



***Plymouth Harbormaster  
Department***

***Shellfish Restoration Project  
May 27, 2008***

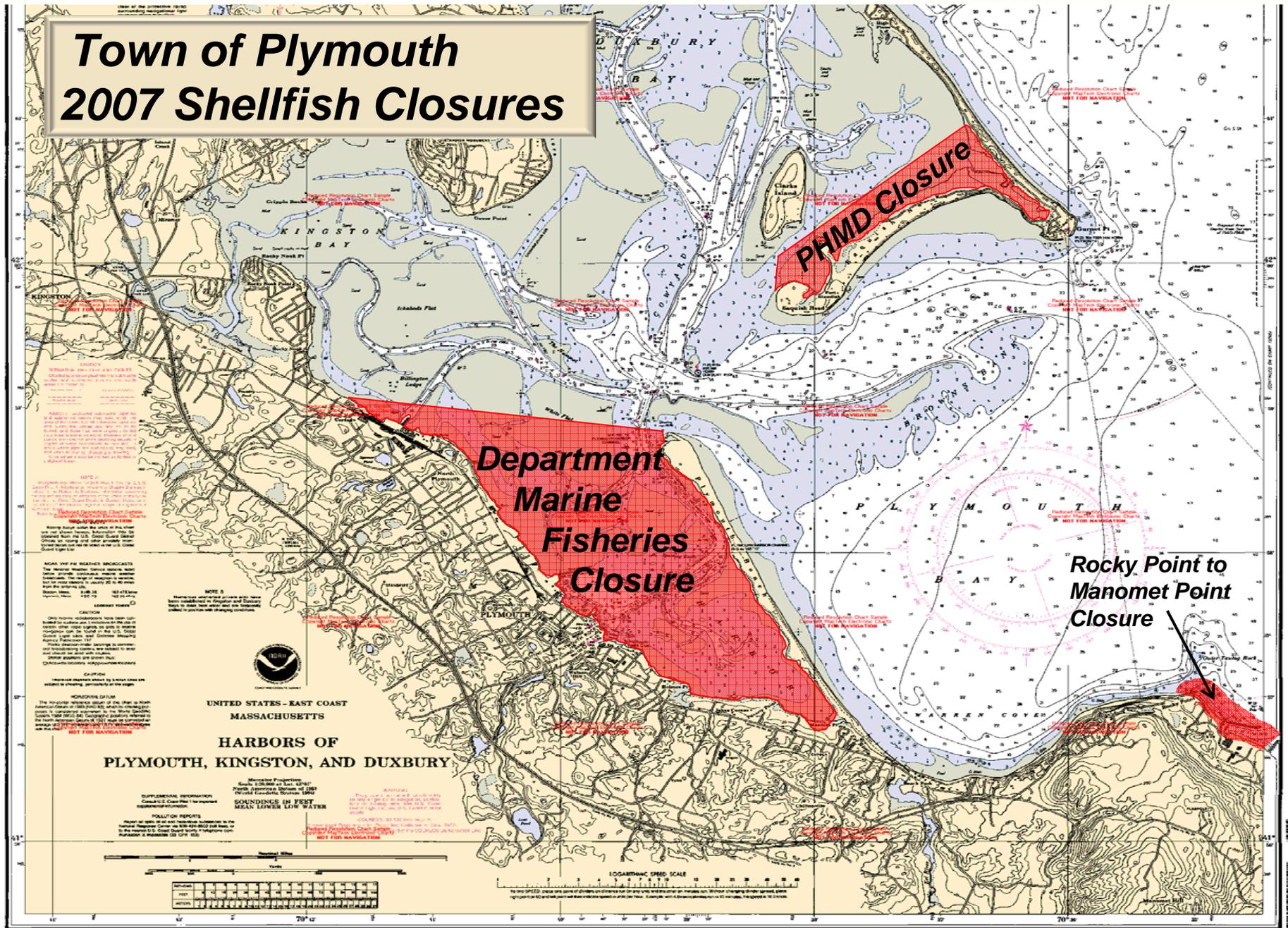
# ***Problem***

- ***While a variety of species including soft-shell clams, little necks, quahogs, razor clams, and surf clams may legally be harvested in Plymouth waters, closure of areas due to pollution, over-digging, and the limited population of species in open areas effectively limit local diggers to the harvest of surf and razor clams.***

# ***Open Areas***

- ***Saquish Crescent Beach: surf & razor***
- ***Brown's Bank: surf & razor***
- ***Long Beach: surf & razor***
- ***Warren Cove: limited soft shell***
- ***Ellisville area: limited soft shell***

# Town of Plymouth 2007 Shellfish Closures



# ***Strategy***



- ***MAINTAIN/IMPROVE existing stocks***
- ***REPLACE depleted stocks in open areas***
- ***REOPEN closed areas as water quality improves***

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale photograph of a beach. In the foreground, a person is bent over, digging in the sand. In the background, another person is visible, also appearing to be engaged in shell digging. The ocean waves are visible in the distance under a bright sky.

## ***MAINTAIN & IMPROVE***

### ***2005-Present***

- ***Closed Saquish Basin & Gurnet Creek***
- ***Test digging at various locations to evaluate shellfish stocks***
- ***On going discussions with MA DMF***
- ***Seasonal HMA assigned to assist with plans and programs***
- ***Meetings with interested parties; HC, Saquish/Gurnet Assoc, beach residents***

# ***REPLACEMENT***

- ***June 2007: relay of 85 bushels quahogs to Saquish Basin***
  - ***High survival rate***
  - ***Now in spat cycle***
  - ***Reopen pending DMF approval***





**PROTECTOR**

PLYMOUTH, MA

06/26/2007



06/26/2007

# **REPLACEMENT- SOFTSHELLS**

- ***Problems:***
  - ***Must be dug by hand***
  - ***Must be placed/covered in prepared area***
  - ***50%+ attrition rate (use professional diggers)***
- ***Opportunities:***
  - ***Sections channel side Long Beach  
“RESTRICTED” V “CLOSED”***
  - ***Relay to open areas may be feasible***

# **REOPEN**

- ***Gurnet Creek: sustainability?***
- ***Working closely with MA DMF to reopen harbor side areas***
- ***Water quality inside Long Beach slowly improving***
  - ***New treatment plant***
  - ***Pump out boat and shore side facilities***
  - ***No Discharge Area***

# ***Local Propagation***

- ***Investigating possibilities for raising shellfish***
  - ***Water quality***
  - ***Equipment: up-wellers***
  - ***Predation***
  - ***Workload: possible school project?***
- ***Alt is to buy seedlings; will discuss with aquaculture experts***

## ***2008-2009 Action Plan***

- ***Now: Possible quahog relay to former Joslin property on Center Hill Rd***
  - ***Ample parking***
  - ***Easy beach access***
  - ***Suitable habitat***
- ***June '08: meeting with biologists at NE MA Aquaculture Center—soft shell seeding plan***
- ***Fall '08: Request DMF reopen soft shell areas inside harbor***

## ***2008-2009 Action Plan***

- ***Jan '09: implement revised regulations for soft shells & quahog; Will present proposal shortly***
  - ***Shorter season***
  - ***Lower limits***
- ***Ongoing:***
  - ***Identify additional areas for relays and seeding***
  - ***Decision on local propagation***
  - ***Continued emphasis on reopening of closed areas***

# Summary

- *East facing beaches mostly unsuitable for softshells and quahogs*
- *Protected beaches will continue to be identified and restocked*
- *Areas closed by PHMD will be reopened as soon as populations recover*
- *Areas closed by DMF will be reopened as water quality improves (Inner Harbor)*

**Questions?**

