



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

In March 2023, a temporary rule was adopted to set a harvest quota of 90,000 pounds for the Tillamook Bay intertidal cockle fishery. The temporary rule will expire on September 22, 2023. This harvest quota was attained earlier in the year and the department is recommending adoption of the proposed rules in Attachment 3 in order to keep the fishery closed through the rest of the year. This will ensure the equitable allocation between commercial and recreational harvesters and maintain the sustainability of this fishery.

The department is currently conducting a survey in Tillamook Bay to determine appropriate harvest levels for several species of bay clams. That survey is expected to provide the most recent and accurate stock assessment estimates when that data is analyzed. With that data, the department expects to bring a more substantial rules package to the Commission in early 2024.

If this rule is not adopted, the fishery will open on September 23, 2023.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

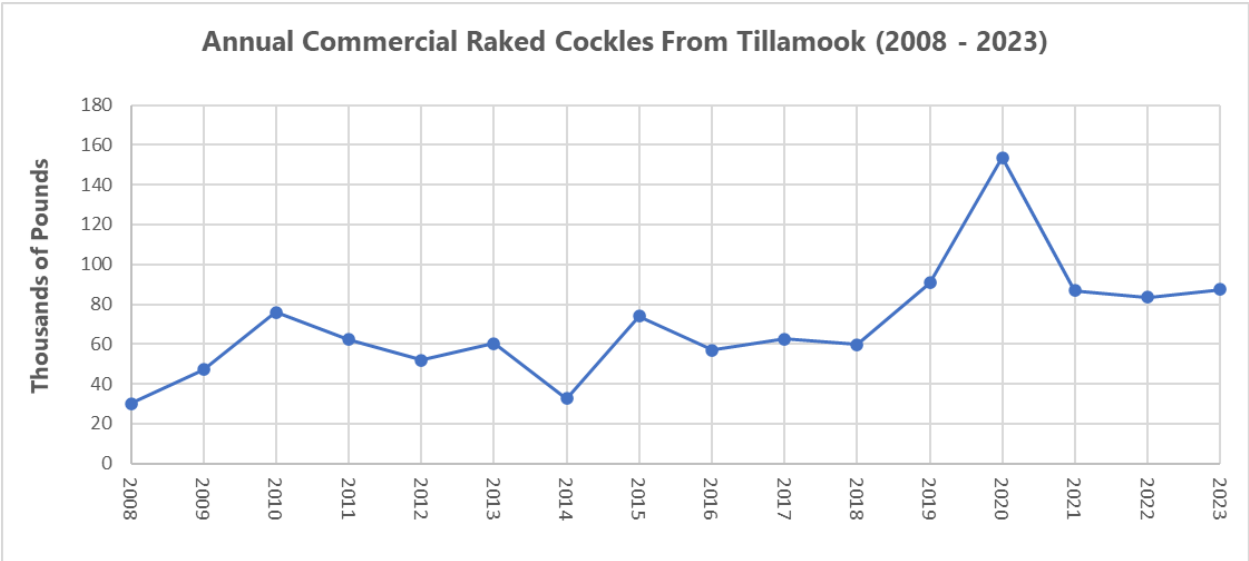
The Tillamook Bay Clam Advisory Committee is preparing their final report to the department and will submit that in the fall. Shellfish Program staff will then prepare the final report for submission to the Legislature before the end of 2023. This report will summarize the recommendations that the Advisory Committee has prepared during its 14 meetings over the last three years.

ISSUE

Implement Tillamook Bay Intertidal Commercial Cockle Fishery Annual Landing Cap

ANALYSIS

The 90,000-pound annual landing cap is based on a harvest level of 10% of the current stock estimate. This landing cap was originally adopted in 2021 after effort and harvest increased dramatically in 2019 and 2020 as shown in the following graph.



OPTIONS

1. Amend OAR 635-005-0387 as proposed in Attachment 3.
2. Take no action, allowing the temporary rule to expire and resulting in the fishery reopening on September 23, 2023.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR 635-005-0387 as proposed in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon filing.