

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, and Southport

The above towns submit 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 towns plan to achieve as a result of its conservation program.
- b. A description of the various conservation measures the towns intend to employ to reach these goals.

It is the goal of the towns 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) working with partners to maintain water quality in open areas.

Description of Conservation Measures:

- Provide unlimited commercial licenses for residents.
- Add or change regulations to any overharvested species in our ordinance (softshell clams), either through region-wide limits to harvest or through conservation closures, in consultation with our DMR area biologists.
- Continue to improve re-population by re-seeding from wild or hatchery stock.
- Concentrate on areas where reproduction success rates are the highest.
- Enhance spatfall retention by using spat boxes and roughing up the mud.
- Working with neighboring towns and local landowners to ensure access to the towns intertidal zones.
- Continue to improve access to information for harvesters, emphasizing current regulations, conservation, closures, and transitory public health closures of certain areas due to possible contamination of shellfish relating to onshore pollution, harmful algal blooms, and/or large rainfall events.