

Shellfish Conservation Committee

Meeting- Conference A, Kittery Town Hall

August 9, 2023, 5:00PM

1. Introductions
2. Roll Call
3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes from March 15, 2023
4. Shellfish Warden Report
 - a. 2022-2023 licenses
 - b. Reseeding
5. Chapter 12.6 Proposed Ordinance revisions to meet DMR requirements
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

Chapter 12.6 Shellfish Conservation

1. AMEND Chapter 12.6 Shellfish to correct typos and add day licenses as follows:

§ 12.6.1 Authority.

The ordinance codified in this chapter is enacted in accordance with 12 M.R.S. § 6671.

§ 12.6.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a shellfish conservation program for the Town which will ensure the protection and optimum utilization of shellfish resources within its limits. These goals will be achieved by means which may include:

- A. Licensing;
- B. Limiting the number of shellfish harvesters;
- C. Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted;
- D. Limiting the minimum size of shellfish taken; and
- E. Limiting the amount of shellfish taken daily by a harvester.

§ 12.6.3 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

LOT

The total number of shellfish in any bulk pile. Where shellfish are in a box, barrel or other container, the contents of each box, barrel or other container constitutes a separate lot.

NONRESIDENT

Anyone who does not ~~quality~~ qualify as a resident under this chapter and is:

a) a property owner in Kittery; or

b) is domiciled in Maine for at least three months as evidenced by a vehicle registration, voter registration, State of Maine Income Tax return, or other documentation acceptable to the Town Clerk

POSSESS

Dig, take, harvest, ship, transport, hold, buy and sell retail and wholesale shellfish and shellstock.

RESIDENT

A person who has been domiciled in Kittery for at least three months as evidenced by a vehicle registration, voter registration, State of Maine Income Tax return, or other documentation acceptable to the Town Clerk.

29 **SHELLFISH, CLAMS AND INTERTIDAL SHELLFISH RESOURCES**

30 Clams, quahogs, oysters ~~and mussels~~ and includes shellstock and shucked shellfish.

31 **§ 12.6.4 Municipal shellfish digging license required.**

32 It is unlawful for any person to dig or possess shellfish from the shores and flats of Kittery without having a
33 current license issued by the Town.

34 **§ 12.6.5 Designation, scope and qualifications.**

35 A. Residential recreational shellfish license. The license is available to residents and entitles the holder to
36 dig and take possession of no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day for personal use.

37 B. Nonresident recreational shellfish license. The license is available to any person not a resident and
38 entitles the holder to dig and possess not more than one peck of shellfish in any one day for personal
39 use.

40 C. No person may dig and possess shellfish from the shores and flats of Kittery for the purposes of
41 commercial use or commercial sale.

42 **§ 12.6.6 Application procedure.**

43 A. Any person may apply to the Town Clerk for a Shellfish Harvesting License as required by this chapter
44 on forms provided by the Town.

45 B. Misrepresentation. Any person who gives false information on a license application will cause said
46 license to become invalid and void.

47 C. Individuals holding commercial licenses issued by the State of Maine are not entitled to a recreational
48 license.

49 **§ 12.6.7 Fees.**

50 The annual license fee is set out in Appendix A.

51 **§ 12.6.8 Limitation of diggers.**

52 It is essential that the Town carefully husband its shellfish resources. The number of licenses issued from
53 year to year will vary depending on the annual review of the Town's shellfish resources, sizes, distribution,
54 and abundance.

55 A. The Shellfish Conservation Committee, with approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, will
56 establish the number of noncommercial licenses to be permitted each year.

57 B. The Shellfish Committee will notify the Town Clerk in writing prior to November 1 of the number of
58 licenses to be issued for the ensuing year.

59 C. Notice of the number of licenses to be issued and the procedure for application is to be published in a
60 trade or industry publication, or in a newspaper or combination of newspapers with general circulation,
61 not less than 10 days prior to the period of issuance, and posted in the municipal offices until the period
62 concludes.

- 63 D. Licenses shall be issued annually, on a first-come-first-served basis. A wait list may be established if all
64 licenses are issued. The wait list will only be valid for the season it is established.
- 65 E. Licenses may be returned to the Town voluntarily and reissued to another qualifying applicant at the
66 current fee.

67 § 12.6.9 **License expiration date.**

68 Each license issued under authority of this chapter expires at midnight on November 30 following the date of
69 issuance, ~~except~~ except single day licenses. Single day licenses expire at sunset on the date for which they
70 are issued.

71 § 12.6.10 **Opening and closing of flats.**

72 A. The Town Council, upon the approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, may open and close
73 areas for shellfish harvest. Upon recommendation of the Shellfish Conservation Committee and
74 concurrence of the Department of Marine Resources that the status of shellfish resource and other factors
75 bearing on sound management indicate that an area should be opened or closed, the Town Council may
76 hold a public hearing on the matter, and shall send a copy of the notice to the Department of Marine
77 Resources. The decision of the Town Council to open or close a shellfish harvest area is to be based on
78 findings of fact.

79 § 12.6.11 **Harvesting Season**

80 A. The shellfish harvest season shall be established prior to November 1 each year by the Town Council,
81 upon recommendation of the Shellfish Conservation Committee and approval of the Commissioner of
82 Marine Resources.

83 B. The season dates, number of licenses, and information on how to obtain a license will be advertised prior
84 to each season in accordance with 12 M.R.S. § 6671.

85 ~~A.C.~~ The shellfish harvest season may be amended through a conservation closure by the Town Council,
86 with approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, as deemed recommended or needed.

87 ~~B.D.~~ Shellfish harvesting may only occur on Sundays and on nationally recognized holidays, between
88 sunrise and sunset, during the harvest season.

89 § 12.6.12 **Minimum legal size of soft-shell clams.**

90 A. It is unlawful for any person to possess soft-shell clams within the Town which are less than two inches
91 in the longest diameter, unless as otherwise provided.

92 ~~B. Any person may possess soft shell clams that are less than two inches if they comprise less than 10% of~~
93 ~~any lot. The tolerance is determined by numerical count of not less than one peck nor more than four~~
94 ~~pecks taken at random from various parts of the lot or by a count of the entire lot if it contains less than~~
95 ~~one peck. (commercial regulation, not applicable to recreational harvesting)~~

96 § 12.6.13 **Violation, Revocation and Suspension.**

97 A. The Shellfish Warden, Harbormaster, and Kittery Police Officers are authorized to enforce violations this
98 chapter, to include the issuance of civil violations.

99 B. Any person in violation of this chapter, excluding a violation of §16.6.13.C may be assessed a penalty of
100 \$100 for the first offense, \$150 for the second offense and \$200 for the third and subsequent offenses.

101 C. Any person found taking shellfish from an area not opened by the Town Council for harvesting, or when
102 harvesting is not permitted, may be assessed a penalty of \$500, and may result in the revocation of the
103 individual's shellfish license.

104 D. Repeat offenders and/or those who fail to pay fines within 30 days in accordance with this chapter may
105 have their license suspended or revoked. A license that has been suspended or revoked more than once
106 may be prohibited from receiving a license in the ensuing year.

107 E. Any person who violates this chapter may be charged with a Class D crime in accordance with 12 M.R.S.
108 §6671.

109 § 12.6.14 **Conflict with other laws.**

110 In the event of any conflict in the provisions of this article with the provisions of any present or future statute
111 relating thereto, the most restrictive or that imposing the higher standards governs.

112 **2. AMEND Appendix A Chapter 12.6 SHELLFISH, Shellfish License Fees as follows:**

113 Resident recreational	\$15
114 Residents 70 and over	\$0
115 Residents under 14 years of Age <u>age</u>	\$0
116 Nonresident recreational	\$30
117 Nonresident 70 and over	\$0
118 <u>Nonresident under 14 years of age</u>	<u>\$0</u>
119 Single Day License	\$15