

## **Brunswick Shellfish Development Initiative**

### **Overview**

The Town of Brunswick is one of Maine's most significant & historic shellfish harvesting towns thanks to a combination of abundant natural resources (66 miles of coastline, 1,600 acres of mudflats) and decades of progressive community-based shellfish management. This industry is an irreplaceable part of our local economy and cultural heritage that provides jobs and tax revenues and defines a unique and iconic Maine working waterfront.

Over the past several years, negative pressures of a changing climate and coastal gentrification have made it difficult for shellfishermen to make a stable and affordable living locally. At the same time, there has been a slow and steady increase in shellfish farming, both public and private. Local shellfishing programs and private shellfish farming holds great promise as an economic diversification tool for Brunswick's working waterfront as changes to historic fisheries occur.

To maintain our shellfish heritage, the Town is undertaking a Shellfish Development Initiative to create a roadmap of short and long-term resilience strategies to pursue. Our approach will be fact-based and stakeholder-input-driven relying on the abundance of historic datasets (environmental and harvest) and an TBD Advisory Committee.

### **Approach**

The initial focus will be to develop an initial suite of tools and resources that lay a foundation for further development.

- Characterization of Brunswick's historic shellfish sector and developing shellfish aquaculture industry.
- Work with Brunswick Shellfish Committee to develop standardized criteria for aquaculture license and lease review.
- Coordinate with the Maine Department of Resources and develop approaches that coordinate with their existing mandates and the defined role of municipalities and harbor masters in application review.
- Convene stakeholder Advisory Committee to understand stakeholder needs and interests and identify opportunities and threats for a vibrant and robust shellfish sector.
- Identify practices where aquaculture growth bolsters wild-capture fisheries and local shellfish populations.
- Initial roadmap of Town initiatives to support a robust future shellfish industry in the face of environmental and social changes.

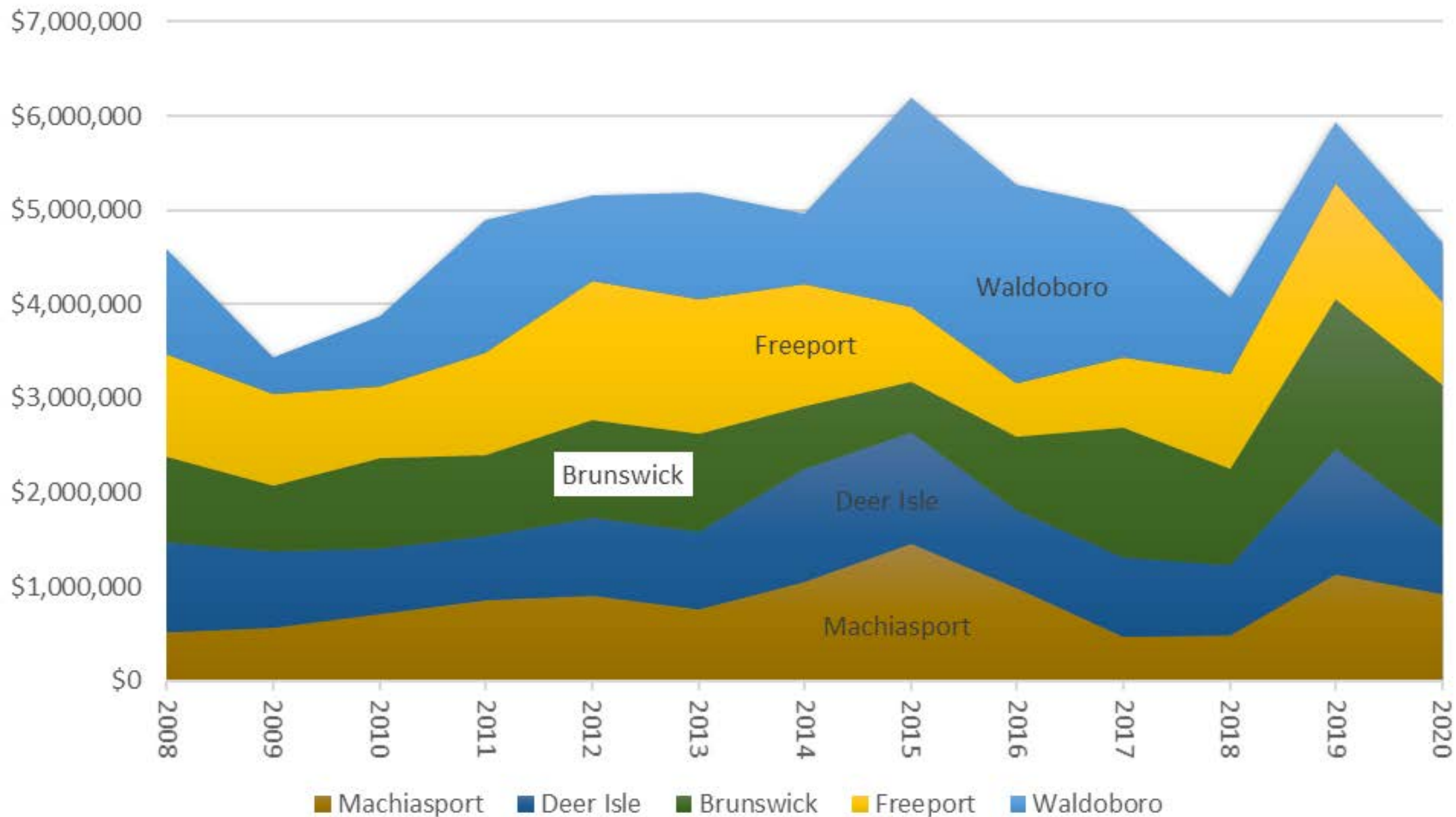
### **Additional Background**

This initiative arose from conversations between two Town Departments - Coastal Resources and Economic Development - who identified related needs for different reasons. The Coastal Resources Department has seen the negative implications of climate-related changes to our historic fisheries first-hand and understands the need for resiliency strategies. The Economic Development Department has fielded many inquiries from locals interested in farming along the shores and is interested in strategies and resources to support the development and resiliency of Brunswick's shellfish industries.

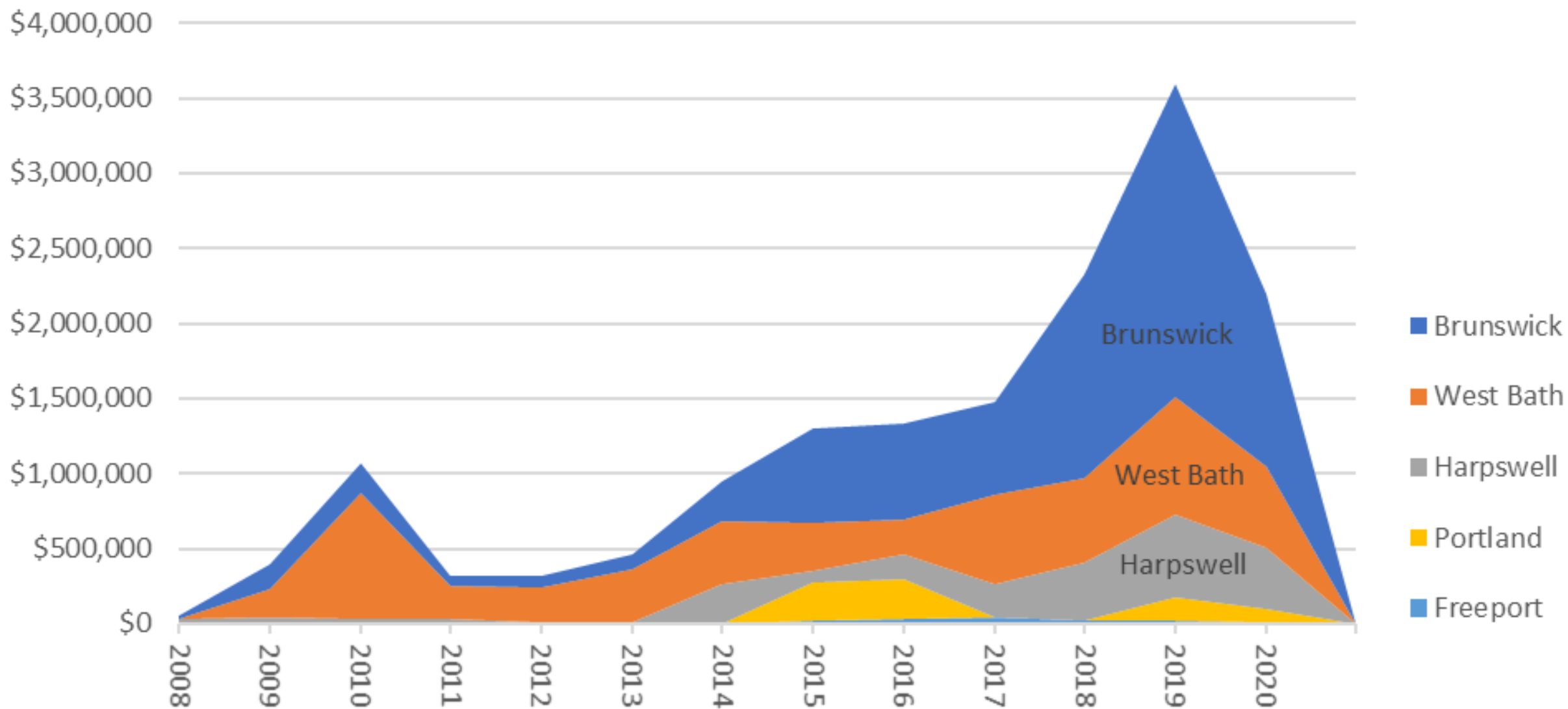
### **For more information contact:**

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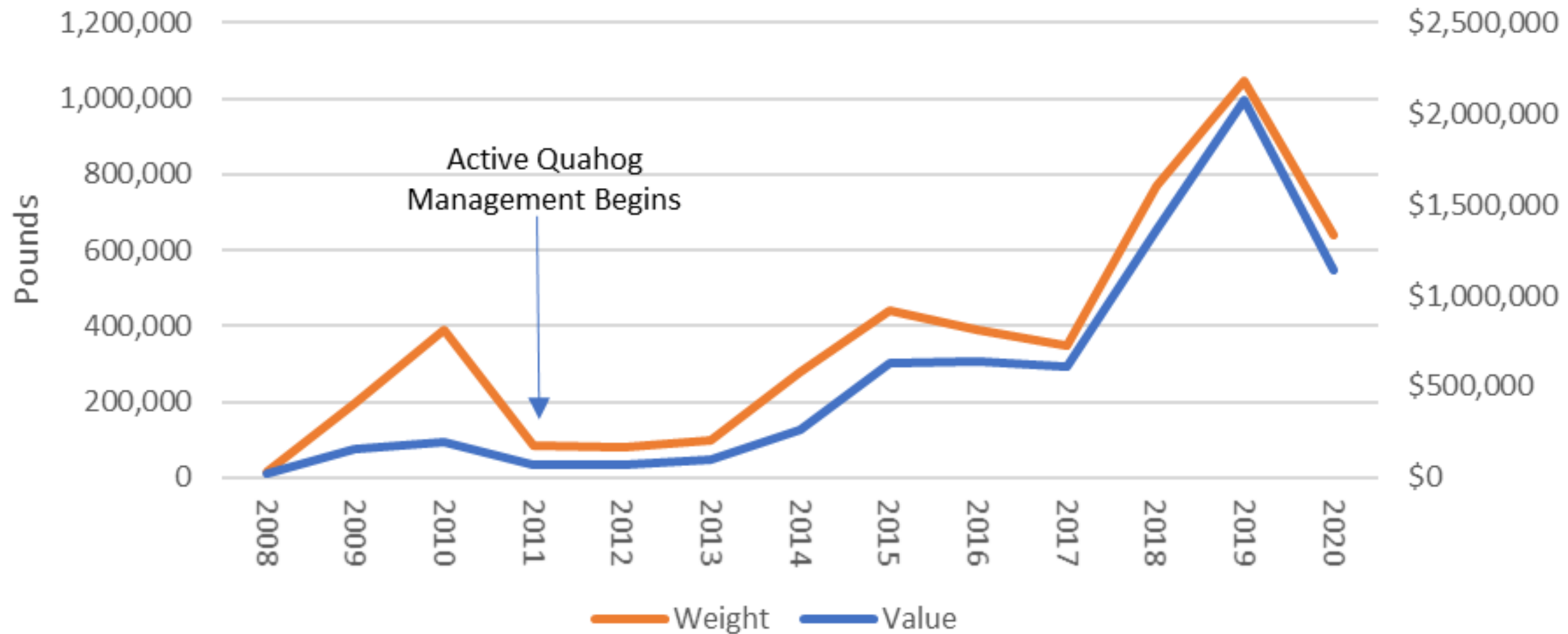
# Top 5 Maine Softshell Clam Ports by \$ Value



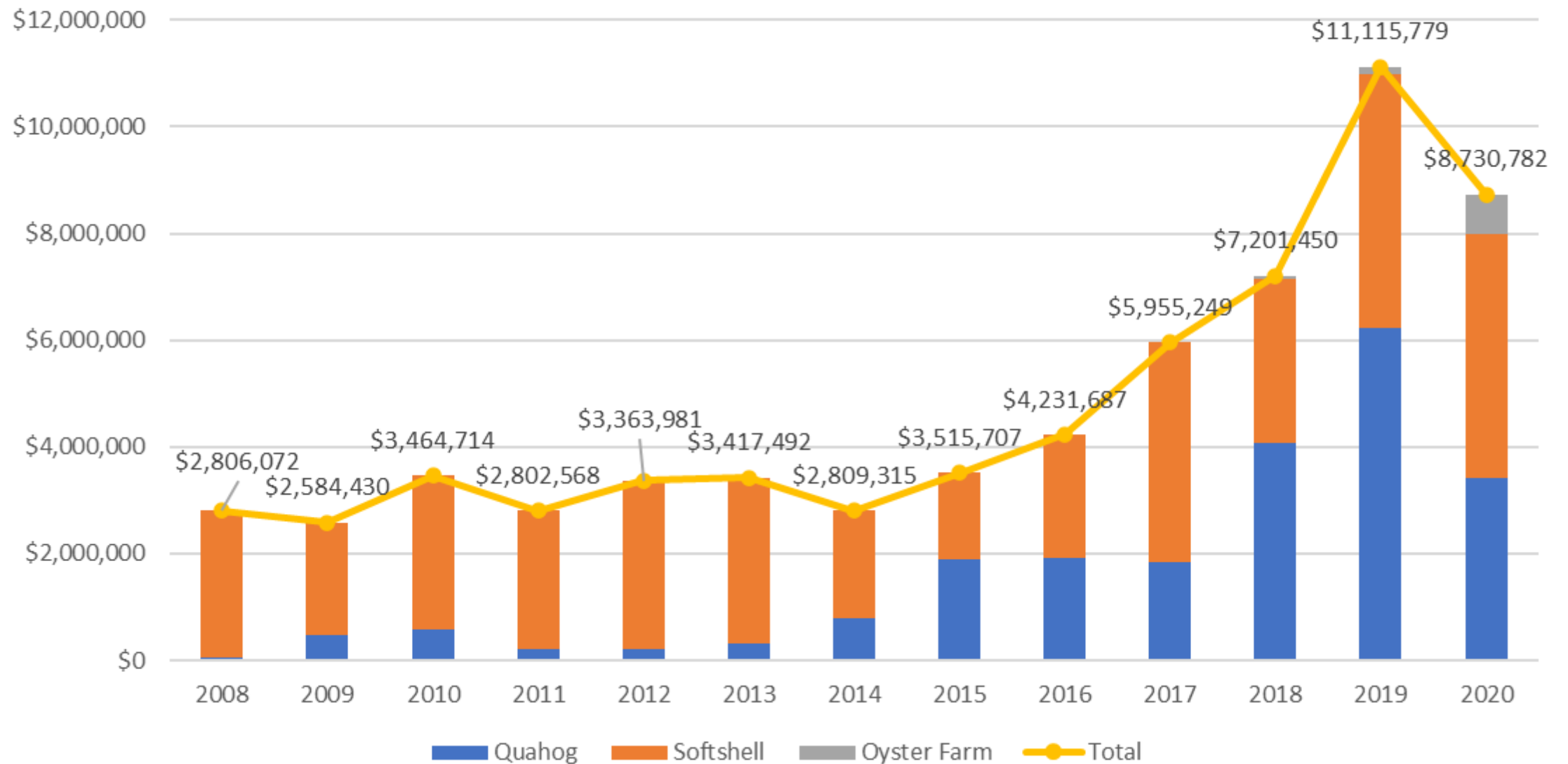
## Top 5 ME Quahog Ports by \$ Value



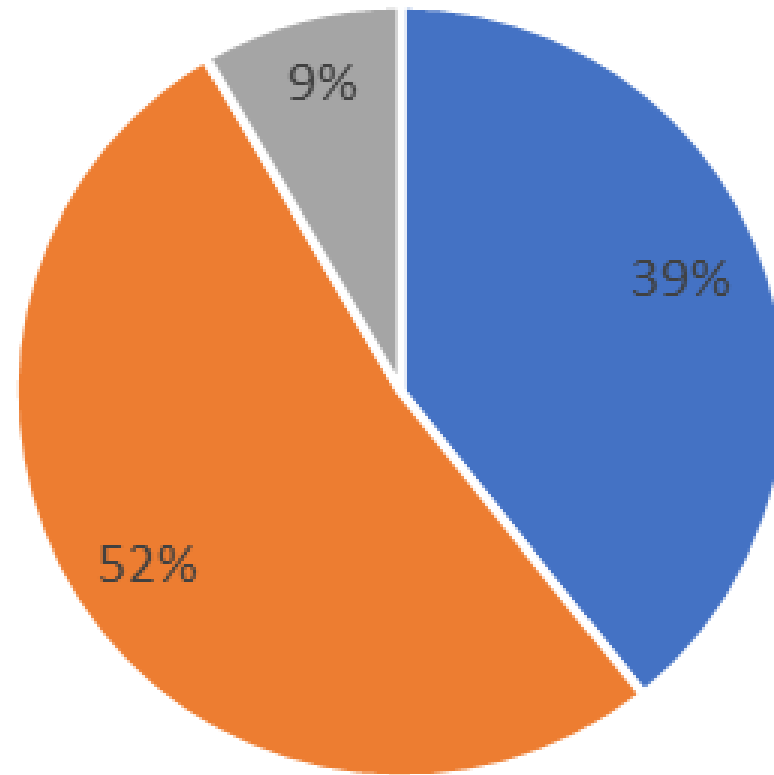
# Brunswick Quahog



## Brunswick Shellfish Total Economic Contribution

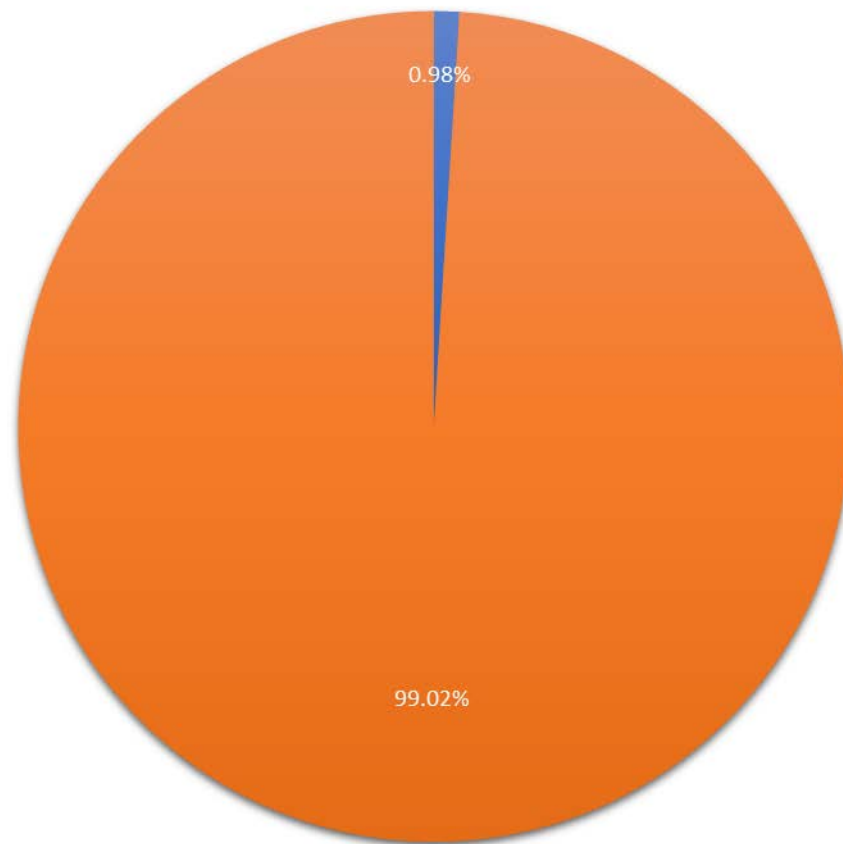


## 2020 Brunswick Shellfish % by Total Value



■ Quahog   ■ Softshell   ■ Oyster Farm

### Percentage of Town Waters w/ Sea Farms



■ Sea Farms ■ No Sea Farms