

Regional (cooperative) Management

Municipal Shellfish Management
Programs

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Introduction

- Management of Maine's clam resources are a joint responsibility between State and town. Legislation enacted in 63' that authorized towns to enact ordinances.
- Towns that assume this management responsibility do so w/ the understanding that they must meet certain requirements.

Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance

- Created in 2010: harvester initiated
- 7 Municipalities: Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton
- Share and manage their clam resources with a written interlocal agreement
- 2011 issued 75 comm. 340 rec. licenses

Interlocal Agreement

- Formalizes the administrative procedures and is intended to minimize conflict between towns over management issues.
- Formed 7 member joint board of selectmen to serve as legal entity administering agreement.

Administrative Town

City of Ellsworth: handles funds, financial records, employs shellfish warden, owns common property for purposes of license sales, grants, fines and fundraising activities.

Administrative town is compensated for their time and effort managing the program.

Funding

Each participating town commits \$3,000

License fees and fines contribute to account

Fundraising, donations, grants, volunteers

Acct used to pay warden salary, equipment, insurance.

Frenchman Bay Shellfish Committee

Day to day clam management decisions
(commercial harvester) representatives
from each of the 7 Towns

Works with warden on enforcement of
laws and regulations as well as
enhancement and management activities.

Local Management Actions

Setting the number and types of licenses

Establishing conservation areas

Reseeding from closed or high density areas

Enhancing spatfall with brush, fences or nets

12 hours of “conservation time” annually

Local enforcement

Population surveys

Intertidal (mussel) management

Predator control

Common Goals

Provide a living wage for harvesters

Provide recreational opportunities

Provide incentives for OBD removal and IG repairs/replacements – SCGP

Maintain the resource

Chance for harvesters to be directly involved in management decisions and activities

Challenges of Clam Management

Build Support: What are the incentives for local management?

Create and keep a management committee

Develop a shellfish management plan

Establish funding

Write a shellfish ordinance

How to enforce the local ordinance

Maintain access to the flats

Frenchman Bay Mission Statement

These communities shall act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those who make their living on the tide