

**Shellfish Conservation Committee**  
**September 13, 2021**  
**Bristol Town Hall**

*Committee Members present: Scott Burke, David Cheney, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland*  
*Also present: Forrest Bell, Maggie Kelly (FB Environmental Inc.) Nate Curtis*

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

There was unanimous approval to accept the Shellfish Committee minutes from April 5 and May 3. There was unanimous approval to accept the minutes from the joint Harbor Committee, Shellfish Committee and Fish Committee meeting from July 29.

**Pemaquid River Watershed.**

Bell and Kelly gave a presentation on the sampling they did during the summer months in the Eastern Branch. They tested in seven different locations near the small tributaries running into the cove. Some of the sampling test results were positive for human and goose DNA. The samples were taken during dry conditions and on an incoming tide. They suggested sampling again in the spring during a wet weather event which would include greater run-off from the tributaries.

Bell and Kelly pointed out the following as points of interest:

- Although there were no geese present at the Harrington Cemetery at the time of sampling, it was noted that a shoreline buffer of grass and plants was absent.
- The north side of the cove was heavily forested.
- Hay fields present may be using fertilizer. Lackovic confirmed the fields do not receive any fertilizer.

Bell suggested the committee come up with a sampling plan for Bristol's harvesting areas and to continue testing on a regular as frequently as possible in as many weather conditions as possible.

The status of Schoolhouse Cove was briefly discussed. The septic system assessment was completed earlier this year and Bell recommended continuing sampling in the tributaries to pinpoint the human DNA source.

The committee inquired about the availability of other types of DNA testing. They are most concerned with poultry as a property owner abutting Pemaquid Falls keeps chickens and tends a small farm.

**Research in Upper Pemaquid River.**

N. Curtis is interested in buying a piece of shorefront property between Fossett's Cove and Hanna Landing. He is interested in using the area as a research breeding ground for softshell clams, razor clams and other mollusk species. He attended the meeting to receive feedback from the committee. He has been communicating with Geoffrey Shook, DMR Marine Resource Scientist I, and Dana Morse, Darling Marine Center and Sea Grant Extension. Shook and Morse agreed that Pemaquid River would be a good location for research. Lackovic was concerned with the loss of harvesting areas and that once they let one person do it, they would have to allow the next person who asked to do it. Cheney pointed out that Curtis would most likely need a municipal commercial license and there are currently none available.

**Shellfish Warden.**

Barter has caught several poachers and has seized their boots and clam forks. He has communicated with Poole and Lackovic often. DMR Marine Patrol is now assisting with the ongoing poaching problem in South Bristol.

**2022 Grandfathered status.**

All commercial license holders (resident and nonresident) met the conservation requirement through payment of hours, field work and/or attending meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:30 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Bizarro  
Shellfish Committee Secretary