry will draft a Shellfish Conservation Ordinance to be brought to the voters at the April 2024 Surry Town Meeting for approval by the Surry Select Board.
- A proposal to hire a year-round Shellfish Warden (starting FY 2024-July 1) will be submitted by the Surry Select Board at the 2024 Town Meeting.
- The Ad-Hoc Shellfish Committee, appointed by the selectmen of Surry for a three-year term starting January 1, 2024, will work in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources and will submit proposals to the Board of Selectmen for the expenditure of funds, opening or closing of the flats, or engaging in other shellfish restoration measures, for the purpose of shellfish conservation. The committee will initially be part of the Surry Conservation Commission while the Town also updates its Waterways & Harbors Ordinance beginning in 2024.

The ordinance will include:

- Limit the number of commercial and/or recreational harvesters.
- Licensing.
- Restrict the area where digging is permitted.
- Restrict the times (seasons, days off, night-time) and/or areas of harvest (conservation closures).
- Limit the minimum size of clams taken.
- Limit the amount of harvest per day for commercial and/or recreational harvesters.
- Enhancing spatfall.
- Population surveys will be carried out by members of the Ad-Hoc Shellfish Committee and by license-holders in exchange for conservation credits. The Ad-Hoc Shellfish Committee will work with a Marine Resource Scientist to access DMR landings data.

Take meaningful steps toward

- Predator protection strategies through netting, trapping, etc.
- Reseeding from wild or hatchery stock as appropriate.
- Collection of landings data from harvesters.
- Conduct water quality testing.

Signature Mary E. Allen Date 12/5/23

Name and Title Mary E. Allen