

**CHAPTER 57**  
**FRENCHMAN BAY REGIONAL SHELLFISH CONSERVATION**  
**ORDINANCE**  
**CITY OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE**

A true copy –

Attest: Heidi-Noel Grindle  
City Clerk



CITY HALL

Adopted by City Council April 19, 2010  
Amended by City Council October 17, 2011  
Amended by City Council July 15, 2013  
Amended by City Council June 16, 2014  
Repealed and Replaced by City Council April 17, 2017

**FRENCHMAN BAY  
REGIONAL SHELLFISH CONSERVATION  
ORDINANCE**

**For the Municipalities of:  
Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton**

**As adopted in 2010**

**Revised 2011/2012**

**Revised 2013**

**Revised 3/18/2014**

**Revised 5/27/2014**

**Revised 2/23/2017 (Master Copy)**

**Mission Statement: These municipalities shall act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well-being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those who make their living on the tide.**

**Management Partnership Team**

**Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee  
&  
Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Municipal Joint Board**

**FRENCHMAN BAY REGIONAL SHELLFISH  
CONSERVATION ORDINANCE**

**Municipalities of Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton**

**Mission Statement: These municipalities shall act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well-being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those who make their living on the tide.**

1. **Authority:** This ordinance is enacted in accordance with 12 M.R.S.A. Section 6671.
2. **Purpose:** To establish a shellfish conservation program for the participating municipalities, which shall insure the protection and optimum utilization of shellfish resources within its limits. These goals shall be achieved by means, which may include, but not be limited to:
  - A. Licensing.
  - B. Limiting the number of shellfish harvesters.
  - C. Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted.
  - D. Limiting the minimum size of clams taken.
  - E. Limiting the amount of shellfish taken daily by a harvester.
  - F. Intertidal Management Plan

3. **Administration**

**3.1 The Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee:** The Regional Shellfish Management Program for the participating municipalities shall be administered by the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Municipal Joint Board (Municipal Joint Board) with technical input from the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee (Conservation Committee). The Conservation Committee shall consist of one member and may include one alternate member for each participating municipality. A non-resident may be appointed by a municipality to represent that municipality on the Conservation Committee. Conservation Committee Members shall be commercial harvesters licensed under this Ordinance, if they are available and willing to serve, and shall be appointed by the municipal officers of the participating municipalities and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this document for terms of up to three (3) years. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members.

- A. Selection of Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee Members:** Selectmen/Council members of each of the participating municipalities shall appoint, and replace as necessary, Conservation Committee members according to their own policies and procedures.
- B. Meetings:** The Chairman of the Shellfish Conservation Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year by the members of the Conservation Committee. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee. Notice of all meetings of the Conservation Committee shall be given to each member of the Conservation Committee and the Chairman of the Municipal Joint

Board, shall be published in accordance with each town's policies, and shall be open to the public. Minutes shall be recorded and made available for public review.

**C. Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee's Responsibilities shall include:**

i. Keeping this Ordinance under review and making recommendations for its amendments.

ii. Recommending management actions to the Municipal Joint Board in conjunction with the Area Biologist of the Department of Marine Resources. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, re-seeding of defined shellfish flats, establishing conservation closures, and limiting and/or expanding harvesting activities.

iii. Recommending to the Municipal Joint Board enforcement actions for the protection of the resource.

iv. Submitting an annual report to the participating municipalities covering the aforementioned topics and other Committee activities by February 1.

v. Assist in identifying possible sources of pollution harmful to the intertidal habitat and the shellfish resources.

vi. By February 1 of each year submit an Annual Shellfish Management Review to the Municipal Joint Board for their review and approval, prior to submitting to the Department of Marine Resources by its April 1 deadline for review/approval.

vii. By April 1 of each year submit an Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan to the Municipal Joint Board for approval. This plan shall outline in detail how many licenses are to be allocated on an annual basis and shall be consistent with 12 M.R.S.A Section 6671 (3-A) and DMR Regulation Chapter 7. After Municipal Joint Board approval, the Conservation Committee shall submit the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan to the Department of Marine Resources for approval. After receiving approval for license allocations from the Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Conservation Committee shall notify the Administrative Municipality, in writing, the number of shellfish licenses to be issued.

**D. Attendance:** Conservation Committee members shall make every effort to regularly attend Conservation Committee meetings. Any Committee member who misses more than two unexcused consecutive meetings may lose their seat on the Committee.

**E. Convictions:** Anyone convicted of violating this ordinance shall be removed from the Shellfish Conservation Committee.

**3.2. FRENCHMAN BAY REGIONAL SHELLFISH MUNICIPAL JOINT BOARD:**

Each of the participating municipalities shall appoint one municipal officer (Selectman/Council member), or a designee, as a member of the Municipal Joint Board to act as the municipality representative for all issues concerning this Ordinance. Each of the participating municipalities may also appoint one individual as an alternate member of the

Municipal Joint Board to represent the respective municipal officer during an absence at a Municipal Joint Board meeting. The designee, and alternate, must be a resident of the participating municipality and does not need to be a municipal officer (Selectman/Councilman). The person so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the body that made the appointment and may be replaced thereby.

**A. Meetings:** The Chairman of the Municipal Joint Board shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year by the members of the Municipal Joint Board. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board. Notice of all meetings of the Municipal Joint Board shall be given to each member of the Board and the Chairman of the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee, shall be published in accordance with each town's policies, and shall be open to the public. Minutes shall be recorded and made available for public review.

**B. Powers:** The Municipal Joint Board is authorized to approve the number of shellfish harvesting licenses to be issued, approve license fees, open and close the flats, set times when harvesting is allowed, set permitted quantities that may be harvested, and to take such actions as authorized by the Board of Selectmen/Council of each of the participating municipalities, and subject to the Department of Marine Resources approval as noted in Section 6, based upon the recommendations of the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee. These actions shall be described in an Annual Shellfish Management Plan submitted by the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee.

**4. Definitions**

**A. Resident:** The term "resident" refers to a person being a Maine resident who has proof of being domiciled in at least one of the participating communities continuously for a minimum of six months prior to the time their claim of such residence is made and/or whom has paid real estate taxes in at least one of these participating communities continuously for at least five years. In order to determine resident eligibility new residents shall provide two forms of proof of residency from the list below. At least one shall be from Section 3 in the chart below. All licensed harvesters will provide proof of residency on an annual basis.

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
*Copy of deed AND record of most recent mortgage payment	A utility bill or other work order dated within the past 60 days including: *Gas Bill *Oil Bill *Electric Bill *Telephone Bill *Cable or Satellite Bill	*Any valid form of photo ID and proof of residency that may include:  *A valid Maine Drivers License displaying physical address.
*Copy of Lease AND record of most recent legal affidavit from landlord affirming tenancy.	Dated within the past year: *W-2 Form *Excise (vehicle) tax bill	*A valid Maine photo ID card displaying physical address.
*Legal affidavit from landlord affirming tenancy AND record of		

most recent rent payment.	*Property tax bill *Dated within the past 60 days: *Letter from approved government agency *Payroll Stub *Bank or credit card statement	*A current vehicle registration that displays a physical address.
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- B. Nonresident:** The term "nonresident" means anyone not qualified as a resident under this ordinance.
- C. Shellfish, Clams and Intertidal Shellfish Resources:** When used in the context of this ordinance the words "shellfish", "clams", and "intertidal shellfish resources" mean soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*), quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), razor clams (*Ensis directus*), and hen clams (*Spisula solidissima*).
- D. Municipality:** Refers to the municipalities of Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton, Maine. Wherever the words "town" or "community" may be used, they are intended to mean municipality.
- E. Administrative Municipality:** The municipality that administers this Ordinance and the directives of the Municipal Joint Board.
- F. Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan:** A plan written by the Conservation Committee and submitted to the Municipal Joint Board, by April 1 of each year, for approval. This plan shall outline in detail how licenses are to be allocated on an annual basis and shall establish priority status for the allocation of licenses as referred to in Section 5.3.
- G. Annual Shellfish Management Review:** A detailed shellfish resource management plan written on an annual basis by the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee and submitted to, and approved by, the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Municipal Joint Board for submission to, and approval by, the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Said plan shall define actions to be taken regarding the number of licenses to be issued, re-seeding activities, conservation closures, limits on allowable harvest and harvesting days and times, and other measures taken to ensure a sustainable harvest of the resource.
- H. Conservation Work:** The term Conservation Work or Conservation Time, as used in this ordinance, shall be broadly defined and shall include the time accrued for work spent performing, but is not limited to, such activities as shellfish reseedling, pollution abatement, predator eradication, shellfish surveying, information gathering, testing and sampling, and any other activity that the Shellfish Conservation Committee deems as supporting shellfish resource enhancement and the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Management Program. All such Conservation Work activities must be approved by the Municipal Joint Board.
- I. First-time Commercial License:** Is 1) a commercial license of any class issued to an individual who has never held a commercial license of any class, or 2) the

issuance of a commercial license of any class issued to an individual who has not held a commercial license of any class during the previous twelve (12) months, at time of application.

5. **LICENSING:**

A Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish License is required to harvest shellfish in the jurisdiction of this Ordinance. It is unlawful for any person to dig or take shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating communities for the purpose of selling the shellfish without having a current commercial license issued by the Administrative Municipality as provided by this Ordinance. Additionally, a commercial harvester must have a valid State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License issued by the Department of Marine Resources prior to harvesting shellfish for commercial purposes. It shall be unlawful for any individual whose State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License, or right to harvest, has been suspended by the State of Maine to harvest or possess shellfish without proof of purchase. Also, if such individual currently holds a municipal license, such license shall be suspended for the same period of time. Any restrictions on licenses regarding the harvest of shellfish as defined in this ordinance shall be outlined in the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan developed by the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee and approved by the Municipal Joint Board.

**Licensing Requirements:** All license sales shall be conducted as described in the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan developed each year by the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee.

**5.1 Designation, Scope and Qualifications:**

**A. Resident Commercial Shellfish License:** This license is available to residents of a municipality who are also State of Maine Residents and/or real estate tax payers in at least one of the participating municipalities, consistent with Section 4.A., above and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating municipalities.

**B. Nonresident Commercial Shellfish License:** This license is available to nonresidents of participating municipalities and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating municipalities.

**C. Resident Junior Commercial Shellfish License:** This license is available to residents of a participating municipality who are younger than age 19 at the time of license application and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating municipalities.

**D. Nonresident Junior Commercial Shellfish License:** This license is available to nonresidents of the participating municipalities who are younger than age 19 at the time of license application and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating municipalities.

**E. Resident Senior Commercial License:** This license is available to senior residents of a participating municipality who are over the age of 65 at the time of

license application and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shore and flats of the participating municipalities.

**F. Non-Resident Senior Commercial License:** This license is available to nonresident seniors of the participating municipalities who are over the age of 65 at the time of license application and entitles the holder to dig and take any amount of shellfish from the shores and flats of the participating municipalities.

**G. Residential Family/Individual Recreational Shellfish License:** This license is available to Residents and Maine resident real estate taxpayers of the participating municipalities, consistent with Section 4.A., above, who do not hold a valid State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License and entitles the family to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish or 3 bushels of “hen” or “surf” clams in any one day for the use of their self and their family. Residents with an Aquaculture Lease Permit shall be exempt and eligible for a recreational license.

**H. Nonresident Family/Individual Recreational Shellfish License:** This license is available to any person not a resident of one of the participating municipalities who does not hold a valid State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License and entitles the family to dig and take not more than one peck of shellfish or 3 bushels of “hen” or “surf” clams in any one day for the use of their self and their family. Nonresidents with an Aquaculture Lease Permit shall be exempt and eligible for a recreational license.

**I. License must be signed:** The licensee must sign the license to make it valid. License must be in possession when engaged in harvesting. By signing the license the harvester acknowledges that they must submit to inspection by the Municipal Shellfish Warden.

**5.2 Fees:** A schedule of fees shall be available at the Administrative Municipality offices. The fees for the licenses shall be determined annually by the Shellfish Conservation Committee and Municipal Joint Board. Licensees shall submit fees, in full upon issuance of license. Fees received for shellfish licenses shall be used by the Administrative Municipality to support the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. Sale of recreational licenses shall be the responsibility of each participating municipality. Any and all fees and license sales for recreational licenses shall be collected by the participating municipalities and sent to the Administrative Municipality quarterly, except for a \$3.00 agent fee per license that will be retained by the issuing municipality.

Applicants for a resident or non-resident renewal commercial shellfish harvester license and resident senior or non-resident senior renewal commercial shellfish harvester license may volunteer to perform shellfish conservation work in exchange for a reduction in the renewal commercial license fee as described in Section 5.4-B, below. Generally, each hour of conservation work performed will be credited at \$15 so those conservation hours worked, multiplied by \$15, may be deducted from the full renewal commercial license fee, **except** that Resident Junior Commercial renewal license and Non-resident Junior Commercial renewal licenses may be



purchased without performing any Conservation Work. A resident junior license shall be half the cost of a regular commercial resident license. A nonresident junior license shall be half the cost of a regular commercial nonresident license. A resident senior commercial license shall be half the cost of, and require only half of the voluntary conservation time necessary for, a regular commercial resident license. A non-resident senior commercial license shall be half the cost of, and require only half of the voluntary conservation time necessary for, a regular commercial non-resident license.

First-time commercial licenses will be sold at the lowest fee for each class of commercial license.

**5.3 Application Procedure:** Any person may apply to the municipal Clerk for the licenses required by this ordinance on forms provided by the Administrative Municipality. Notice of available commercial licenses shall be published in a trade or industry publication, or in a newspaper, or newspapers, or combination of newspapers with general circulation which the Municipal Joint Board considers effective in reaching persons affected, not less than ten (10) days prior to the period of issuance and shall be posted in the municipal offices of the participating municipalities until the period expires. Applications for commercial licenses must be received at the Town Office of the Administrative Municipality as required by the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan. No shellfish licenses may be reserved and licenses cannot be transferred.

**A. Contents of Application:** The application must be in the form of an affidavit and must contain the applicant's name, current address, birth date, height, weight, signature and any additional information the municipality may require, including photos.

**B. Misrepresentation:** Any person who intentionally gives false information on a license application shall cause the application to be removed from consideration, if a license is issued as a result of the false information, said license to become invalid and void.

**C. Address change:** A person holding a commercial shellfish license under this ordinance shall notify the town clerk of the Administrative Town within ninety (90) days of address change outside of the participating municipalities. Failure to do so will be considered and treated as misrepresentation.

**5.4. License Allocation Procedures:** License sales procedures shall be determined by the Shellfish Conservation Committee, approved by the Municipal Joint Board, and submitted to the Department of Marine Resources for their approval at least thirty (30) days prior to the licenses going on sale. Notice of the number of licenses to be issued and the procedure for application shall be defined by the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan.

**A.** The Clerk of the Administrative Municipality shall issue licenses to those residents and non-residents who have met the requirements of obtaining a

commercial license. The Town Clerk shall issue licenses and hold a lottery for nonresident commercial licenses by procedure described in the Annual Shellfish License Allocation Procedure Plan.

**B.** Optional Conservation Work may be completed prior to the renewal of a municipal commercial shellfish license to reduce the license cost in accordance with the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan. The performance of Conservation Work in order to accrue Conservation Time is optional and may be credited as described below:

1) Resident or non-resident commercial renewal shellfish licenses may be purchased without performing conservation work, however, the performance of Conservation Work will reduce a resident or non-resident renewal commercial shellfish license fee by \$15 for each hour worked, up to twelve (12) hours.

2) Resident junior or non-resident junior commercial renewal shellfish licenses may be purchased without performing conservation work.

3) Resident senior or non-resident senior commercial renewal shellfish licenses may be purchased without performing conservation work, however, the performance of Conservation Work will reduce a resident senior or non-resident senior renewal commercial shellfish license fee by \$15 for each hour worked, up to six (6) hours.

4) First-time commercial licenses may be purchased at the lowest fee for each class of commercial license.

**C.** Any license holder convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall forfeit seniority. Those who have held commercial licenses uninterrupted, from the first year of the Ordinance shall maintain seniority.

**D.** Details explaining how licenses will be issued will be described in the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan.

**5.5** **Limitation of Diggers:** The number of commercial licenses may be limited and will be issued according to the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan.

**A.** If it is determined that Limited Licenses are necessary, the Administrative Community shall issue licenses to residents and nonresidents as described in the Annual Shellfish License Sales and Lottery Procedure Plan.

**5.6** **Open License Sales:** When the Shellfish Conservation Committee determines limiting shellfish licenses is not an appropriate shellfish management option for one or more license categories for the following year;

**A.** The number of recreational licenses will not be limited. Recreational licenses shall be issued to residents or non-residents without restriction.

- 5.7 **License Expiration Date:** Each license issued under authority of this ordinance expires at midnight on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- 5.8 **Fee Waivers:** Recreational shellfish license fees are not required for individuals 65 years or older and younger than age 13 at the time of license application.
6. **Opening and Closing of Flats:** The Municipal Joint Board in conjunction with the Shellfish Conservation Committee, upon approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, may open and close areas for shellfish harvest. Upon concurrence of the Department of Marine Resources Area Biologist that the status of shellfish resource and other factors bearing on sound management indicate that an area should be opened or closed, the Shellfish Conservation Committee and Municipal Joint Board may call a public hearing, and shall send a copy of the notice to the Department of Marine Resources. The decision of the Municipal Joint Board and Shellfish Conservation Committee made after the hearing shall be based on findings of fact.
7. **Minimum Legal Size of Soft Shell Clams:** It is unlawful for any person to possess soft shell clams within participating municipalities that are less than two (2) inches in the longest diameter except as provided by Subsection 7.2 of this section.
- 7.1 **Definitions:**
- A. **Lot:** The word "lot" as used in this ordinance means the total number of soft shell clams in any bulk pile. Where soft shell clams are in a box, barrel, or other container, the contents of each box, barrel, or other container constitutes a separate lot.
- B. **Possess:** For the purpose of this section, "possess" means dig, take, harvest, ship, transport, hold, buy and sell retail and wholesale soft shell clam shell stock.
- 7.2 **Tolerance:** Any person may possess soft shell clams that are less than two inches if they comprise less than 10% of any lot. The tolerance shall be determined by count of not less than one peck nor more than four pecks taken at random from various parts of the lot or by a count of the entire lot if it contains less than one peck.
- 7.3 **Penalty:** Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished as provided by 12 M.R.S.A. Section 6681.
8. **Penalty:** A person who violates this ordinance shall be punished as provided by 12 M.R.S.A. Section 6671 (10) (10-A) (10-B).
9. **Effective Date:** This ordinance, which has been approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources, shall become effective after its adoption by the member municipalities provided a certified copy of the ordinance is filed with the Commissioner within twenty (20) days of its adoption.
10. **Severability:** If any section, subsection, sentence or part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

11. **Repeal:** Any ordinance regulating the harvesting or conservation of shellfish in the member communities and any provisions of any other town ordinance, which is inconsistent with this ordinance, is hereby repealed.
12. **Use of Fees and Fines, Funding:** Fees for shellfish licenses shall be set forth in the Annual Shellfish Management plan and shall accompany the application for the respective license. Fees and fines received shall be used for costs incurred in the enforcement and management of this ordinance.
  - 12.1 **Non-lapse Provision:** Monies in the Municipal Shellfish Account shall not lapse at the end of the year but shall be carried over to the next year in that account.
  - 12.2 **Funding:** The Municipal Shellfish Program shall be self-supporting, to the extent possible. Funds for operating the Program may be generated by license fees, fines, and financial support from participating communities, fund-raising events, and charitable contributions.

13. **VIOLATIONS, SUSPENSION OF LICENSES, AND FINES:**  
 Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be punished as provided by 12 M.R.S.A. Section 6671 and/or Section 6681. A violation of this Ordinance may result in a license suspension. A licensee whose shellfish license has been suspended pursuant to this Ordinance may request return of their license only after the suspension period has expired. A suspended license is not to be returned until the fine is paid in accordance with the court's decree. The suspension of a commercial license shall begin automatically, following conviction. Any licensee whose license has been suspended for a period of time greater than 30 days, pursuant to this Ordinance, shall be entitled to a hearing before the Municipal Joint Board upon the filing of a written request for a hearing with the Town Clerk of the Administrative Town within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the suspension.

**13-A. Costs and Attorney's Fees:** In addition to any penalty assessed for any violation of this ordinance, if the municipality is the prevailing party, the municipality shall be awarded reasonable attorney fees, expert witness fees and costs, unless the court finds that special circumstances make the award of these fees and costs unjust.

Classifications of violations are categorized as follows:

- 13.1 **Stopping for inspection:** A person shall produce their license on demand of any certified Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden in uniform and having "probable cause" to take such action. It is unlawful for the operator of a motor vehicle, boat, vessel, or conveyance of any kind, or any person:
  - A. To deliberately fail or refuse to stop immediately upon request or signal of any Certified Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden.
  - B. After the person has stopped, to fail to remain stopped until the said Warden has reached his/her immediate vicinity and makes known to the operator the reason for his/her request or signal.
  - C. To fail or refuse to stand by immediately for inspection on request of said Warden.

- D. To throw or dump into any coastal waters or flats after having been requested or signaled to stop by a Certified Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden any shellfish, or any pail, bag, hod or container before said Warden has inspected the same.
- E. To attempt to elude, disobey, or assault any Certified Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden.

**Penalties:** Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources statutes and regulations.

- 13.2 Harvesting Clams in any Closed Area:** It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest, take or possess shellfish from any areas closed by those 7 municipalities included in the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, namely the municipalities of Ellsworth, Lamoine, Trenton, Hancock, Franklin, Sullivan, and Sorrento, in accordance with DMR Regulation, Chapter 7. Harvesting shellfish in a closed area is a violation of the regional ordinance of these municipalities and is punishable under MRSA Title 12 §6671.

Boundaries of conservation closures are explicitly defined in the conservation closure application submitted on behalf of the seven (7) above-named municipalities to DMR and are part of the resulting permit issued by DMR. These permits are posted on the website of the City of Ellsworth, the administrative municipality for the seven (7) municipality regional ordinance, and also online at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/programs/municipal/ordinances/towninfo.html>

**Penalties:** Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources statutes and regulations.

- 13.3 Minimum Legal Size of Shellfish:** It is unlawful for any person to violate minimum shellfish size regulation set forth in this Ordinance:

**Penalties:** Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources statutes and regulations.

- 13.4 Harvesting without a license:** It is unlawful to harvest shellfish without a license.

**Penalties:** Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources statutes and regulations.

- 13.5 Tagging:** The holder of a commercial shellfish license shall identify shellstock the license holder has taken by means of a harvester tag. The tag shall be in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) rules.

**Penalties:** Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Maine Department of Marine Resources statutes and regulations.

**13.6 Suspension:** A person licensed under this ordinance who has had their State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License suspended shall forfeit their Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance license (Regional License) for the duration of the State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License suspension. Such a person in possession of shellfish must carry a receipt of purchase for said shellfish. Any shellfish licensee having three convictions for a violation of this ordinance within a three year period shall have their shellfish license suspended for a period of thirty (30) days.

**13.7 (Intentionally left blank.)**

**13.8 (Intentionally left blank.)**

**14. ENFORCEMENT:** This ordinance shall be enforced by the certified Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden or any Municipal Shellfish Conservation Warden appointed by the Municipal Joint Board who, within one year of appointment, must be certified by the Commissioner of the Maine DMR. An enforcement action shall be filed in the name of the municipality where the violation was alleged to have occurred.

**15. AMENDMENTS**

**15.1 Initiation:** A proposal for an amendment to this Ordinance may be initiated by the following:

**A.** A written petition submitted with the number of voters in the participating municipalities equal to at least ten percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election;

**B.** A recommendation of the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee; or

**C.** A recommendation of the Municipal Joint Board.

**15.2 Procedure:**

**A.** Any proposal for an amendment shall be made to the Municipal Joint Board, in writing, stating the specific changes requested. All such proposals shall be transmitted to the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee for their review and recommendation.

**B.** Within thirty (30) days of receiving a properly initiated amendment, the Municipal Joint Board shall hold a public hearing on the proposal. Notice of the hearing shall be posted and advertised in a newspaper of general circulation within the participating communities at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain the time, date and place of the hearing and sufficient detail about the proposed changes as to give adequate notice of their content. If the proposed changes are extensive, a brief summary of the changes, together with an indication that a full text is available at the municipal Clerk's office shall be adequate notice.

**15.3 Adoption:** This Ordinance may be amended by a majority vote of the Municipal Joint Board, after proposed changes have been reviewed by the Department of Marine Resources. Note: Ellsworth’s charter requires Council action.

**15.4 Statute Law Changes:** Any changes to referenced Statue Laws in this Ordinance shall automatically update in this Ordinance upon enactment.

**Adoption:**

WHEREAS: In consideration of all of the above, and IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have by their duly authorized officers caused this Ordinance to be adopted in all parts this **23rd** day of **February, 2017**.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Name/Title</u>
Sorrento _____		Craig Clement, Joint Board Member
Sullivan _____		Gary Edwards, Joint Board Member
Franklin _____		Dana Smith, Joint Board Member
Hancock _____		Roger Dubois, Joint Board Member
Ellsworth _____		Stephen Beatham, Joint Board Member
Lamoine _____		Richard Fennelly, Joint Board Member
Trenton _____		Mike Hodgkins, Joint Board Member