



Falmouth Shellfish Ordinance

Presentation to Town Council

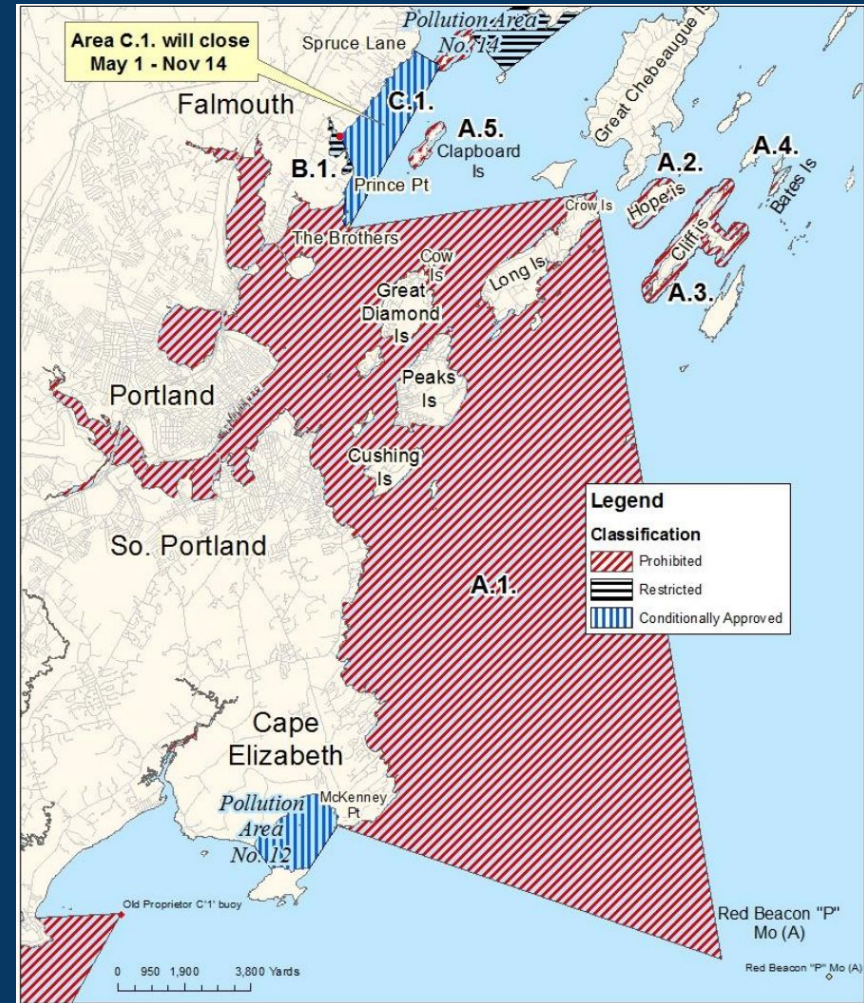
February 22, 2021

Background

- Falmouth Shellfishing Ordinance passed in September 1997
 - Created Shellfish Conservation Committee
- Currently not applicable or enforceable due to lack of annual management plan
- Historically, opportunities and interest in shellfish harvesting have been minimal

Current Status

- Within Area No. 13, section “B.” shellfishing is conditionally approved
- Guidelines should be in place to ensure proper management of this valuable resource



Ordinance Purpose

The purpose of this article 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:

1. Licensing;
2. Limiting the number of shellfish harvesters;
3. Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted;
4. Limiting the minimum size of clams taken; and
5. Limiting the number of clams taken daily by a harvester.

Ordinance Amendments

Ordinance was updated with guidance from the Department of Marine Resources and other municipalities.

Notable changes include:

- Reorganization of content
- Addition of guidelines around commercial licensing and harvesting
- Addition of new harvesting guidelines
- Addition of quahog harvesting guidelines

Next Steps

1. The Council is asked to introduce the proposed Shellfish Management Ordinance and schedule a public hearing.
2. Upon adoption of the ordinance, official approval of the ordinance will be sought from DMR.
3. (Re)appointment of members of the Shellfish Conservation Committee is recommended as their terms have lapsed.