

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

Jonesport, ME

The Town of Jonesport 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

Goals:

- To conserve and maintain sustainable populations of harvestable shellfish, including softshell clams within the intertidal. The Town of Jonesport, in order to provide an income to commercial harvesters; opens and closes flats when needed.
- The Shellfish Committee will provide opportunities for local harvesters to have the ability to maintain access to mudflats when and wherever possible.
- The Shellfish Committee has no resources to protect or improve water quality but is willing to work with third party partners to maintain water quality in open areas.

Objectives:

- Licensing: The Committee provides open licenses to maximize opportunity with no limits on an individual harvest.
- The Town of Jonesport is committed to allowing access for both commercial and recreational harvesting. There will be no limit to the shellfish that can be taken by commercial harvesters. Recreational harvesters will be limited to the personal use definition of one peck of shellfish per day.
- Conservation: It is the goal of the Jonesport Shellfish Management Plan to place no limits on an individual harvest except by some recreational licenses that limit a small harvest of clams. No limits are placed on commercial harvesting. The Committee will conduct enhancement activities to increase softshell clam and will use open/ closures to maintain softshell clams.

Description of Conservation Measures

- The Committee will maximize an individual harvest by not limiting licenses but by conservation measures such as open and closing of flats. Also, this spring the Jonesport Shellfish Committee intends to use brushing to attract spat. This is an environmentally viable way to keep spat from being washed or carried away by predators and allowing the clams to grow to a suitable size; thus increasing softshell clam resources.

- Shellfish harvesters will be asked to take some small pieces of brush or branches with them when they clamming; the Shellfish warden will monitor this activity because this method hasn't been used in many years. In years past, though, this method has been successful in keeping spat in place to grow to a suitable size for harvesting.
- Improve access to information for harvesters both at access points and on the town website, emphasizing both current regulations and transitory public health closures of areas due to possible contamination of shellfish due to onshore pollution, harmful algal blooms, or large rainfall events.