

TOWN OF TRURO

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Areas Available for Shell Fishing
(with a license)*

In general, the area open to the various forms of shell fishing requiring a license shall extend westward from the line of the former railroad tracks in Pamet Harbor to Cape Cod Bay. The available tracts shall also include the marsh eastward of the railroad line to Mill Pond Road and eastward of the former railroad trestle as far as Cat Island at the discretion of the Shell Fish Warden.

(without a license)

The taking of mussels is also allowed anywhere in the Pamet Harbor area at any season. The taking of sea clams, sometimes called surf clams, is allowed anywhere along the Bay shore at any season.

Types of Shell Fish To Be Propagated

The Shell Fish Warden shall take reasonable steps to propagate soft shell clams, quahogs, oysters and mussels consistent with his Annual Budget and the availability of seed from Barnstable County.

Harvesting Season

In general, the harvesting season shall extend from November 1 to April 30 dependent upon levels of pollution, as established by the Commonwealth. The Warden has discretion as to when to open and close the harvesting season subject to consultation with the Shell Fish Advisory Committee. The Warden is empowered to order a mid-winter closure at times he deems best to preserve the brood stock.

Harvesting Quotas

Quotas for the taking of various types of shell fish requiring a license shall be set from time to time by the Warden acting after consultation with the Shell Fish Advisory Committee. In general, each license holder shall be entitled to take one ten-quart bucket of shell fish once a week, whether mixed or a single species.

Recreational Aquaculture

One of the goals of this Management Plan is to find ways to promote recreational aquaculture through grants to individual members of the public. To do so will require the identification of lands not proximate to developed upland property, where entrepreneurs can experiment on small grants with various types of aquaculture. The Warden is encouraged to facilitate and support such projects.

Commercial Digging

No commercial digging shall be allowed anywhere in the Town of Truro unless granted by special permit from the Board of Selectmen for good cause shown.

Predator Control

Human beings should be encouraged to see themselves as a very serious predator of edible shell fish. It is to limit such predation that the Town adopts quotas, which must be vigorously enforced. Green crabs are also a leading predator, and efforts should be made to contain them whenever possible with traps and other such devices.

Rotation of Harvest

Specific areas of the flats should be closed on a cyclical basis. The Warden is encouraged to experiment with different types of closure, such as once every three years or for one or more periods during a season.

Nursery Area(s)

The Warden is encouraged to designate one or more nursery areas where seed can be grown to a certain size and then transported for further growth in areas open to the public.

Private Rights.

The Warden and the public shall respect the rights of riparian owners in designating areas for closure and for artificial propagation.

Role of Warden

The Warden has been designated the shell fish constable, and is the Town's primary enforcer of its shell fish regulations.

Role of Advisory Committee

The role of the Shell Fish Advisory Committee is to support the Warden in the performance of his duties, to act as his/her advocate before Town boards and Town Meeting, and to consult with him when required to do so by this Management Plan or as he/she may otherwise request.