

Municipal Shellfish Programs

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What is Municipal Shellfish Management?

- A working agreement between the State of Maine and Municipalities that provides communities the opportunity to manage shellfish resources. There are approximately 81 municipal programs in Maine.

What is the key component to a modern day municipal shellfish program?

- The key component to facilitating a modern day municipal shellfish program is the municipal shellfish warden.
- Municipal shellfish warden = paid municipal staff of the shellfish program.

Services a modern municipal warden must provide to facilitate the success of the municipal shellfish program:

- Enforcement of the municipal shellfish ordinance
- Environmental services
- Public education including school programs
- Organization and oversight of the municipal program

Municipal Enforcement Agenda

- Enforce the ordinance; keep clammers honest in regard to the 2" law and tagging requirements.
- Protect the flats from poachers
- Boater safety
- Animal control



Environmental Services – It's all about the data

- Conduct clam flat surveys.
- Develop and maintain strong relationship with DMR.
- Reliably collect and deliver water and meat samples.
- Ensure all municipal growing area samples are collected from a boat.
- Create positive dialogue between shellfish harvesters, regulators, environmentalists, and local pet owners.

Environmental Services (cont'd)

- Maintain a working relationship with local agricultural operations and stay abreast of developments in best management practices (BMP's).
- Engage boat owners in marina areas on pump out facilities.
- Educate public of municipal dog waste regulations.
- Conduct shoreline surveys and train volunteers.
- Identify and remediate pollution sources, e.g. per specific system failures.

Does your Municipal Warden have reliable access to a boat? Why is sampling from a boat so important?

- Accuracy of the samples



Warden Tom Kay sampling in Freeport

Organization & Oversight of the Municipal Conservation Program

- At a minimum, conduct triennial softshell clam surveys of the town's intertidal zone.
- Create opportunities for municipal license holders to assume a more active role in protection and advocacy of the shellfish resources.
- Record conservation hours/points of commercial harvesters needed for renewable license.
- Provide necessary legal authority for conservation work.
- File required DMR reports, municipal conservation closures, ordinance changes, etc.
- Work with Town Councilors/Selectmen and Municipal Communities.

Challenges

- Decreasing resources at state level
- Change is hard
- Regulation
- Pollution



What can Town planners do to help?

- Explore Interlocal agreements
- Grant money
- Municipal Ordinance and codes enforcement
- Better information sharing among municipal programs
- Theme Park