

## Gouldsboro Shellfish Meeting Agenda for September 10, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2025
3. Adjustments to the Agenda
4. Update from Pauline
5. Update from Bill
6. Update from Heidi
7. Green Crabs
8. Possible Resurrection of the clam lab in new location with the 7 Town
9. Shore Access
10. Next Scheduled Meeting is October 8, 2025 at 6 PM
11. Motion to Adjourn

## Gouldsboro Shellfish Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance: Wayne Bishko, Jon Renwick, Alan Church and David Deniger

1. Meeting was called to Order by Wayne at 1804 hours
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2025 –David made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan-  
- Motion passed unanimously
3. No Adjustments to the Agenda
4. No update fro Pauline as she wasn't in Attendance
5. Bill updated us on the Harbor projects, He has submitted a grant proposal to get cost estimates for the for a boat ramp in Prospect Harbor and a Wharf in South Gouldsboro.
6. Heidi updated the group on the flat sampling that we did on Stave Island Bar in the spring. She told us that there are clams on the Bar, that we found several clams that were in the 2 ½ to the 3 in range. She thought that we should have some kind of limited harvest to get the bigger clams and to see what else is there. She told us that the clams were on top of the bar, we didn't sample everywhere. That report generated a lot of discussion about when we should open to harvest and amount of harvest. It was decided that we would consider the October 15, 2025 as the opening and decide at the next meeting on exact time and amount of harvest. Mike  
Heidi also reported that we sampled Alexander, we found a lot of seed clams, it looked very good.
7. We had a report from Elin on her experience with the new experimental crab trap—See Attached Report.  
We also had a report from Chantel on her experience with the same trap. Her findings were that the trap to catch small crabs doesn't work. The crabs can crawl out after having a nice meal. She didn't catch more than a ½ dozen at a time, difficult to catch the nickel size crabs we were targeting. The bait didn't last.
8. Mike and Bill presented the idea of possible resurrection of the clam lab with the 7 Town Clam Committee. Mike told us that he had spoken to the board representatives from Sullivan who sit on the 7 Town Board about maybe entering in this joint venture. Mike lives in Sullivan and knew that the Town of Sullivan owns Gordon's Wharf which is on the Taunton River. The 2 representatives thought that it was a good idea and spoke

to the Town Manager of Sullivan and he was very interested in the proposal. It was decided that Mike and Bill would a meet with the representatives and the Town.

Jon made a motion to check into the option of relocating the clam lab and work with the 7 Town Committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wayne-- The motion carried unanimously

9. Mike told us that he was working on new shore access and that he learned that a lot of subdivision in town have access written into the paperwork. Bill told Mike that he would help to research these access points.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting is October 8, 2025 at 6 PM.

11. Motion to Adjourn was made at 1908 hours by Alan-2nd David-Motion passed Unanimously

Submitted by Shellfish Warden  
Michael A. Pinkham

## Green Crab Trapping 2025

Used new trap, designed to catch smaller crabs in Jones Cove, Gouldsboro.

Trapping began July 4, 2025 and continued to present, Sept 9, 2025.

Trap placement was intertidal, near seaweed covered rocks, covered with seaweed and rock.

Bait varied from chicken, pork, fish and beef remains with occasional herring.

Initial results were very meager. First 11 days of trapping caught 7 crabs, with 1" to 1.75" carapaces while bait was consistently totally consumed. At that point, 5 of the 6 entry holes for the crabs were covered over with screen.

Second 22 days of trapping yielded 17 crabs, of the same size usually with one smaller than thumbnail found stuck in the mesh of the trap. Again, large quantities of bait disappeared. I attached an open-ended cylinder to the one remaining opening, to mimic the tunnel at the opening to the large traps used last year.

Third 16 days of trapping was the most successful, but still netted only 16 crabs, all between 1 and 2". Again, more bait disappeared than the trapped crabs could account for.

All told, in 45 days, 40 crabs were trapped. The refinements to the trap helped; with 6 open entry points, 0.6 crabs per day, with 1 open entry point, 0.8 crabs per day, with open entry through tunnel into trap, 1.3 crabs per day. Meanwhile two standard traps placed in the same area yielded the same robust results of fully grown green crabs as we enjoyed last year.

I think that the very small crabs we were hoping to catch were able to get in, eat and get out. Something was eating a lot of bait. I believe that the entry structure on the standard trap is a better way to keep crabs in the trap. The one very small crab caught in the mesh is an indication that smaller mesh to the trap could help limit escaping.

The design of the trap to allow for emptying without lifting the trap was much easier to use, although the bungee cords closing the trap were harder to pull open than necessary.

In summary, I think the idea that a lighter weight, easier to handle trap for smaller green crabs is a very useful one. If some refinements to make a trap more efficient could be found, many people with shore access might be enlisted to help in the effort to rid our waters of more crabs before they have eaten everything else out there to grow to maturity and multiply. The smaller size in itself mitigates the "what to do with them" problem.

Respectfully, Elin Poneman