



Town of Brunswick, Maine

INCORPORATED 1739

MARINE RESOURCES & HARBOR MANAGEMENT

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Daniel R. Devereaux

Marine Resource Officer

Harbormaster

May 6th, 2015

To: Brunswick Marine Resources Committee

From: Daniel R. Devereaux MRO/HM

RE: *Coastal Wetlands/Salt Marshes ~ Maine Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resource Protection Act*

Dear Committee Members,

It has been brought to my attention by several land owners, that local commercial softshell clam harvesters are harvesting shellfish from within the high value salt marshes around the Brunswick Coastline. (See attached pictures of Bunganuc Shoreline) As many citizens are aware salt marshes are a critical component to Brunswick watersheds and near shore ecosystem's.

Brunswick's local salt marshes provide several benefits to the watershed and it's intertidal shellfish resources. They buffer upland run off, which decreases nitrogen, which ultimately helps stabilize the bay and help protect from eutrophication (complete die off). Salt marshes are also an important factor in reducing wave action/energy prior to reaching coastal bluffs. These high value coastal wet lands help Brunswick property owners reduce the erosion of their upland property.

Removing or disturbing defined vegetated salt marsh is a violation of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Resources Protection Act and would require a Tier 1 permit. I'm not sure if local harvesters are aware of this or not. I bring this to the BMRC's attention in hopes of educating the public commercial and recreational harvesters of the values of the salt marshes and also the MEDEP legalities of disturbing these areas.

The committees' attention to this urgent matter is greatly appreciated.

Attachment's: Pictures of Bunganuc Shoreline