

GOULDSBORO: CLAM RESEEDING AND SHELLFISH LAB



**Town
Gouldsboro**



**Watershed
Frenchman Bay &
Gouldsboro Bay**



**Project Type
Research & Restoration**



Background

Gouldsboro is witnessing a fascinating mudflat restoration process. As part of an ongoing effort to revitalize clam flats, the Shellfish Conservation Committee has been working to provide seed clams at reduced costs to coastal communities. A new phase of this project arrived with the construction of a laboratory for testing soft-shell clam cultivation for community scale use.

Shellfish Resiliency Lab

Recognizing a need for younger clams at a reasonable price, Gouldsboro conceived the idea of an experimental shellfish lab.

Located in Bunkers Harbor, the Shellfish Resiliency Laboratory is a two room space with a circulating saltwater tank.

The initial batch of 100,000 seed clams spent their first summer growing in nursery trays in the former lobster pound in Bunkers Harbor. Each tray held about 10,000 clams, and most of the trays suffered from green crab predation. The clams that survived the summer—approximately 33% of the batch—are overwintering in the laboratory saltwater tank.

To reduce the summer mortality, half of the next batch of seed clams will be raised in redesigned nursery trays with a wooden barrier to block crabs, and half will spend the summer in an upweller inside the lab.



View inland of nursery trays, each containing 10,000 clam seeds from DEI

Gouldsboro Shore Program

Gouldsboro Shore is multi-year initiative to help address and prepare for changes to Gouldsboro's shore. The program's four focus areas are: 1) restoring the productivity and health of Gouldsboro's mudflats, 2) preserving shore access, 3) anticipating and addressing risks to Gouldsboro's coastal infrastructure, and 4) engaging the community in planning for change

Preserving shore access is an emerging issue in Gouldsboro. Members of the Gouldsboro shore access team have been identifying critical access points, and conversations are happening among the land trusts, town, harvesters, and property owners.

The Shore Program intends to have a shore access preservation plan by the end of 2022.

More information on all focus areas is available on the Gouldsboro Shore website: gouldsboroshore.me.

Takeaways

Gouldsboro is just starting to get to work in the shellfish lab, and the experiments will offer useful information for other communities trying to restore clam flats and address climate-related changes to the clam fishery.



Saltwater tank for overwintering clams

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