



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending June 5, 2009*

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### COASTAL PROGRAM

**Shore and Harbor Planning Grants.** Using a Shore and Harbor Planning Grant the Town of Kittery has completed its Wood Island Feasibility Study. Working in a unique partnership with the University of New Hampshire, Department of Engineering and Appledore Engineering Inc, a team of town officials, student engineering students and professional engineers undertook a study of the feasibility of implementing several management options identified by the town concerning the future of the historic Wood Island Lifesaving Station. Located on Wood Island at the mouth of Kittery Harbor, the wood shingle structure was built in 1907 and operated as a manned lifesaving station until 1941. The study report presents three recommended options for the Town of Kittery to consider for the restoration and use of the historic property. Wood Island and the Lifesaving Station is held by the Town of Kittery for public recreational access and use. **CONTACT: Jim Connors at 287-8938 or [jim.connors@maine.gov](mailto:jim.connors@maine.gov) .**

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

**Heating Oil Price Averages Rising.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.15 per gallon** \$.04 higher than last week's survey. It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.86 per gallon was found in the Southwestern

region. The high-end price of \$2.40 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.58 per gallon at this time. The most recent average price of natural gas delivered to Maine consumers was listed by the Energy Information Administration at \$17.64 for a thousand cubic feet of gas, or equivalent to heating oil at \$2.40 a gallon. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report was \$2.52 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.43 for diesel fuel. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$67.79. The next survey is scheduled for June 8, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**

### **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Welcome Noah Burch.** Noah joined the Maine Commission for Community Service May 2009. He is a recent graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts with a degree in History. This year, Noah will be working with the Commission and MEMA as an AmeriCorps VISTA. His work will include running software programs for both organizations to create a statewide network of virtual volunteer centers. He will also develop training materials and recruit volunteers to support donations and emergency management functions. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**

**\$331,557 in AmeriCorps grants announced.** The Maine Commission for Community Service announced today that the Maine Conservation Corps, which operates across the state of Maine, will receive \$331,557 in AmeriCorps grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The grants will support a total of 68 AmeriCorps members who will meet vital needs across the state including volunteer generation, trail building, and environmental education. The Maine Conservation Corps was selected in a highly competitive national process after being recommended by the Maine Commission for Community Service, which plays a key role in promoting volunteering and administering AmeriCorps programs in Maine. Later this summer, the Maine Commission for Community Service will announce additional AmeriCorps formula grants to other organizations in Maine. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**