

Freeport Shellfish Commission

Freeport's working waterfront and fisheries are an important part of our culture, heritage and economy. Over the past forty years Freeport has been one of Maine's top producers of soft-shell clams and has a proud history of being a leader with regard to coastal water quality. However, the Gulf of Maine's decades long warming trend has taken its toll on Freeport's shellfish resources and without intervention, commercial clamming in Freeport is in serious jeopardy. As the Gulf of Maine has warmed vast intertidal areas have become void of commercial populations of clams. Freeport has been the industry leader in marine field research aimed at identifying the problems, and testing methods to sustain the local fishery. For more than a year, the Freeport Shellfish Commission has been reviewing and updating Freeport's Shellfish Ordinance with the goal of sustaining and enhancing shellfish resources in the warming ocean climate. As the warming ocean seawater temperatures have caused significant changes to the intertidal environment and decreased clam populations, we saw the need to adapt current management practices to this changed environment. The Ordinance changes outlined here reflect the latest shellfish science, most of all which were conducted locally, and our efforts at adaptive fisheries management.

These changes are necessary to sustain and enhance commercial shellfishing for both the current, as well as future generations of Freeport fishing families.

The Commission is now recommending the Freeport Town Council consider amendments and additions to Freeport's Shellfish Ordinance. The emphasis of these recommendations is centered on adapting methods, procedures and clarification of certain sections. The Commission is requesting an opportunity to present these recommendations to the Freeport Town Council and enter into a dialogue with the Council and the community regarding the future of Freeport's commercial shellfish industry in a warming climate.

General areas with recommended changes:

32-201 Purpose

Basic language changes with an emphasis on "Sustaining and enhancing the production of shellfish" in Freeport.

32-401 Shellfish Conservation Commission

Changes in practices and requirements based on updated science and industry practices

32-501 Definitions

Conservation and Conservation Areas

-Discuss issues regarding the control of the Inter-tidal Area and current position of the Maine Department of Marine Resources

-Define "Non-Commercially Productive Intertidal Area" and address concerns of current commercial shellfish harvesters.

-Identify areas for possible shellfish aquaculture expansion without impacting current productive areas while still achieving successful commercial aquaculture expansion

32-601 Licensing

Update on Student Commercial License requirements
Add license fee reduction for necessary conservation work

The Commission proposes providing a tracked change Ordinance to the Town Council and a public opportunity to initially present the recommendations. The Commission looks forward to working with the Town Council and Community.

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**SHELLFISH CONSERVATION ORDINANCE
TOWN OF FREEPORT
CHAPTER 32**

Section 32-101 AUTHORITY:

This Ordinance is enacted in accordance with 12 M.R.S.A., Section 6671.

Section 32-201 PURPOSE:

To establish a Shellfish Conservation Program for the Town of Freeport that will sustain and enhance the production of shellfish resources within its limits. These goals will be achieved by means which may include:

- A. Licensing;
- B. Determining the number of shellfish harvesters;
- C. Restricting the time and area where digging is permitted;
- D. Limiting the amount of clams taken daily by a harvester;
- E. Enhancing the clam resources by the various recognized means;
- F. Identifying and addressing water quality issues;
- G. Working with state, federal, and local officials as well as non-profit organizations and other science-based organizations to sustain and enhance the shellfish resource;
- H. Supporting and actively participating in applied marine research;
- I. Any other activity reasonably related to the purpose of sustaining and enhancing the production of Freeport's shellfish resources.

All flats bordering the Wolfe's Neck State Park as of December 8, 1983, are under the jurisdiction of the Freeport Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. Recreational digging in Wolfe's Neck State Park will not require a recreational license. To the extent of Freeport's authority, the shellfish stocks within the state parks located in Freeport, including Wolfe's Neck State Park, are available for commercial harvesting, subject only to the restriction that sufficient viable stocks must first be maintained for recreational harvesters.

Section 32-301 EFFECTIVE DATE, DURATION, AND AMENDMENT:

1. Effective Date: This Ordinance which has been approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall become effective after its adoption by the Municipality. A certified copy of the Ordinance is filed with the Commissioner within twenty (20) days of its adoption.
2. Amendment: This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Town Council. Prior to adopting an amendment, the written approval of the amendment by the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall be filed with the Town Clerk. A certified copy of any amendment adopted by the Town Council shall be filed with the Commissioner of Marine Resources within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Section 32-401 SHELLFISH CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

The Shellfish Conservation Program for the Town of Freeport will be administered by the Shellfish Conservation Commission consisting of seven (7) members to be appointed by the Freeport Town Council for terms of three (3) years. The Commission's responsibilities include:

1. Establishing annually in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources the number of shellfish digging licenses to be issued;
2. Submitting to the Freeport Town Council proposals for the expenditures of funds for the purpose of shellfish conservation;
3. Establishing a perpetual Shellfish Conservation Fund;
4. Keeping this Ordinance under review and making recommendations for its amendments;
5. Working with the Area Biologists and other Department of Marine Resources personnel to enhance and sustain the shellfish resources of the Municipality;
6. Submitting an annual report to the Municipality and the Department of Marine Resources covering the above topics and all other Commission activities;
7. Identifying conservation projects;
8. Identifying and addressing water quality issues;
9. Managing the depuration harvesting program, including development and implementation Freeport's Pollution Abatement Plan;
10. Identifying applied research needs.

Section 32-501 DEFINITIONS:

1. Conservation: "Conservation" means any activity that sustains and enhances the shellfish resource
2. Conservation Area: "Conservation Area" means any Non-Commercial Intertidal Area designated by the Shellfish Conservation Commission for the purpose of sustaining and enhancing the shellfish resource. The Shellfish Conservation Commission, on behalf of the Town will apply to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Marine Resources for any applicable permits. The Shellfish Conservation Commission will clearly mark with stakes or similar identifiers the corners of the boundaries of any Conservation Area. The Shellfish Conservation Commission will grant Conservation Area Licenses to one or more harvesters to manage a Conservation Area, or subareas within the Conservation Area, under a plan to be filed with and approved by the Commission in a form to be adopted by the Commission.
3. Resident: For the purpose of this Ordinance, except in the case of a student, the term "Resident" shall mean a person who owns or rents real estate within the Town of Freeport which is his or her permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence. If a person claiming to be a resident neither owns nor rents real estate, they shall be required to produce such other evidence of municipal residency as may be required by the Town Clerk. A person shall not qualify as a resident of this Municipality unless he or she has maintained a permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence within the Town of Freeport for twelve (12) months prior to the date his/her claim of municipal residence is made. A person shall cease to be a resident of this Municipality on the date he/she acquires a permanent fixed place of abode and principal place of residence in any other Municipality or moves from the Town of Freeport. In the case of a student, the student may live temporarily outside of this Municipality while enrolled in school provided that such student maintains his or her fixed permanent principal residence in this Municipality.

4. Nonresident: The word "Nonresident" means anyone not qualified as a resident under this Ordinance.
5. Shellfish, Clams: When used in the context of this Ordinance, the words "shellfish" and "clams" means soft-shell clams, *Mya arenaria*; hardshell or northern quahog clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, the razor clam.
6. Shellfish Survey: "Shellfish Survey" is an independent, objective, assessment of shellfish density per unit area.
7. Municipality: Refers to the Town of Freeport, Maine.
8. Non-Commercial Intertidal Areas: "Non-Commercial Intertidal Areas" means an area in the intertidal zone with shellfish densities at less than ten (10) bushel per acre as determined by a Shellfish Survey.

Section 32-601 LICENSING:

A Municipal Shellfish Digging License is required. It is unlawful for any person to dig or take shellfish from the shores and flats of this Municipality without having a current license issued by this Municipality as provided by this Ordinance.

A Commercial Digger must also have a valid State of Maine Commercial Shellfish License issued by the Department of Marine Resources in order to harvest shellfish commercially. Shellfish licenses are not required in order to dig and take no more than one peck in the State Park areas where and when it is lawful to do so.

A. Designation, Scope, and Qualification:

1. Resident Commercial Shellfish License: The license is available to residents of the Town of Freeport at a minimum age of thirteen (13) and entitles the holder to engage in the activities of commercial harvesting of shellfish in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality.
2. Nonresident Commercial Shellfish License: The license is available to nonresidents of this Municipality at a minimum age of thirteen (13) and entitles the holder to engage in the activities of commercial harvesting of shellfish in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality.

(3) Special Pilot Apprentice Commercial Shellfish License. In 2023, an Apprentice license is available to residents of the Town of Freeport who are between the ages of fourteen (14) and thirty-two (32) years old on May 1 of 2023, and who do not possess a shellfish license from any other municipal shellfish program, which entitles the holder to engage in the activities of commercial harvesting of shellfish in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality and subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) Each Apprentice must be sponsored and overseen by a current commercial resident or non-resident clammer ("Sponsor") that has held their commercial license in Freeport for five (5) consecutive years (i.e. since May 2015). Paperwork stating the Apprentice/Sponsor relationship must be

submitted to the Shellfish Warden by September 30, 2023 for verification of eligibility . Up to five (5) Apprentices and Sponsors will be notified by September 30, 2023 if they have been accepted into the program.

- (b) If more than five eligible Apprentices apply for this license, priority will be given to the applicant(s) whose Sponsor has held a Freeport commercial license for the most consecutive years. If, after that, there is still more than five eligible Apprentices, the remaining Apprentice openings will be determined by lottery as outlined in section I (1-7).
- (c) Each Sponsor will train and assist his/her Apprentice in complying with all rules and regulations. An apprentice must fish in the same cove as the sponsor at all times he/she is fishing. An Apprentice that violates a rule or regulation will have their Apprentice license revoked.
- (d) A Sponsor may only sponsor a single Apprentice during the Sponsor's lifetime.
- (e) The Apprentice must fish one hundred (100) tides over the two-year apprenticeship and log the dates in the Apprentice log. Apprentice must submit a copy of their log by June 30 of each year of the Apprentice term to the Shellfish Warden for verification. Within thirty (30) days of the 100th tide being fished the log must be submitted to the Shellfish Warden for verification.
- (f) Following completion and verification of the Apprentice fishing 100 tides, and contingent upon other applicable renewal license criteria being met, the Apprentice is eligible for a renewal commercial resident or non-resident license, the status of which is determined by the Apprentice's principal place of residency at completion of their Apprentice term. The Apprentice is permitted to fish and log more than 100 tides during the minimum 2-year Apprentice term, but must wait until two years has elapsed (May 2026) to be eligible to obtain a commercial license.

This Special Pilot Apprentice Commercial License program will sunset after two years.

4 (3) Resident Student Commercial License: The license is available to residents of this Municipality between the minimum age of thirteen (13) years old and the maximum age of twenty-six (26) years old on May 1 of the year in which the application is made. Applicants must show proof of age and proof of school attendance enrollment at the time of the application, and must also continue full-time student status during the school year through the license period. ~~Students attending college or other post-secondary education must also show proof of a minimum of twelve (12) college or post-secondary education credit hours per semester to be considered full time students.~~ Applicants under the age of eighteen (18) must also provide the signature of a

parent or guardian on the application for the license to be valid. This license entitles the holder to engage in the activities of commercial harvesting of shellfish in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality.

5. ~~(4)~~ Resident and Nonresident Senior Commercial Licenses: The license is available to all holders of Freeport Commercial Shellfish Licenses who turn age sixty-five (65) while in possession of an existing license.
6. ~~(5)~~ Non-Resident Student Commercial License: This license is available to nonresidents of this Municipality between the minimum age of thirteen (13) years old and the maximum age of twenty-six (26) years old on May 1 of the year in which the application is made. Applicants must show proof of age and proof of school ~~attendance~~ enrollment at the time of application. ~~and must also continue full-time student status during the school year through the license period. Students attending college or other post-secondary education must also show proof of a minimum of twelve (12) college or post-secondary education credit hours per semester to be considered full-time students.~~ Applicants under the age of eighteen (18) must provide the signature of a parent or guardian on the application for the license to be valid. This license entitles the holder to engage in the activities of commercial harvesting of shellfish in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality.
7. Resident Conservation Area License: The Resident Conservation Area License is available to residents of this Municipality at a minimum age of eighteen (18) and entitles the holder to engage in the activities of shellfish management and commercial harvesting of shellfish in a designated Conservation Area under a plan approved by the Commission, in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality. A harvester may simultaneously hold both a Resident Conservation Area License and any other Freeport municipal shellfish harvesting license, but only holders of Resident and Nonresident Conservation Area Licenses may manage or harvest shellfish from a Conservation Area.
8. Nonresident Conservation Area License: The Nonresident Conservation Area License is available to non-residents of this Municipality at a minimum age of eighteen (18) and entitles the holder to engage in the activities of shellfish management and commercial harvesting of shellfish in a designated Conservation Area under a plan approved by the Commission, in accordance with the ordinance and conservation measures of this Municipality. A harvester may simultaneously hold both a Nonresident Conservation Area License and any other Freeport municipal shellfish harvesting license, but only holders of Resident and Nonresident Conservation Area Licenses may manage or harvest shellfish from a Conservation Area.
9. ~~(6)~~ Resident Recreational Shellfish License: The license is available to residents and real estate taxpayers of Freeport. A resident-recreational shellfish license entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day.
10. ~~(7)~~ Nonresident Recreational Shellfish License: This license is available to nonresidents of this Municipality and entitles the holder to dig and harvest no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day.
11. ~~(8)~~ Limited Recreational Shellfish License: This license is available to residents and nonresidents of this Municipality and entitles the holder to dig and take no more than one peck of shellfish in any one day. Unless otherwise specified, all the provisions of this Ordinance applicable to Resident and Nonresident Recreational Shellfish Licenses are applicable to Limited Recreational Shellfish Licenses.
12. ~~(9)~~ License Must Be Signed: The licensee must sign the license to make it valid.

B. Applications for Commercial Licenses:

1. Applications for renewal commercial licenses and new commercial licenses shall be submitted to the Town Clerk at the times specified in Section 6(E) and 6(I), respectively.
2. 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 whatever other information the Municipality may require.
3. Misrepresentation:
 - a) Application void. If at any time prior to the issuance of a license, the Town Clerk becomes aware of circumstances which suggest that the applicant has given false information on the license application, the Town Clerk shall request the Police Chief, or his designee, to investigate those circumstances and any other circumstances relevant to the license application and report to the Clerk. If the results of the investigation continue to suggest that the applicant has given materially false information on the license application, the Clerk shall communicate the results of the investigation to the applicant and provide the applicant with an opportunity to respond in writing. If, after reviewing the applicant's response, the Clerk concludes that the applicant gave materially false information on the license application, the Clerk shall void the application. A pending investigation under this subparagraph (a) shall not preclude an otherwise qualified applicant from participating in the drawing pursuant to Section 6(I), but no license shall be issued to such applicant until the Clerk has made a determination on the results of the investigation. In the event the Clerk determines to void the application, the Clerk shall award the license to the next qualified applicant on the list prepared pursuant to Section 6(I). An applicant whose application is voided shall not be entitled to any refund of license fees.
 - b) If, after the issuance of a license, the Town Clerk becomes aware of circumstances that suggest that the licensee gave false information on the license application or if the licensee no longer complies with the license requirements, the Town Clerk shall request the Police Chief, or his designee, to investigate those circumstances and any other circumstances related to the license application. If the results of the investigation continue to suggest that the licensee gave false information on the license application or that the licensee no longer complies with the license requirements, the Town Clerk shall give the licensee a minimum of seven (7) days' notice of a hearing before the Board of Appeals to determine whether or not the licensee gave false information on the license application or no longer complies with the license requirements. The Police Chief, or his designee, shall present the evidence suggesting that false information was given or that the licensee no longer complies with the license requirements. The licensee shall have the right to present evidence to refute the allegations. If, after hearing, the Board of Appeals determines that materially false information was given or that the licensee no longer complies with the license requirements, the Town Clerk shall revoke the

license and give the licensee written Notice of Revocation. A licensee whose license is revoked shall not be entitled to any refund of license fees.

- (c) **Change of Address:** If the licensee's address changes at any time, the licensee must provide written documentation to the Town Clerk within 30 days after the change. If the Police Chief or his designee finds that there is sufficient evidence to prove that a licensee failed to notify the Town Clerk of a change of address as required under this subsection, the Police Chief, or his designee, shall present that information to the Town Clerk. If the Town Clerk determines that there was a change of address without the notification required by this subsection, the Clerk shall give notice of the suspension to the licensee and shall suspend the license for a period of 30 days from the date of such notice.

C. Application for Recreational Licenses:

1. Resident and Nonresident Recreational Licenses will be available beginning in June. Except for Limited Recreational Shellfish License, licenses are effective July 1 through June 30.
2. Limited Recreational Shellfish Licenses are effective for three (3) calendar days, beginning on the day the license is issued or such other date as indicated by the License.
3. Contents of Application: The application will be in the form of an affidavit and must contain the applicant's name, current address, mailing address, birth date, height, weight, signature, and whatever other information the Municipality may require.
4. Misrepresentation:
 - a) Application void. If at any time prior to the issuance of a license, the Town Clerk becomes aware of circumstances which suggest that the applicant has given false information on the license application, the Town Clerk shall request the Police Chief, or his designee, to investigate those circumstances and any other circumstances relevant to the license application and report to the Town Clerk. If the results of the investigation continue to suggest that the applicant has given materially false information on the license application, the Clerk shall communicate the results of the investigation to the applicant and provide the applicant with an opportunity to respond in writing. If, after reviewing the applicant's response, the Clerk concludes that the applicant gave materially false information on the license application, the Clerk shall void the application. An applicant whose application is voided shall not be entitled to any refund of license fees.
 - b) If after the issuance of a license, the Town Clerk becomes aware of circumstances which suggest that the licensee gave false information on the license application, the Town Clerk shall request the Police Chief, or his designee, to investigate those circumstances and any other circumstances related to the license application. If the results of the investigation continue to suggest that the licensee gave false information on the license application, the Town

Clerk shall give the licensee a minimum of seven (7) days' notice of a hearing before the Board of Appeals to determine whether or not the licensee gave false information on the license application. The Police Chief, or his designee, shall present the evidence suggesting that false information was given. The licensee shall have the right to present evidence to show that false information was not given. If, after hearing, the Board of Appeals determines that materially false information was given, the Town Clerk shall revoke the license and give the licensee written Notice of Revocation. A licensee whose license is revoked shall not be entitled to any refund of license fees.

5. Recreational License. Any person who holds a State of Maine Shellfish License is not eligible for a recreational license. A Recreational Shellfish Licensee may not engage in the wholesale or retail sale of any shellfish harvested under this license.

6. Recreational license violations:

- a. The possession of more than one (1) peck of clams by anyone not possessing valid State and Town - issued Commercial Licenses constitutes a court summons; and if the violator is found to be in violation in a court of law, he/she will automatically forfeit said Recreational license for the remainder of the license period.
- b. If the holder of a recreational license is convicted of a wholesale or retail sale of shellfish harvested within the Town of Freeport under the recreational license, that recreational license shall be automatically suspended from the date of conviction through the remainder of the license period.

D. Fees: Effective October 1, 2008 (amended 05/15/12); The fees for the licenses are as stated below and must accompany in full the application for the respective license. Fees received from shellfish licensing shall be used by the Town for shellfish management, conservation and enforcement.

- (1) Resident Commercial: Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)
- (2) Nonresident Commercial: Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)
- (3) Resident Student Commercial: Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00)
- (4) Non-Resident Student Commercial: Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)
- (5) Resident Recreational: Eleven Dollars (\$11.00)
- (6) Nonresident Recreational: Twenty-two Dollars (\$22.00)
- (7) Limited Recreational: Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00)
- (8) Resident and nonresident Freeport Senior Commercial Licenses: All fees will be waived.

(9) Special Pilot Apprentice Commercial Shellfish License (\$200).

~~(9)~~10) A recreational license is not required for a digger under 12 years of age to engage in recreational clam harvesting.

~~(10)~~11) License Fees will be waived for individuals 65 years or older for resident and nonresident recreational licenses.

~~(11)~~ 12) No fees (commercial or recreational) are refundable at any time.

(~~12~~ 13) A surcharge shall be applied to each license purchased as follows to provide a dedicated revenue source for water quality testing:

- Resident Commercial: Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)
- Non-Resident Commercial: Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)
- Resident and Non-Resident Student Commercial: Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)
- Special Pilot Apprentice Commercial Shellfish License: Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)
- Resident and Non-Resident Recreational: Five Dollars (\$5.00)
- Limited Recreational: Five Dollars (\$5.00)

E. Limitation of Diggers: Because the shellfish resources are limited and because a commercial or recreational digger can be expected to harvest a certain volume of clams per year, the number of diggers must be controlled. This number will vary from year to year depending upon estimates of the resource capabilities and management requirements consistent with good resource utilization. . In setting the number of licenses, the Shellfish Conservation Commission must consider the need to set the number of licenses to accommodate entry of the Apprentices into the Shellfish Program, and if necessary, shall increase the number of licenses to accommodate entry of Apprentices into the Shellfish Program.

The following procedures will be followed to exercise the control:

1. Prior to May 15 the Freeport Shellfish Conservation Commission will establish the number of commercial and recreational licenses to be issued and submit Freeport's Municipal License Allocation Request to the Commissioner of Marine Resources for review and authorization.
2. The Shellfish conservation Commission will notify the Town Clerk in writing prior to June 1 of the number of licenses to be issued. No reservation will be accepted by telephone.
3. The Town Clerk shall issue licenses to residents and non-residents following authorization by the Commissioner of Marine Resources as specified below: From July 1st through September 28th annually, 10 % of the total commercial licenses and 10 % of the total recreation licenses shall be reserved for nonresidents. Beginning September 29 annually, any, remaining licenses shall be issued on a first come, first serve basis, without regards to residency.
4. In the year that a new Resident and/or Nonresident Senior Commercial License is issued by the Town Clerk, for each senior license issued, a commercial license will then become available and added to the number of commercial licenses to be issued that year.

Renewal Commercial License: An application for a renewal commercial license must be made at the Town Clerk's office during a regular business day during the month of April and must be accompanied by payment of 50% of the required license fee. This 50 % payment must be received before the close of business on the last business day in April. The remainder of the fee must be paid no later than the close of business on the last business day in May. Failure to pay either the 50 % or the 100% of the license fee by the close of business on the last respective business days shall result in not being eligible for a renewal license. Renewal licenses will then be issued, following authorization by the Commissioner of Marine Resources, at the Town Clerk's office during regular

business days between June 16 and June 30. Such licenses shall be valid from July 1 through June 30.

As an alternative to making application at the Town Clerk's office, an application for a renewal commercial license may be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by mail. Applications by mail must be received at the Town Clerk's office on a day the Clerk's office is open for business no earlier than April 1 and no later than April 30 or postmarked by April 30. The application must be accompanied by the 50% of the required license fee. The Town Clerk shall mark all applications with the date and time of receipt.

In the event that the shellfish commission requests assistance from license holders to conduct various activities such as shellfish surveys, educational outreach, seeding, assisting in marine research or any other activity approved by the commission. License holders may volunteer their time in exchange for a 50% reduction fee when purchasing their license.

No person shall be eligible for a shellfish license renewal if that person has been convicted of harvesting, molesting, disturbing, vandalizing or otherwise unlawfully compromising shellfish from a Conservation Area.

- F. License Expiration Date: Except for Limited Recreational Shellfish Licenses, each license issued under authority of this Ordinance expires at midnight on the thirtieth (30th) day of June.
- G. Reciprocal Harvesting Privileges: Freeport does not currently participate in a reciprocal harvesting agreement with any other municipality.
- H. Suspension: If the Police Chief or Shellfish Warden presents to the Town Clerk evidence that any licensee has been convicted of two violations of this Ordinance within the license (July 1 to June 30) year, the Town Clerk shall give the licensee seven (7) days' notice of the suspension of the license for thirty (30) days, stating the reason for the suspension. The licensee has the right to meet with the Town Clerk during that seven (7) day period to review the evidence of convictions in the Town Clerk's possession, and to present any evidence showing the licensee does not have the convictions. A third conviction of violations of this Ordinance in the same licensed year will result in forfeiture of the license for the remainder of the licensed year. This suspension/forfeiture rule applies to commercial licensees. A commercial harvester whose license has been suspended or forfeited may still be eligible for a renewal license in the subsequent year, provided he/she has fulfilled conservation work requirements. See Section 11 for recreation license violations.
- I. New Commercial Licenses: New Commercial licenses, when available, will be advertised in the local newspaper(s) during the first week of June in the year in which the license(s) become available (hereinafter called the new-license year). Applications for these licenses must be received by the Town Clerk no later than June 15 of the new license year and must comply with the provisions of Section 6.13 of this Ordinance, any licenses(s) available for the new license year will be issued by June 30 in accordance with the following procedure:

1. The Town Clerk shall designate an assistant, who may be any appointed municipal official or municipal employee who is disinterested in the outcome of the procedure. "Disinterested" means not related by blood, marriage or adoption to any of the applicants and not having a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the outcome of the procedure. No elected municipal official and no member of the Shellfish Conservation Commission shall serve as the Clerk's assistant in carrying out this procedure.
2. The Clerk shall prepare a list of the names of the qualifying applicants; the list need not be in any particular order. Next to each name on the list, the Clerk shall enter a unique three-digit number, selected at random, and shall write each such number on an index card. All the index cards shall be of uniform size, color and texture.
3. The Clerk's assistant shall then place all the numbered index cards in a box or other container capable of being closed and sufficiently large that the index cards can be mixed by shaking the container.
4. The Clerk's assistant shall shake the container in order to mix the contents and shall then place or hold the container at a location above the Clerk's eye level so that the Clerk can reach into the container and withdraw cards without seeing the numbers on the cards.
5. The Clerk shall withdraw the cards one-by-one, reading each number drawn aloud. The Clerk's assistant shall make a list of each of the numbers so drawn in the order in which they are drawn. Then, using the list prepared under subparagraph 2 above, the Clerk shall place the corresponding applicant's name next to each number.
6. The Clerk shall then issue the available licenses to the qualifying applicants, first to residents and then to non-residents, in the order in which their names appear on the list prepared under subparagraph (5).
7. The procedure set forth in this Section 6 (I) shall be a public proceeding, open to the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 403, but no applicant or any member of the public has any right to participate in the procedure. Applicants are not required to be present at the time the licenses are issued. The procedure shall be conducted at the Freeport Town Office on the dates designated in Section 6 (E) (3) for each category of license, at a time to be set by the Clerk. The Clerk shall announce the exact time for the procedure by posting a notice in the Freeport Town Office at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the procedure. Any failure to provide such notice shall not invalidate the results of the procedure.
 - a. Should any license remain unissued in the Commercial License Lottery, a second lottery will be held on a date determined by the Town Clerk, being no later than September 1st of the same year, following the same procedure as outlined in Section I (1-7). The Town Clerk shall notify the public of the second lottery by posting notice for 2 weeks prior to the second lottery on the Town's website, FCTV, posting notice at Town Hall and once in a newspaper of general circulation. Any licenses

not issued in the second lottery will remain unissued for that issuance year.

- J. No Night Harvesting: It is unlawful for any person to dig or take shellfish from the shores or flats of Freeport at night. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "night" means that period of time beginning one hour after sunset and ending one hour before sunrise.
- K. Aiding and Abetting: A harvester holding a commercial license who aids and abets the harvest of shellfish in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the same penalties as the person he has assisted.
- L. Change of Residency: The holder of a non-resident commercial license, who changes their permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence to a location within the Town of Freeport, and who notifies the Town Clerk within 30 days of the change, may retain their non-resident commercial license until the first renewal date after the change of residency, when the license holder may obtain a resident commercial license without the need to participate in the new commercial license selection process described in Section 32-601(I) above.

The holder of any residential commercial license, who changes their permanent, fixed place of abode and principal place of residence to a location outside the Town of Freeport, and who notifies the Town Clerk within 30 days of the change, may retain their residential commercial license until the first renewal date after the change of residency, when the license holder may obtain a non-resident commercial license without the need to participate in the new commercial license selection process described in Section 32-601(I) above.

Any license that expires after having been converted as a result of a change of residency as described above shall, upon re-issuance, be allocated to the type of license originally issued using the selection process described in Section 32-601(I) above.

Section 32-701 OPENING AND CLOSING OF FLATS:

The Shellfish Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, may open and close areas for shellfish harvest. Upon recommendation of the Department of Marine Resources Area biologist that the status of the shellfish resource and other factors bearing on sound management indicate that an area should be opened or closed, the Shellfish Conservation Commission may call a public hearing on ten-day's notice published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town, stating the time, place and subject matter of the hearing, and shall send a copy of the notice to the Department of Marine Resources. The decision of the Shellfish Conservation Commission made after hearing shall be based on findings of fact.

Winslow Park Closure: In order to preserve a beach area for the public use during the summer months, a portion of the flats within and adjacent to Winslow Park shall be closed to shellfish harvesting between May 1 and November 30 annually. The portion so closed is the area on the left side of the public boat ramp (as viewed from the land) lying between the shore and a line extending easterly from the seaward tip of the boat ramp to a red painted post at a point on the shore established by the Shellfish Warden. In consideration of that seasonal closure and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 34 of the Freeport Code (Winslow Park Administrative Policies), commercial license holders using Winslow Park shall not be charged any parking or ramp fees.

Section 32-801 FINES:

Any person harvesting, molesting, disturbing, vandalizing or otherwise compromising shellfish in an area closed for conservation or in a Conservation Area if the harvester has not been designated by the Commission to harvest in that Conservation Area, or subarea or violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to, but not limited by, the penalties established by State Law, Title 12 M.R.S.A., Section 6671.

Section 32-901 MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE OF SOFT-SHELL CLAMS:

It is unlawful to possess soft shell clams that are less than two (2) inches in length. The tolerance is listed below:

- A. Tolerance: Any person may possess soft shell clams that are less than two (2) inches if, beginning on the effective date of this article, they comprise less than 10% of any bulk pile; and beginning in calendar year 1986, they comprise less than 10% of any bulk pile. The tolerance shall be determined by numerical count of not less than one (1) peck, nor more than four (4) pecks taken at random from various parts of the bulk pile or by count of the entire pile if it contains less than one (1) peck.
- B. Method of Determining Tolerance: The tolerance is determined by a one (1) peck measure of 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 container constitute a separate "LOT".
- C. Method of Determining Tolerance: The tolerance is determined by a one (1) peck measure of 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 container constitute a separate "LOT".

Section 32-1001 EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Ordinance which has been approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall become effective after its adoption by the Municipality provided a certified copy of the Ordinance is filed with the Commissioner within twenty (20) days of its adoption.