

Town of Brunswick, Maine

Shellfish Committee

February 3, 2026

MEETING AGENDA

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

1. Agenda

Documents:

[2026 FEB SC AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. Coastal Resources Manager Report (Final)

Documents:

[CRO MANAGER REPORT 2-3-2026.PDF](#)

3. Minutes Of January 2026

Documents:

[2026 JAN SC MINUTES.PDF](#)

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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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84438454538?pwd=actEV5U0xZbxhNtn5yc0Dcad9lu4J.1)
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

*Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

Warden Report: None

Coastal Resource Office Updates:

- Shellfish Focus Day Fishermen's Forum
- Simpson Point Boat Launch Construction
- DMR Elver License Lottery
- Brunswick Comprehensive Plan
- Inside Climate New Article (Maine Shellfish Harvesters Caught up in Climate Related Closures)
- Westport Island Hard Shell Clam Collaboration
- DEI Research Project (later discussion item)
- 35th Annual edition of Zosterapalooza
- Climate Resilient Fisheries Co-Management Learning Network
- 2026 Coast Resource Draft Work Plan
- Brunswick Conservation Closure (Barnes Cove and Portions of Catlin Shore)

Town Clerk Updates:

- Intent filing deadlines

Meetings:

- Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group – Meeting – January 20, 2026

Minutes: January 6, 2026

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.

10. The Committee will vote on recommendations for the number of licenses for the 2026-27 year.
2. (TABLED FROM JANUARY 2026) Discussion on the ability of resident commercial harvesters to move out of town. (Discussion)

This item is to take comments from the public on their reasons to support or not support the ability for resident harvesters to move out of town.

11. Discussion of the DEI Research Project (Discussion)
12. Discussion on Shellfish Warden's responsibilities (Member Thompson)
13. NEW BUSINESS
14. OLD BUSINESS
15. Set March meeting agenda

To email Shellfish Committee: fsmith@brunswickme.gov

**Shellfish Committee
Agenda Notes
February 3, 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.

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.

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 provide this report with reminders of intent deadlines. She will also be looking to see if a member of the committee wants to serve on the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission.

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 January 6, 2026.

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.)

10. The Committee will vote on recommendations for the number of licenses for the 2026-27 year. (estimate time – 30 minutes)

This is the annual setting of the licenses for next year. Detailed information is provided in the Coastal Resources Manager's report.

**2. Discussion on the ability of resident commercial harvesters to move out of town.
(estimate time – 45 minutes) (TABLED IN JANUARY)**

This item is for collecting comments from Commercial Harvesters and the public regarding their opinions on whether resident harvesters should be allowed to move out of town. Each person 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 |

11. Discussion of the DEI Research Project (Discussion) (estimate time – 20 minutes)

This item is to discuss of a possible project by the Downeast Institute in Brunswick. Coastal Resources Manager will provide additional information at the meeting. Please refer to the Coastal Resources Manager's report for more information.

12. Discussion on Shellfish Warden's responsibilities (Member Thompson) (estimate time – 15 minutes)

Member Thompson requested this discussion item for the Committee to discuss the responsibilities of the Warden with the upcoming retirement of Warden Sylvain.

13. NEW BUSINESS

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

14. OLD BUSINESS

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

15. Set March meeting agenda

This item sets the agenda for the March 2026 meeting. The major item will be to laying out the program for reporting landings.

Town of Brunswick, Maine

COASTAL RESOURCE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shellfish Committee

CC: Fran Smith, Town Clerk

FROM: Dan Devereaux, Coastal Resource Manager

DATE: February 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Manager's Report

Coastal Resource Office update on shellfish committee projects, initiatives, environmental issues, and shellfish industry news.

2026/27 Annual Shellfish License Allocations:

In early 2025, the Shellfish Committee amended Chapter 11, Marine Activities, Structures and Ways, Article III, Section 11-112, *Annual Shellfish License Establishment*. Under the revised ordinance, annual shellfish license allocations are now determined using a standardized, data-driven methodology. License numbers are based on the estimated harvestable standing crop identified through annual shellfish surveys, together with the average daily harvest per harvester and the average number of tides harvested each year.

Prior to this amendment, the ordinance allowed the Shellfish Committee discretion to issue more or fewer licenses than indicated by survey and inventory data. That flexibility was removed during the spring 2025 ordinance rewrite. While well-intentioned, the former approach frequently placed Committee members in difficult positions. In many cases, licensed harvesters opposed issuing additional licenses even when surveys demonstrated increases in the harvestable standing crop. As a result, license allocation decisions were often prolonged and subject to political pressure to adjust license numbers based on anecdotal or non-scientific information rather than survey results.

The revised ordinance eliminates this ambiguity by directly linking license allocations to objective, scientific metrics. This change provides greater transparency, consistency, and defensibility in the annual licensing process.

As illustrated in the graph below, the only license increase for 2026 will be the addition of one resident commercial license, bringing the total to 61 resident commercial licenses, 7 Non-resident commercial licenses, 10 student licenses, and unlimited recreational licenses.

[Chapter 11 Marine Activities Structures and Ways Article III Section 11-112 Annual Shellfish License Establishment](#)

| 2026 License Allocation | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Softshell Licenses | | Quahog Licenses | |
| Efficiency | 0.64 | Efficiency | 0.7 |
| Standing Crop | 61116 | Standing Crop | 8,616bu (7.700.000) |

Managers Update

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Harvestable days | 265 |
| Average Bushels | 3 |

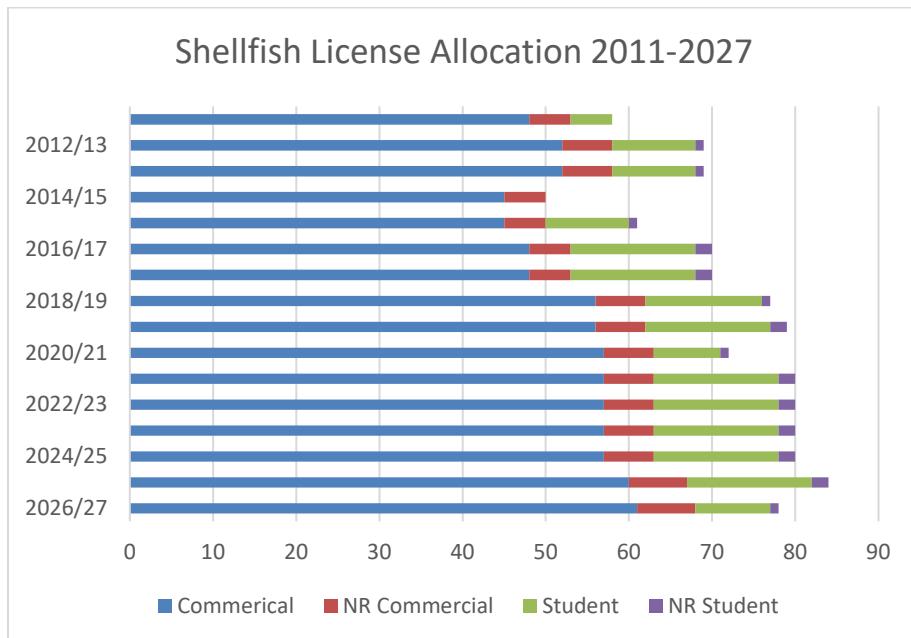
| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Harvestable days | 209 |
| Average Bushels | 1.5 |

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Licenses | 49.2004 |
|----------|---------|

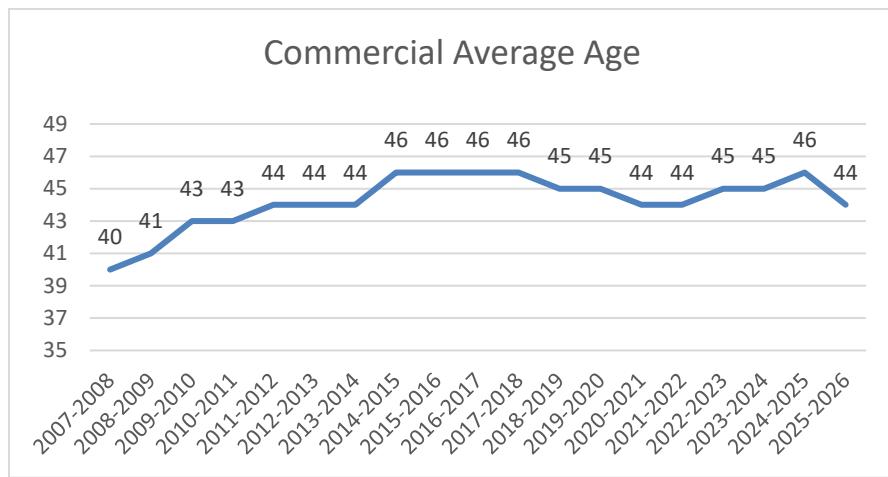
| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Licenses | 19.23781913 |
|----------|-------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Commercial Licenses: | 68.4382 |
| Student Licenses (15% of CL) | 10.2657 |
| TOTAL LICENSES | 78.704 |

Historical Brunswick Shellfish License Allocation



Commercial Shellfish Harvester Avg. Age



Chapter 11 Ordinance Updates:

The Brunswick Town Council held a public hearing on the Chapter 11 ordinance updates recommended by the Shellfish Committee and subsequently adopted amendments establishing a student apprentice license. The Council also codified

enforcement provisions outlining the consequences and implications for harvesters who fail to submit required monthly shellfish landing reports.

Shellfish Focus Day Fishermen's Forum:

The Maine Fishermen's Forum has been scheduled for March 5th -7th. The Coastal Resource Office will have two different posters on display during shellfish focus day on Thursday March 5th. We invite all committee members and area harvesters to attend. Shellfish focus day is free to anyone interested in attending and there is no need to pre-register to attend.

Simpson Point Boat Launch Construction:

Simpson and Wyman Construction has been awarded the contract and anticipate starting construction on the ramp and trails sometime from the first to middle of February. It will take 4-6 weeks to complete. The end of the road will be closed during the construction period. Public Works is communicating with the contractors on start dates in effort to ensure the public is kept informed.

DMR Elver License Lottery:

The Department of Marine Resources holds a lottery, starting at noon today, January 26, 2026, for the right to apply for an elver license. The lottery will be available through 4:30 p.m. February 20, 2026, providing lottery winners with the chance to apply for a license prior to the upcoming season, which starts at noon on March 22, 2026, and runs through noon on June 7, 2026.

Brunswick Comprehensive Plan:

The Plan was adopted by the Town Council on December 15 and has entered the State's statutory review process under Chapter 208, with public and state agency comments due by February 11, 2026. The plan is posted on the [State's website](#) for review, and the State's consistency determination is expected by March 5, 2026.

Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group (CBRSWG) Meeting – January 20, 2026

The Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group (CBRSWG) is comprised of 14 shellfishing communities from around Casco Bay that collaborate to address key issues facing the wild-harvest shellfish sector. The group facilitates the exchange of expertise and best practices related to shellfish management, conservation, research, and monitoring among municipalities and other stakeholders throughout the region.

Shellfish Committee Member Max Burtis and I attended the January 20, 2026, CBRSWG meeting and provided an update on the Town of Brunswick's Shellfishing Program. Going forward, CBRSWG will be facilitated by Manomet Fisheries. Over the past six years, the group has developed several guidance documents to assist municipalities in addressing a wide range of shellfish management challenges.

One current initiative, the net-planted quahog project conducted in collaboration with the Brunswick Coastal Resource Office, is showing promising results, with high quahog survival observed in the nets at the end of the season.

Members of the Shellfish Committee are encouraged to visit the CBRSWG website for additional information and access to these resources. Committee members are also encouraged to review the Casco Bay Intertidal Data Portal, which displays information on municipal shellfish programs throughout Casco Bay in an interactive format.

[Casco Bay Intertidal Data Portal - Website Link](#)

Inside Climate New – Article Link ➔ Maine Shellfish Harvesters Caught up in Climate Related Closures

In Brunswick, a Midcoast town of approximately 22,000 residents with 61 miles of coastline, a section of Maquoit Bay that has been harvested for generations—and once sustained the Wabanaki and Mi'kmaq tribes—was recently reclassified to close for two weeks following any rainfall event of one inch or more, according to Dan Devereaux, the town's Coastal Resource Manager. Based on last year's unusually wet weather patterns, Devereaux calculated that this area could now be closed for up to half the year, removing approximately 400 productive acres—nearly 25 percent of the town's total shellfish flats—from harvest.

"You close down these areas, you better make damn sure you've done everything you can to keep them open," Devereaux said. "And I don't think that's necessarily happening here."

"The most conservative approach for public health is simply to keep everything closed," Devereaux added. "But because of our heritage and rich history, we can't sit back and let that happen to our community. We have 100 years of people making a living off the clam flats in this region and across the state, and municipalities have a responsibility as part of the management partnership with DMR."

Westport Island Hard Shell Clam Collaboration:

The Coastal Resource Office has been working with members of the Westport Island Shellfish Committee, specifically Jesse Roche, to share information and provide technical insight into the quahog propagation techniques used by the Town of Brunswick to enhance public shellfish harvest areas.

As part of this collaboration, Westport Island will deploy seed quahogs in lantern nets beneath existing oyster farms to grow them to a plantable size. Once the quahogs reach appropriate size, they will be planted in designated public harvest areas

DEI Research Project:

A DEI research project was proposed for installation in April 2026 in Barnes Cove, off the end of Pennville Road. During fall 2026 surveys, staff observed a significant softshell clam seed set in this area. In response to this natural recruitment, as well as the quahog seed planting conducted in summer 2025, the Shellfish Committee closed the area for conservation purposes.

Due to concerns that the proposed research activities could disrupt the newly established seed clams, the Committee recommended that the project be relocated. Following reconsideration by DEI, the proposed project location has been changed to Harpswell Cove. This revised proposal location will be discussed as an agenda item at the meeting.

35th Annual edition of Zosterapalooza:

Join seagrass scientists and experts from around the country as they provide presentations about the different states of seagrasses. Everything from carbon burial rates to classifying eelgrass habitat with AI. March 25 & 26 EPA Offices 5 Post Office Square Boston Massachusetts. Pre-registration required with colarusso.phil@epa.gov

Climate Resilient Fisheries Co-Management Learning Network:

As part of the United Nations Ocean Decade Program, the Climate Resilient Fisheries Co-Management Learning Network launched last year. One of the Network's primary objectives is to compile 16 fisheries co-management case studies from around the world into an online publication.

The Town of Brunswick has been invited to work with Manomet Fisheries and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to co-author a Maine-based case study highlighting local fisheries co-management efforts.

2026 Coastal Resource Draft Work Plan:

- **Shellfish Propagation Efforts:** May – November
- **Shellfish Seeding:** Target East Brunswick (New Meadows River)
- **Spring Shellfish Seed Survey:** April - June
- **Miller Creek Sanitary Survey:** June – September
- **Summer Shellfish Inventory Survey:** June - October

Brunswick Conservation Closures: Barnes Cove & Portions of Catlin Shore

Draft
Shellfish Committee
MINUTES
January 6, 2025

Marine Resources Committee Members Present: Anthony Yuodsukis, Laura DiBiase, Katie Sellers-Reynolds, Marko Melendy, Clint Thompson, and Councilor Kathy Wilson.

Members Absent: Max Burtis

Staff Present: Dan Devereaux, Coastal Resources Manager; Dan Sylvain, Marine Warden; Emily Stone, Coastal Resource Technician; and Fran Smith, Town Clerk

Chair Sellers-Reynolds opened the meeting and asked for role call and if the meeting had been properly noticed, to which Clerk Smith responded yes.

Warden Report: None

Coastal Resource Office Updates: *(This item was discussed at 6:31 p.m.)*

- 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

CRM Devereaux provided this report and replied to questions from Member Melendy.

Town Clerk Updates: *(This item was discussed at 6:39 p.m.)*

- Update on Council action on the proposed ordinance

Clerk Smith provided this report. She also thanked Member Yuodsukis for his services on the committee as he is stepping down.

Member Yuodsukis spoke of this time on the committee.

Meetings: None

Minutes: September 3, 2025; October 7, 2025; November 5, 2025 (*This item was discussed at 6:40 p.m.*)

Member Yuodsnukis moved, Member DiBiase seconded, to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025; October 7, 2025; and November 5, 2025. The motion carried with five (5) yeas.

Adjustments to the Agenda (*This item was discussed at 6:43 p.m.*)

The election of the chair will be moved to the next meeting, along with the discussion about moving out of town.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items) (*This item was discussed at 6:46 p.m.*)

Lisa Trombley asked when the Maquoit water quality study will be complete and questioned if the oyster farms are affecting the quality. She would like to see a moratorium on approving new leases.

Ray Trombley discussed seed and asked if the town can get some. He also discussed the seed produced at the lakes and where it is being stored.

Blaine Lund asked about his status on being appointed to the committee. He asked about his child not being able to apply for a commercial license.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

This item will be done at the next meeting.

2. Discussion on the ability of resident commercial harvesters to move out of town. (Discussion) (*This item was discussed at 6:45 p.m.*)

Member Thompson moved, Member DiBiase seconded, to table this item until the next meeting. The motion carried with five (5) yeas.

3. Winter Shellfish Closure Harvester Survey Results and determining if there will be any closures. (Action) (*This item was discussed at 7:49 p.m. (Items taken out of order)*)

Chair Sellers Reynold and Member Thompson spoke regarding this item along with item 4, in which the discussion was combined.

No closure for winter is recommendation

Mr. Lund spoke regarding this item.

The Committee came to a consensus that there will be no winter closures recommended at this winter.

4. Discussion of Sunday closures for 2026 (Discussion) (This item was discussed at 7:55 p.m.) (Items taken out of order)

CRM Devereaux spoke regarding this item.

Member Melendy spoke regarding this item.

The Committee came to a consensus that there will be no Sunday closures recommended at this year.

5. Presentation on shellfish survey results (Presentation) (This item was discussed at 7:02 p.m.)

This item was done prior to Items 3 and 4.

CRM Devereaux provided this report and responded to questions from Members Thompson, Yuodsnukis, along with members of the public – Mr. Lund, Mr. Trombley and Ms. Trombley.

6. NEW BUSINESS (This item was discussed at 7:57 p.m.)

Member Thompson said the reporting which will be beginning soon, needs to factor into the formula when determining license numbers in the future.

7. OLD BUSINESS (This item was discussed at 8:03 p.m.)

None

8. Set February meeting agenda (This item was discussed at 8:04 p.m.)

Items were set for the next meeting.

Member Yuodsnukis moved, Member DiBiase seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with five (5) yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE ACTION MINUTES. THE ENTIRE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.BRUNSWICKME.GOV.

*Frances M. Smith
Town Clerk*