

Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group



November 29, 2023
Brunswick

Introductions



Agenda

1:00 - Welcome

1:05 - Town Sharing

1:30 - 2023 updates

- Presentations

1:45 - Planning for 2024

- Group discussion

2:25 - Conversation with Friends of Casco Bay

2:55 - Announcement and next steps

3:00 - Adjourn



Mission of the Working Group

Collaboratively address pressing issues facing the wild-harvest shellfish community, sharing expertise and best practices for management, conservation, research, and monitoring across towns and stakeholders in Casco Bay.

Town Sharing

1. What are the current focus areas for your committee or harvesters in your community?
1. What are the obstacles to addressing the shellfish community's needs?



Photo credit: Bridie McGreavy

Public Outreach Initiatives



Residency Requirements

- Discussion at 2022 WG meeting
- Interviews & data collection
- Report:
 - Licensing and management
 - Housing market data
 - Case studies
 - Process

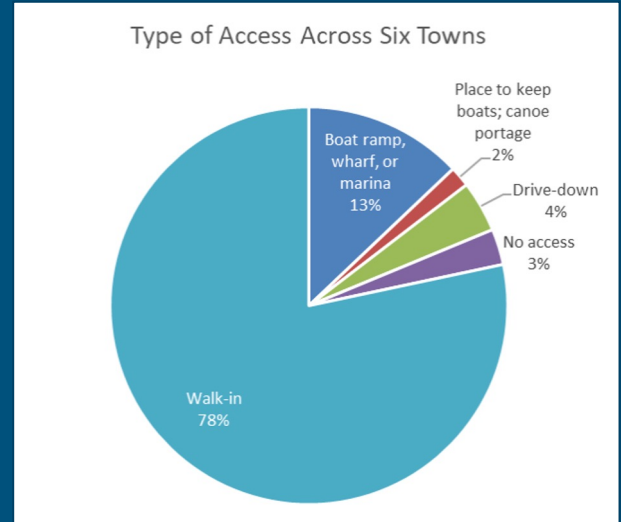
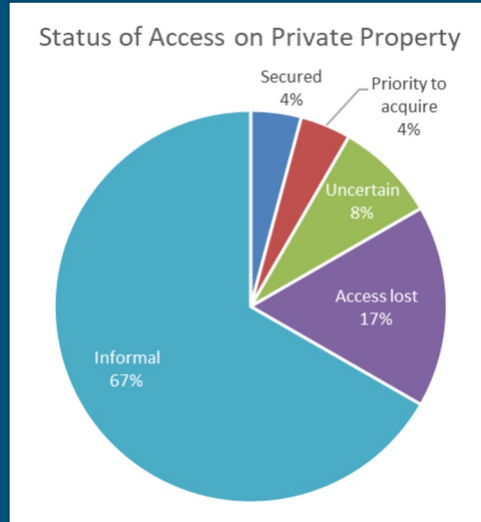
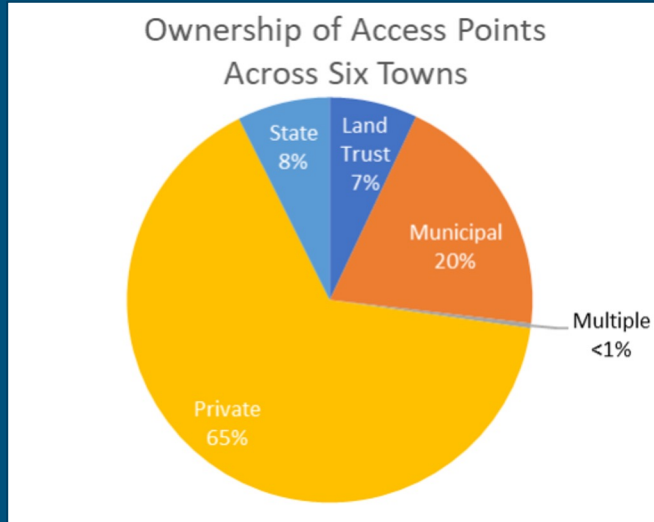


Residency and Access to Commercial Shellfish Licenses

A guide for municipal shellfish programs in Maine



Intertidal Access Initiatives



- Majority of access is private, walk-in
- Most access on private property is informal.

Strategies to address intertidal access

- Outreach to landowners – letter to coastal homeowners, individual outreach to discuss long-term access agreement, landowner appreciation day
- Partnership with land trust to explore opportunities for easements, use agreements, or rights of way (Maine Coast Heritage Trust working on an access license agreement template)
- Identify priorities for infrastructure improvement or acquisition by town, state, or land trust
- Research public access at existing ROWs
- Look at potential impacts from sea level rise/flooding on access

Discussion

What are one or two shared topics or issues in the region you would like the WG to consider focusing on in 2024 that meets these criteria?

- Would benefit multiple communities
- Would occur within the span of one year
- Is feasible with a *mostly* volunteer effort
- Has a reasonable equipment budget
- Does not require additional funding

Friends of Casco Bay



<https://www.cascobay.org/>

Announcements

- ShAC meeting on November 30 in Ellsworth and online
- DMR Regional Shellfish Meeting (mid-coast):
 - December 4 - Bucksport Town Hall
- Fishermen's Forum – Shellfish Focus Day
 - February 29 at the Samoset Resort in Rockport
- DMR mini grants



Photo credit: Bridie McCreavy

Next Steps

- Meeting summary - available online
- Steering Committee - review project ideas
- Next WG meeting - winter/spring of 2024



Thank you!

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Working Group: <https://www.cascobayregionalshellfishworkinggroup.org/>

Data Portal: <https://bit.ly/IntertidalData>

