

Use Maps Input Session

March 14, 2013, 3:30-5:30pm, Bristol Town Hall, Burnside Building

Meeting Summary: The purpose of this meeting was to share charts with attendees in an ongoing effort to gather info on historic and current uses of the Bay and ponds. This meeting was one of many planned throughout the state for the SMP Use Maps exercise, aimed at better understanding how people use the water bodies with the intent of providing a tool to help ease use conflicts. This effort emerged from stakeholder comments at the January 2013 SMP Scoping Sessions. Twenty two people attended the meeting and drew their uses and observation son the charts. Some key points that were raised included:

- Concerns about water quality regulations, including the 7 day closure time frame, the need to have latitude/longitude locations for closure lines, and inquiries into the Providence River long-term closure.
- Increasing presence and diversity of invasive species and concerns over interactions and effects
- Uses recorded on the maps ranged from quahogging locations, whelk fishing spots, lobster gear locations, mobile fishing spots and more. Attendees also pointed out wild mussel beds and horseshoe crab locations.