



Town of Kittery Shellfish Management Plan

Approved by Kittery Shellfish Conservation Committee: February 24, 2028
Approved by Kittery Town Council: March 25, 2024
Approved by Maine DMR:

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN for Town of Kittery

Town of Kittery 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

It is the goal of Kittery's Shellfish Management Plan, working with the Town of Kittery, Shellfish Conservation Committee, to maintain sustainable populations of harvestable shellfish, specifically softshell clams, within the Town's intertidal area. We will emphasize maximizing the opportunity for recreational harvesters while restricting harvest where we find evidence of overharvesting. Providing opportunities for 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) work with Town of York and DMR to maintain water quality in open areas.

Description of Conservation Measures

Description of specific measures we plan on taking to achieve these goals include:

- Provide recreational licenses for residents and non-residents.
- The actual number of licenses issued annually will be determined by the Shellfish Conservation Committee after review of current soft-shell clam stock and population surveys to ensure over harvesting does not occur. The town will seek outside advice as necessary to assist in determining this.
- The Town will perform an annual clam population survey at Brave Boat Harbor and all surveys will be conducted according to approved DMR methodology,
- Only clams that are a minimum of two inches (2"), per DMR measurement standards, can be harvested.
- Only one peck per harvester shall be taken daily and harvesting shall occur on Sunday only, December 1-April 30 annually, plus legal holidays.

- Through town-wide limits to harvest or through conservation closures (including rain runoff) in consultation with our DMR area biologist.
- Explore collaborative work with the Town of York including research, education, and management of marine resources.
- The Town will work collaboratively with DMR to seek additional areas within the Town that can be available for clam harvesting.
- The Town will maintain a schedule of actual harvesters and actual amount harvested for each harvest day to monitor activity.
- Continue to improve access to the flats at both public and private points.