

TOWN OF STUEBEN SHELLFISH WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Enforcement Totals

Total Hours Worked: **250**
Total Mileage: **1,786 miles**
Commercial Harvesters Checked: **9**
Recreational Harvesters Checked: **7**
Violations Issued: **1**
Warnings Issued: **4**
Calls for Service: **2**

Enforcement Overview

Shellfish enforcement activity in Steuben during 2025 focused on routine patrol and monitoring of the town's primary harvesting areas, including Petit Manan, Pyne Cove, and surrounding flats. Patrols were conducted throughout the season to verify compliance with municipal licensing requirements, monitor conservation areas, and maintain a visible enforcement presence.

A total of **250 patrol hours** were conducted during the year. Enforcement activity included compliance checks of commercial and recreational harvesters, monitoring known harvesting locations, and responding to occasional complaints or public inquiries.

Enforcement actions during the year resulted in **one (1) civil summons and four (4) warnings**. The summons involved commercial harvesting without a valid municipal license. Most other interactions were resolved through education and voluntary compliance, particularly with recreational harvesters unfamiliar with municipal licensing requirements.

Enforcement activity followed predictable seasonal patterns, with patrols focused on reopening flats and licensing compliance in the spring, increased recreational activity during the summer months, and reduced harvesting activity in the fall with continued monitoring of conservation areas.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Coordination with the **Maine Marine Patrol** occurred periodically regarding complaints, enforcement matters, and information sharing related to harvesting activity. Assistance was also provided to Marine Patrol when requested. The **Washington County Sheriff's Office** was contacted in connection with a trespass complaint involving shellfish harvesting access.

Public interaction during patrols primarily involved providing information on licensing requirements, legal harvesting locations, and state and municipal shellfish closures.

Program Summary

Shellfish enforcement activity in Steuben during 2025 remained manageable, with relatively low harvesting pressure and generally strong compliance from licensed harvesters. Routine patrol presence and monitoring helped maintain compliance and protect the town's shellfish resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael W. Boucher
Municipal Shellfish Warden
Town of Steuben