

Town of Brunswick, Maine

Shellfish Committee

January 6, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

Town Hall – Council Chambers
85 Union Street, Brunswick, Maine

1. Agenda - January 6, 2026 Meeting

Documents:

[2026 JAN SC AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. Coastal Resources Officer Report

Documents:

[CRO MANAGER REPORT 12-2-2025.PDF](#)

3. Item 2 - Moving Out Of Town Discussion

Documents:

[AREA TOWN RESIDENCY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.PDF](#)

4. Item 3 - Winter Closure Survey Results

Documents:

[SURVEY RESULTS ON WINTER CLOSURES.PDF](#)

Town of Brunswick, Maine

Shellfish Committee
January 6, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

Town Hall – Council Chambers
85 Union Street, Brunswick, Maine

The public can view, listen, and participate in the following ways.

- Television: Channel 3 on TV3 (Channel 3 on Comcast)
- Stream: [Television 3 Link](#)
Live in the Council Chamber and via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84438454538?pwd=actEV5U0xZbxhNtn5yc0Dcad9lu4J.1>

Conflict of Interest Policy

Members shall declare potential conflicts at the start of the meeting or prior to any item.

Roll Call of Members

Notice of Meeting

Warden Report: None

Coastal Resource Office Updates:

- Harvesting Reporting Request
- Fishermen's Forum
- GIS Shellfish Management Mapping
- Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Exposition
- Creating a Nitrogen Loading Model
- Maine Seagrass Summit
- Simpson Point Rehabilitation
- CBEP Grant (Manomet LOS)
- Update on Maquoit Bay Sanitary Survey
- Recap State Shellfish Advisory Council (11/21 Meeting)
- Conservation Closure
- Maine DEP Watershed Manager Meeting
- Shellfish Inventory Surveys Remaining

Town Clerk Updates:

- Update on Council action on proposed ordinance

Meetings: None

Minutes: September 3, 2025; October 7, 2025; November 5, 2025

Adjustments to the Agenda

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Public comments at the beginning of the meeting are for non-agenda items and are limited to three minutes per speaker, with a total of 30 minutes.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

2. Discussion on the ability of resident commercial harvesters to move out of town.
(Discussion)

This item is to take comments from the Commercial Harvesters on their reasons to support or not support the ability for resident harvesters to move out of town. Each harvester will have one chance, up to 3 minutes, to speak on this subject.

3. Winter Shellfish Closure Harvester Survey Results and determining if there will be any closures. (Action)
4. Discussion of Sunday closures for 2026 (Discussion)
5. Presentation on shellfish survey results (Presentation)
6. NEW BUSINESS
7. OLD BUSINESS
8. Set February meeting agenda

To email Shellfish Committee: fsmith@brunswickme.gov

**Shellfish Committee
Agenda Notes
January 6, 2026**

Roll Call of Members/ Notice of Meeting

Chair Sellers-Reynold will open the meeting, ask for a role call, and ask if the meeting was properly noticed.

Warden Report:

N/A – Unavailable

Coastal Resource Office:

Coastal Resources Manager Devereaux will provide this report. A copy of his memo will be provided before the meeting.

Town Clerk Updates:

Clerk Smith will update the Committee on Council action regarding the ordinance amendments and next steps. She will announce dates for intents for 2026 along with confirming that Meeting dates will continue to be the first Tuesdays of the month.

Meetings: None listed in the agenda

Minutes:

The draft minutes are attached to the packet for your review and approval.

Suggested motion:

Motion to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025; October 7, 2025; and November 5, 2025.

Public Comments:

Comments will be allowed for thirty minutes, with each speaker being allowed three minutes in total for non-agenda items. (The Committee will follow the Council Procedures on Public Comments.)

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

This item is for the annual election of a chair and vice chair for 2026. Clerk Smith will take nominations for chair and once elected, the new chair will do the same for vice chair.

**2. Discussion on the ability of resident commercial harvesters to move out of town.
(estimate time – 45 minutes) (CARRY OVER FROM DECEMBER)**

This item is for collecting comments from Commercial Harvesters regarding their opinions on whether resident harvesters should be allowed to move out of town. Each harvester will have one opportunity to speak for up to 3 minutes on this topic. The Committee will discuss possible options. Staff will compile the comments to share with Council leadership and gather their thoughts on whether to allow residents to move out of town and maintain their license. Included in your packet is information about what other communities are doing. Included in your packet is information about what other communities are doing. Additionally, if moving is limited to senior harvesters, staff gathered historical data on how long 30 current Class A harvesters have held their licenses over the past 30 years. The table below shows the breakdown of this data.

Held licenses for 30 of last 30 yrs	Held licenses for 28/29 last 30 years	Held licenses for 20 of last 20 years	Held licenses for 18/19 of last 20 years
13	2	18	6

3. Winter Shellfish Closure Harvester Survey Results and determining if there will be any closures. (Action) (estimate time –30 minutes) (CARRY OVER FROM DECEMBER)

This item comes back tonight due to time constraints at the last meeting. A copy of the survey results is attached to the packet. The Committee will determine if they would like to move forward on any winter closures at this time.

THESE ARE THE NOTES FROM LAST TIME: You will find attached the results of this survey, which was either emailed or mailed to each harvester. The link to the survey is [available here](#). Quahogs are routinely closed each year from January to April in accordance with the ordinance. Below is a table of diggable tides between January 1 and April 1. The committee can determine what action, if any, they would like to take.

January						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2	2	2	3	2	2	2
February						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2	2	2	2	2	3	1
March						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3	4	2	2	2	2	3

4. Discussion of Sunday closures for 2026 (Discussion) (estimate time –15 minutes)

Following the Council's update to the ordinance removing the prohibition on Sunday harvesting, the Committee stated they would review this topic at the start of each year to decide whether any Sunday closures are warranted. This is an appropriate time for that discussion to determine if any future action needs to occur.

5. Presentation on shellfish survey results (Presentation) *(estimate time –15 minutes)*

CRM Devereaux will provide this presentation on the results of the most recent survey.

6. NEW BUSINESS

This item is an opportunity for Committee members to bring up new business items not included in this agenda.

7. OLD BUSINESS

This item is an opportunity for Committee members to bring up old business items.

8. Set February meeting agenda

This item sets the agenda for the February 2026 meeting. The major item will be to set license numbers of recommendations for the Council.

Town of Brunswick, Maine

COASTAL RESOURCE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shellfish Committee

CC: Fran Smith, Town Clerk

FROM: Dan Devereaux, Coastal Resource Manager

DATE: December 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Manager's Report

Update on Shellfish Committee Projects, Initiatives, and Environmental Issues

Chapter 11 Ordinance Updates Town Council Public Hearing December 1st. This will have already happened. Fran to provide update on public hearing outcomes.

- **Student Apprentice Program:** The committee aims to implement a student apprentice program by adding specific language to the ordinance. A separate policy outlining the program's requirements has already been adopted. This initiative originated from discussions held by the Shellfish Ordinance Rewrite Task Force. If enacted, Brunswick will be the first community in the state to implement such a program, which is modeled after the successful lobsterman apprentice program that has operated for many years in Maine.
- **Reporting Requirement for Harvesters:** In last year's revision, a requirement for harvesters to report their landings was set to begin during the 2026 licensing year. The proposed amendments detail the legal obligations of the program and the consequences for non-compliance with reporting requirements. Staff members have been researching options for harvesters to report their landings through either paper forms or a dedicated application. Our GIS coordinator has developed a program, and we are working on a step-by-step policy to explain how to report using either method. We expect to present this to the Shellfish Committee during their December meeting.

Harvester Reporting Request:

Based on shellfish inventory surveys conducted this fall the projection for harvestable softshell clams are robust for the 2026/27 season. It would be incredibly helpful when determining the number of licenses to be issued for next season that shellfish harvesters make a concerted effort to begin reporting their shellfish landings December 1st when Maquoit Bay opens. We would be able to use this data to help determine extraction amounts that can be deducted from the harvestable shellfish stock projected for the following season.

Fishermen's Forum:

The Maine Fishermen's Forum has been scheduled for March 5th -7th. Both tradeshow and seminar RFP applications are currently open. [Maine Fishermen's Forum March 5-7 2026 Info](#) If you have ideas and wish to present, please reach out to the contacts on the website or Marissa McMahan.

GIS Shellfish Management Mapping:

We are currently in the process of converting shellfish data generated by google earth into our town GIS coastal resource management layers. Since the inception of the Coastal Resource Office in 2018, we have mapped growing area year by year. Having this information transferred to the municipal GIS ensures that the shellfish data will be held without any outside interruptions from third party influences like google. We have also been able to connect historical shellfish survey data and photographs of each specific growing area.

Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Exposition:

The biennial Northeast Aquaculture Conference & Exposition (NACE) was created in 1998 by the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center with the goal of bringing together producers, service providers, vendors, researchers, students and managers from across the northeast region to discuss pressing issues and relevant research on shellfish and aquaculture. The conference will be held in Portland from January 7th to January 9th at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. FMI or to register click [here](#).

Creating a Nitrogen Loading Model:

We are exploring expounding on the recent septic system data to understand what additional information we will need to work toward creating a model that helps determine the nitrogen discharges at each drainage basin in Brunswick. Even though nitrogen measurements are not part of the NSSP shellfish classification program, information generated from nitrogen influence models can help us further identify areas that are more susceptible to large algal blooms.

Maine Seagrass Summit:

As a participant in the Maine Seagrass Consortium, I attended and participated in the Maine Seagrass Summit held at the Lemont Block here in Brunswick on December 17th. The summit discussed ongoing research into eelgrass declines, Maine DEP eel grass mapping efforts coast wide, individual biologist and diver observations, green crab disturbance, and other variables impacting seagrass habitats.

Simpson Point Rehabilitation:

The RFP has gone out to solicit bids to complete the rehabilitation of the Simpson Point Boat launch. We hope to get this work done during the off season this winter. It has been brought up in previous meetings about the possibility of reopening the boat launch to motorized vessels. There have been several failed attempts by this committee and the Town Council to have the ramp reopened. As it currently stands, Simpson Point boat launch is closed as part of the Mere Point Boat Launch DEP permit, which indicates that Simpson Point will restrict all trailer launch of boats with submerged propellers.

CBEP Grant (Manomet LOS):

Manomet is requesting a letter of support to apply for resiliency grant funding to continue the work they have been conducting in collaboration with the Town. Below is description.

- We propose to test the durability and effectiveness of biodegradable netting materials in addressing a challenge in the wild shellfish fishery — to recruit and protect wild shellfish populations in a less labor-intensive way. Biodegradable netting has been used in other coastal restoration applications, including salt marsh, oyster, and mussel restoration. The primary question we hope to answer with this project is: how do different biodegradable netting materials hold up to different environmental conditions, predators (e.g., green crabs), and fouling in the intertidal zone? We will test two types of biodegradable netting – (1) coconut fiber, and (2) a biodegradable net made by BESE used in mussel/salt marsh restoration, alone and in combination. These materials will be placed and secured on intertidal mudflats, and monitored regularly for signs of degradation, fouling, or displacement. When the nets are removed or have degraded, we will count and measure all shellfish within the area where the nets were placed, as well as adjacent and similar sized areas where there was no netting present

Update on Maquoit Bay Sanitary Survey:

A new septic system design for the failing system we found on Mere Point Rd. has been submitted to the Code Office for review. They will be working to replace the system soon. Identified animal husbandry practices are currently being followed up on.

Recap State Shellfish Advisory Council (11/21/25 Meeting): [Agenda](#)

- Veteran discounted state commercial shellfish licenses. Legislation introduced
- Economic Shellfish Study update -GMRI
- NE Shellfish Sanitation Meeting April 8-9, 2026, Harraseeket Inn Freeport Maine
- Storm influences on softshell clam market price
- Green crab composting possibilities
- Regional DMR Shellfish Meeting (Town Committee to discuss the best approach)

Conservation Closure:

Portions of Catlin Shore are still closed for conservation.

Maine DEP Watershed Manager Meeting:

Presented the Septic System Risk Analysis to a large group of watershed managers in Augusta. To view the story map presentation click [here](#).

Shellfish Inventory Surveys remaining:

Catlin Shore, Clay Cove, Getchell Ledge. These areas will be surveyed in the month of December.

Town of Brunswick, Maine

COASTAL RESOURCE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shellfish Committee

FROM: Dan Devereaux, Coastal Resource Manager

DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Comparison of Residency Rules of Area Municipalities

Resident and Non-Resident Criteria for Casco Bay Towns

A list of all the shellfish ordinances in Maine can be found at this link. [Maine DMR General Town Shellfish Information](#).

I could only locate two towns along the coast that allow a portable license, both within Casco Bay. Harpswell and Freeport allow some type of portability

Harpswell (Portable after 5 years) (Does not deal with license reduction instances)

301.11 Resident Commercial – Non Resident License The holder of any residential commercial license, who changes their permanent and principal place of residence to a location outside of the Town of Harpswell and who notifies the Town Clerk within 30 days of change, after having resided and held that license in Harpswell for five (5) consecutive or more years from the date of change of residency, when the license holder may obtain a Resident Commercial to Non Resident Commercial License without the need to participate in the new commercial license selection process as described in

Section 304. 301.11.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of M.R.S. § 302 or any law to the contrary and regardless of the effective date of this Section 301.8, the date of applicability of this section shall be April 1, 2022, such that license renewals for the year beginning on that date will be affected thereby, to the extent permitted by law.

301.11.2 Any license that is not renewed after having been converted as a result of a change in residency as described above shall, upon reissuance, be allocated to the type of license previously issued using the selection process as described in Section 304.

Freeport Has (Portable after 1 year) (Does not deal with license reduction instances)

L. Change of Residency: The holder of a non-resident commercial license, who changes their permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence to a location within the Town of Freeport, and who notifies the Town Clerk within 30 days of the change, may retain their non-resident commercial license until the first renewal date after the change of residency, when the license holder may obtain a resident

commercial license without the need to participate in the new commercial license selection process described in Section 32-601(I) above.

The holder of any residential commercial license, who changes their permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence to a location outside the Town of Freeport, and who notifies the Town Clerk within 30 days of the change, may retain their residential commercial license until the first renewal date after the change of residency, when the license holder may obtain a non-resident commercial license without the need to participate in the new commercial license selection process described in Section 32-601(1) above. Any license that expires after having been converted as a result of a change of residency as described above shall, upon re-issuance, be allocated to the type of license originally issued using the selection process described in Section 32-601(I) above.

Scarborough (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

A. Designation, Scope and Qualifications:

1. Resident Commercial Shellfish License: The license is available to residents of the Town of Scarborough who are 18 years or older and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this municipality and reciprocating municipalities.[Amended 03/21/13]

West Bath (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

D. Limitation on Shellfish Harvesting Licenses: Because the shellfish resources are limited and because a harvester can be expected to harvest a certain volume of clams per year, the number of harvesters must be controlled. This number may vary from year to year, depending upon estimates of the resource capabilities and management requirements consistent with good resource utilization. The West Bath Marine Resource Committee, with the approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, at least thirty (30) days prior to the first date of license issuance, will establish the number of commercial licenses to be permitted for that license year. A number of licenses not less than ten percent (10%) of the total number of commercial licenses provided for residents shall be reserved and provided for non-residents. The total number of resident and non-resident commercial licenses, once determined, shall be made known to the Town Clerk in order to facilitate issuance of licenses.

Yarmouth (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

B. DESIGNATION, SCOPE, AND QUALIFICATIONS

Resident Commercial Shellfish License: The license is available to residents for the Towns of Yarmouth/North Yarmouth and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of this Municipality and consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Cumberland (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

Commercial licenses.

(1) Annual resident commercial shellfish license. This license is available to residents and/or taxpayers of the Town of Cumberland and entitles the holder to dig and take two bushels of shellfish per day from the shores and flats of this municipality and reciprocating municipalities in the areas to be

designated pursuant to § 223-7 of this chapter.

(2) Annual nonresident commercial shellfish license. This license is available to nonresidents of this municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take two bushels of shellfish per day from the areas designated pursuant to § 223-7.

(3) Qualifications specifically to commercial shellfish licenses.

(a) The Shellfish Conservation Commission may specifically designate the period of validity as well as the areas open to commercial harvesting each year.

(b) A shellfish license must be on your person when harvesting shellfish

Phippsburg (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

(b) A Commercial Resident license holder moves out of town and establishes a fixed, permanent and principal home elsewhere. In this case they must surrender their license within 30 days. The same applies to a Commercial Nonresident License holder who moves into town. A surrendered license would either be reissued in a manner consistent with the procedures of the "New License Category" and "Unissued License Category" or it may be eliminated by vote of the Shellfish Commission to reduce the number of available licenses in the future as part of a "license reduction through attrition program." However, the number of nonresident commercial licenses allocated can never fall below 10% of the resident commercial licenses allocated.

Georgetown (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

1. For commercial licenses: The term "resident" refers to a person who owns or rents real estate in the Town of Georgetown which is his or her permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence. If a person claiming to be a resident neither owns nor rents real estate in the Town of Georgetown, he or she shall be required to produce such other evidence of residence as the Town Clerk may require. A person shall not qualify as a resident of Georgetown unless he or she has maintained a permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence in Georgetown for three months prior to claiming residence. A person shall cease to be a resident of Georgetown on the date he or she acquires a permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence in any other Town or moves from the Town of Georgetown.

Falmouth (No Commercial Program) Issues recreational licenses to anyone

There shall be the following described license, each of which must be signed by the licensee and by the town clerk to be valid. The license is valid from September 1 to August 31. Recreational shellfish license. This license is available to residents and nonresidents and entitles the holder and one (1) or more guests to dig and take no more than one (1) peck of shellfish for anyone (1) day for the holder. The recreational shellfish license holder may not engage in wholesale or retail sales of harvested shellfish

Arrowsic (Not Portable 10% of all categories of licenses are issued to non-residents)

Resident: The term "resident" refers to a person who has been domiciled in this town for at least six months immediately prior to the time his or her claim of such residence is made, and who shall remain a

resident during the period of time the license is valid.

B. Nonresident: The term "nonresident" means anyone not qualified as a resident under this ordinance. C. Student: The term "student" refers to a person who is between the ages of 12 and 18 inclusive and is a full-time student in a primary or secondary education program. Proof of age and school attendance may be required.

				During which days of the week would you be most willing to have a winter softshell clam closure? For your reference, the table at the bottom of the survey describes approximately how many diggable tides fall on the days of the week throughout the months of the winter closure (Ex. in the month of January, two diggable tides fall on Monday).	Should there be an annual (year-round) Sunday closure for quahogs?
ObjectID	CreationDate	Do you harvest shellfish year-round?	Do you feel winter conservation closures are effective?		
1	2025-10-14 19:43:05	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
2	2025-10-14 19:47:02	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	No
3	2025-10-14 20:32:33	Yes	Yes	Wednesday_Thursday_Friday	No
4	2025-10-14 20:37:55	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
5	2025-10-14 20:45:35	Yes	No	Monday_Tuesday_Wednesday	No
6	2025-10-14 21:04:43	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
7	2025-10-14 21:56:02	No	No		No
8	2025-10-14 22:22:30	Yes	Yes	Wednesday_Thursday_Friday, Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
9	2025-10-14 22:30:26	Yes	Yes	Complete_Closure_(Monday-Sunday	Yes
10	2025-10-14 23:27:00	Yes	No		Yes
11	2025-10-15 9:44:56	Yes	Yes	Complete_Closure_(Monday-Sunday	Yes
12	2025-10-15 11:27:56	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
13	2025-10-15 11:46:02	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
14	2025-10-15 12:22:29	Yes	No	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	No
15	2025-10-15 22:17:53	Yes	No	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes
16	2025-10-16 17:22:59	Yes	No	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	No
17	2025-10-17 13:39:30	Yes	No		No
18	2025-10-28 11:21:56	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	No
19	2025-10-28 23:29:26	Yes	Yes	Friday_Saturday_Sunday	Yes