



Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan

Draft Amendment 3

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Marine Fisheries

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Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 Timeline

- Division holds public scoping period
- MFC approves goal and objectives of FMP Amendment 3
- Division drafts FMP
- FMP advisory committee workshop to further develop draft FMP
- Division updates draft plan
- MFC votes to send draft FMP for AC review and public comment
- Public and MFC AC review
- MFC selects preferred management options
- Legislative review of draft FMP
- **MFC votes on final adoption of FMP Amendment 3**
- Division implements management strategies

You are
here



Outline

- Recreational Shellfish Harvest
- Mechanical Clam Harvest
- MFC Preferred Management Options
- Action Item: Vote on Final Adoption of Amendment 3 to the Hard Clam FMP



Recreational Shellfish Harvest

Shared issue between Hard Clam & Eastern Oyster FMPs

Option 1: Recreational Harvest

a. Status quo

b. Support the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to estimate recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with SSRWQ health and safety information outside of the FMP process.



Mechanical Clam Harvest - Issues and Concerns

- Habitat concerns associated with bottom disturbing mechanical clam harvesting gears
- Participants and trips have declined since the 1990s
 - Lowest levels on record
- State resources
 - Maintenance
 - Monitoring
- Balance between the habitat vs fishery



Management Options & MFC Selections

Option 1: Mechanical Clam Harvest

- a. Status quo
- b. Further limit mechanical clam harvest areas to improve enforceability and protect habitat
- c. Phase out mechanical clam harvest
 - 3-year phase out with contingency triggers prior to 2027
- d. Phase out mechanical clam harvest
 - 3-year phase out with no triggers

Option 2: Mechanical Clam Harvest in Conjunction with Maintenance Dredging

- a. Status quo
- b. Discontinue allowance for mechanical clam harvest in conjunction with maintenance dredging upon adoption of this plan

Hard Clam Amendment 3 Timeline

- Division holds public scoping period
- MFC approve goal and objectives of FMP
- Division drafting FMP
- Division holds workshop to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee
- Division updating draft plan
- MFC vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review
- Advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment
- MFC selects preferred management options
- Legislative review of draft FMP
- MFC votes on final adoption of FMP Amendment 3
- **Division implement management strategies**

Next step



Action Item: Final Adoption

**Vote on Final Adoption of Hard Clam Fishery
Management Plan Amendment 3**



Questions

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