

## **BUTCH TAYLOR**

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870 River Road  
Cushing, Me. 04563  
Georges River Shellfish Committee  
Phone (207) 354-6145  
Fax (207) 354-6145  
butchandsherri@roadrunner.com

**August 12, 2008**

**To: David Etnier  
Deputy Commissioner**

**Re: Private Labs Pilot Program**

Dear Friend,

The Georges River Shellfish Committee is interested in doing some accelerated sampling along with stream sampling in Broad Cove, Cushing. The area considered for accelerated samples is classified by D.M.R. as restricted, while the stream samples are in an area classified as prohibited. On June 22, 2008 the area was surveyed by area biologist Ron Aho and four other volunteers to determine the size range and potential yield of clams. It was determined that there are 8.7 acres of mud flats consisting of 161 bushels of legal size clams per acre.

Enclosed please find letters of commitment from samplers, a water lab, and funding.

Sincerely,

**Butch Taylor  
Georges River Shellfish Committee Chair**

August 6, 2008

Mr. David Etnier  
Deputy Commissioner  
Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr. Etnier,

*re: proposal from the Georges River Shellfish Committee for a pilot project of water quality testing in the St. George estuary*

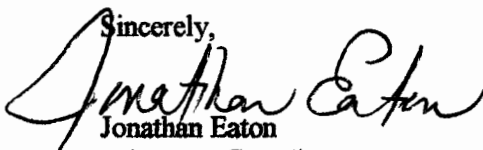
The Georges River Tidewater Association is writing in support of the Georges River Shellfish Committee proposal for a cooperative water quality testing program in the St. George estuary. The GRTA will commit its trained volunteers to assist in the sampling program designed by the shellfish committee and DMR. We have met with the shellfish committee and support their objectives. Though the details will depend on the project design, one possible and promising arrangement would place GRTA volunteers in sample teams with clammers who are fulfilling the conservation requirement for their licenses.

GRTA volunteers have been collecting samples for fecal testing in partnership with DMR for 18 years. We are trained and ready to go.

The Georges River Shellfish Committee proposal merits your approval in at least two unusual and perhaps even unique regards: (1) the five-town shellfish management committee is a great example of the sort of regional partnering Maine's governor has been advocating throughout his term in office; and (2) this may be the only proposal you receive in which an environmental advocacy group is partnering with clam harvesters and municipal shellfish managers.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



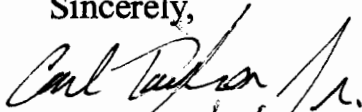
Jonathan Eaton  
Advocacy Coordinator  
(207) 354-2234

To: Butch Taylor  
Chair-Georges River Shellfish Committee

Re: Water Samplers

In consideration for conservation hours I am willing to be trained and take  
meat / water samples as needed for the Georges River Shellfish Program.

Sincerely,

  
Date: 8/2/08

To: Butch Taylor  
Chair-Georges River Shellfish Committee

Re: Water Samplers

In consideration for conservation hours I am willing to be trained and take  
meat / water samples as needed for the Georges River Shellfish Program.

Sincerely,

Amanda Taylor

Date:

8.3.08

To: Butch Taylor  
Chair-Georges River Shellfish Committee

Re: Water Samplers

In consideration for conservation hours I am willing to be trained and take  
meat / water samples as needed for the Georges River Shellfish Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald J. Bauer".

Date:

8-3-08

To: Butch Taylor  
Chair-Georges River Shellfish Committee

Re: Water Samplers

In consideration for conservation hours I am willing to be trained and take  
meat / water samples as needed for the Georges River Shellfish Program.

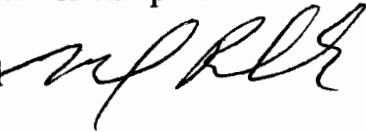
Sincerely, 

Date: 8-6-08

To: Butch Taylor  
Chair - Georges River Shellfish Committee

Re: Water Sampler

As Municipal Shellfish Warden for the Georges River Shellfish Management Program, and having the necessary training, I agree to take meat / water samples as needed.

Signed 

Date: 8-4-08



Aqua Maine, Inc.  
P.O. Box 310  
West Rockport ME 04865

T: 207 236 8428  
F: 207 236 8271

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

Mr. Taylor  
Chairman  
St. Georges River Shellfish Commission  
870 River Road  
Cushing ME 04563

Dear Mr. Taylor

Thank you for contacting Aqua Maine Inc about the possibility of utilizing our capabilities for your water testing needs connected with the recently enacted legislation – LD 2038. As background the Aqua Maine lab, located at Mirror Lake in Rockport, is a state certified water testing lab for the following parameters: fecal coliform, e. coli, total coliform, turbidity, fluoride, pH, nitrogen-nitrate and nitrogen-nitrite. I believe you would be requesting fecal coliform testing, and as you can see this is one of the parameters we are currently certified to analyze. The method utilized in the lab is SM 9222D. To maintain this certification we have had to satisfy the criteria laid down by the Maine Dept of Human Services – Drinking Water Program. Our current certification is valid until 7/15/2010.

Aqua Maine is fully prepared to be involved in the both 18 month evaluation process and hopefully the long implementation of the program as outlined in LD 2038. The lab will make personnel and equipment available for lab certification, testing and any necessary quality assurance program deemed appropriate by the DMR.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Peats".

Stephen Peats  
Lab Manager – Aqua Maine Inc.

Cc: Janet Winslow  
Rick Knowlton



# Town of Warren

Town Manager

167 Western Rd  
Warren ME 04864  
Tel. (207) 273-2421  
Fax (207) 273-3107

July 29, 2008

Butch Taylor  
Chairman Georges River Shellfish Committee  
870 River Rd.  
Cushing, ME 04563

Dear Butch,

You have asked for something in writing regarding funds to do independent water sampling. Our Shellfish Program has a budget item "Other Expenses" that could be used for the cost of doing water sampling for this year and next year we will budget a separate account.

**We do have funds to do this sampling!**

Sincerely,

Grant Watmough,  
Town Manager, Program Administrator

## **Pollution Abatement Plan for Broad Cove Cushing Legal Notice Closed Area 27-B**

### **History**

A portion of Broad Cove, Cushing was reclassified from approved to restricted for shellfish harvest on April 11, 2007 (legal notice 27-B Lower St George River, Cushing and St George). This area was reviewed by the FDA inspector as part of the 2006 annual review of Shellfish Growing Area WU. The inspector found that the shellfish closure line dividing the approved and restricted areas in Broad Cove did not have water sampling stations at each end of the line to positively determine that the water quality at this dividing line met approved standards. It was decided that the area should be reclassified as restricted and new sampling stations should be placed at the ends of the former line. The new stations were created and the new sites were sampled bi-weekly to determine if the area met approved standards.

The Georges River Shellfish Management Group has decided to implement a Pollution Abatement Plan (PAP) as outlined in the document "Municipal Management of Restricted Areas" dated August 29, 2007.

### **Shoreline Survey**

Please refer to map on page three to view sampling locations.

Broad Cove was surveyed by Fran Pierce of the Department of Marine Resources in 2006. At the time of this survey, no actual pollution sources were identified in Broad Cove, Cushing. However, the water quality scores at the north end of the cove (sampling station WU16) suggested that pollution was entering the cove in this area. A staff member from Department of Environmental Protection was contacted to see if they might find a pollution source that was overlooked during the original survey. The area was revisited during the spring of 2007. Two septic systems were dye tested with no dye showing. One of these sites was tested a second time with more dye. Still no dye was found seeping out on the shore. The second shoreline survey of Broad Cove also revealed no dwelling related pollution sources. Discussions with locals in the area revealed that the large stream entering the cove in the vicinity of station WU16 had a population of beavers living farther up the stream. This was never documented. The stream was sampled on at least two occasions but was never found to have high scores.

### **Additional Information**

Station WU16 which had been classified as restricted, no longer meets restricted standards. This side of the cove was reclassified as prohibited on May 30, 2008. The water quality in Broad Cove has recently been evaluated to see if the area is cleaner during certain months of the year. A preliminary assessment of the data revealed that the water quality in Broad Cove is impaired during the months of June, July and August. The new Sanitary Survey Report of Shellfish Growing Area WU will be completed prior to December 31, 2008. It is likely that a seasonally conditional area will be recommended for Broad Cove, Cushing as part of the new report.

### Recommendations

- Further documentation of the beaver population is needed
- Additional stream samples should be collected during different seasons and during wet weather
- The water quality data should be reviewed to positively determine the season that the cove is dirty
- The data should be reviewed to see if rainfall impacts the area.

### Current Water Quality

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
2008

As of: June 03,

Fecal Coliform Geometric Mean and Percent Variability  
For the Years 2003 Through 2008 - (01/01 - 12/31) ( - )

Excludes Dates:

Status = Open and Closed Stations

Strategy = Both Random and Extra

Excludes Flood Data

Excludes Inactive Stations

Samples Limited to Latest 30

Salinity >= 0 ‰

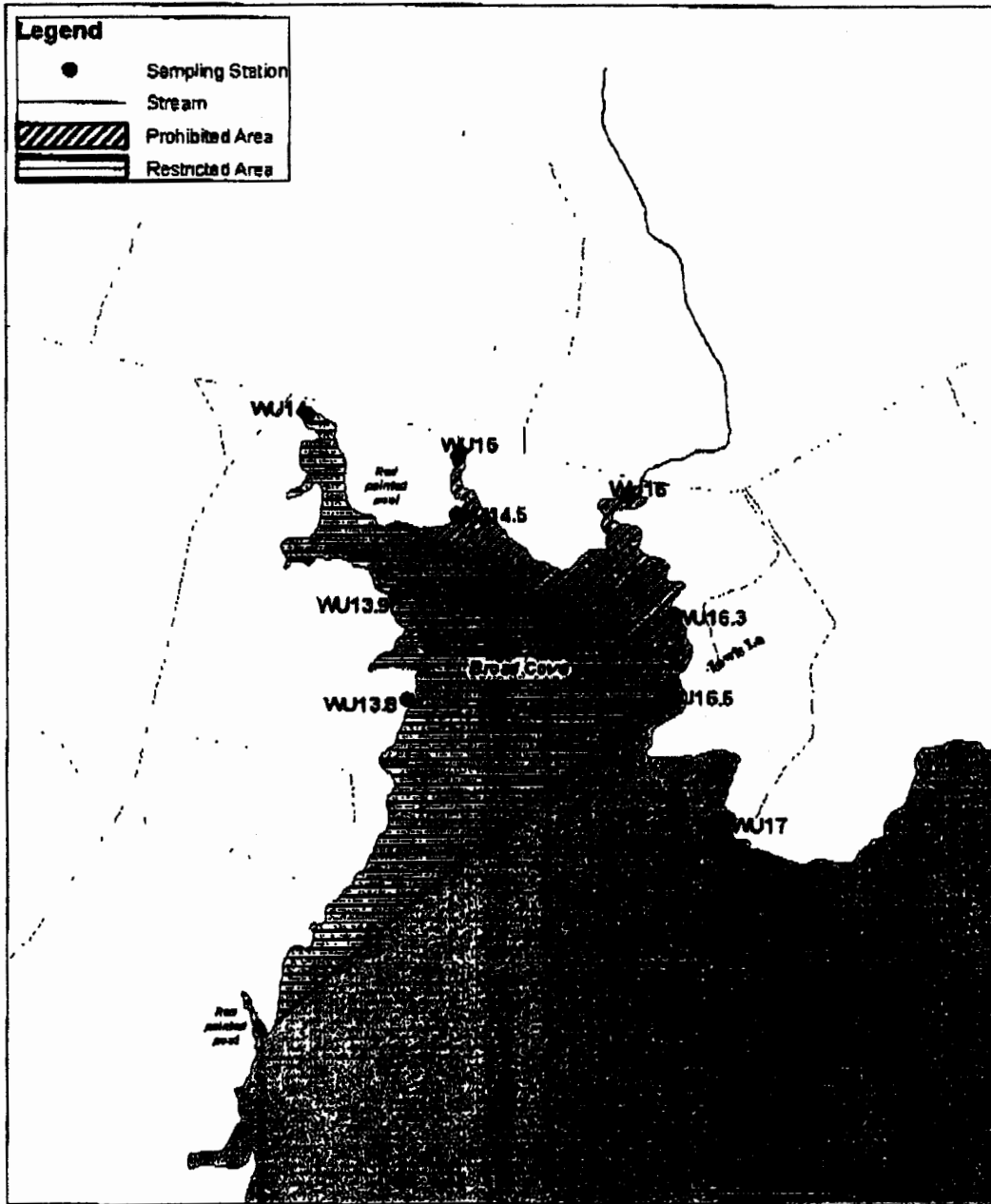
STATION	CLASS	CNT	MFCNT	GM	SDV	MAX	P90	APPD_STD	RESTR_STD
WU013.80	R	30	12	7.5	0.67	1100	54.2	41	235
WU013.90	R	15	15	4.6	0.51	48	21.1		
WU014.00	R	30	12	7.8	0.53	93	37.8	41	235
WU014.50	P	30	13	9.0	0.70	460	71.6	40	230
WU015.00	P	30	12	12.0	0.58	150	66.4	41	235
WU016.00	P	30	12	22.2	0.83	1700	252.8	41	235
WU016.30	P	15	15	5.6	0.71	440	47.0		
WU016.50	R	30	13	5.3	0.53	240	25.4	40	230
WU017.00	A	30	12	5.5	0.54	240	26.8	41	235



**Maine Department of Marine Resources**  
**Broad Cove portion of Pollution Area No. 27-B**  
Lower St. George River, Cushing



5/30/08



**Attachment A. Key to water quality table headers.**

**Station** = water quality monitoring station

**Class** = classification assigned to the station; prohibited (P), restricted (R), conditionally restricted (CR), conditionally approved (CA) and approved (A).

**Count** = the number of samples evaluated for classification, must be a minimum of 30.

**MFCNT** = the number of samples evaluated with the MTec method (included in the total Count column)

**Geo\_Mean** = means the antilog (base 10) of the arithmetic mean of the sample result logarithm (base 10).

**SDV** = standard deviation

**Max** = maximum score of the 30 data points in the count column

**P90** = 90th percentile

**APPD\_STD** = the 90th percentile, at or below which the station would meet approved criteria in the absence of pollution sources or poisonous and deleterious substances.

**RESTR\_STD** = the 90th percentile, at or below which the station would meet restricted criteria.