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Bacterial Monitoring and Shellfish Growing Area Classification in Casco Bay (2010 State of the Bay Presentation)

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Bacterial Monitoring and Shellfish Growing Area Classification in Casco Bay





Program Background

 Public Health Division of DMR- keep molluscan shellfish safe for human consumption

- Oversee the application of National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) in Maine
- Growing Area Classification Program- water quality monitoring and pollution identification



Casco Bay- Shellfish Growing Areas



Water Quality Monitoring

- Water Sample Collection (234 Sample Stations)
- Testing for presence of fecal coliform bacteria (MF method)
- Year round sampling using predetermined schedule AND targeted sampling
- Data used for establishing and maintaining growing area classifications



Casco Bay- Active Water Quality Monitoring Stations

Pollution Sources

- Effective management surrounding known pollution sources
- Actual and Potential Pollution
 - Waste Water Treatment Facilities (WWTP)
 - Over Board Discharges (OBD)
 - Domestic Waste Disposal Systems
 - Stormwater Discharge
 - Farms/Agricultural Activity
 - Marinas (presence of boats with on-board toilets)

NSSP Classifications

Approved: Areas open for direct market harvest

Conditionally Approved: Areas that meet approved area criteria under certain predetermined conditions

Restricted: Areas closed to harvest except for purposes of relay or depuration

Conditionally Restricted: Areas that meet restricted area criteria except under certain predetermined conditions

Prohibited: Areas closed to harvesting except for seeding

Casco Bay- NSSP Classifications



Casco Bay- Licensed Discharges











Future Classification Work

Periodic Review of Pollution Sources – Remediation Efforts

Management Strategies

 Seasonal Impact
 Rainfall Impact
 Dilution Zones



Thank You!