



Maine Blue Economy Task Force 2.0

Meeting
October 1, 2025
10:00 AM

Reminder: Our Two Legislative Mandates

1. Develop recommendations for the establishment of a Center for the Blue Economy.
2. Recommend improvements and expansions of blue economy workforce and training.

Objectives for Today

1. Better understand Maine's strengths and challenges in the blue economy.
2. Review outcomes from discussion to define the Center's purpose and activities.
3. Review and discuss options for a Center's organizational structure.

Agenda

- 10:00 **Welcome** – *Charlotte Mace, DECD*
- 10:05 **Overview and Agenda** – *Laura Singer*
- 10:10 **Initial Framework for a Center’s High-Level Purpose** – *Mike Conathan*
- 10:40 **Review Basic Organizational Structures** – *Charlie Colgan*
- 10:50 **Breakout: Examining Trade-offs**
- Three Facilitated Group Discussions
- 11:30 **Report Out** – *Laura Singer*
- 11:55 **Next Steps and Adjourn** – *Michael Conathan*

Guidelines

1. No decisions or final, formal answers today – idea generation
2. Jump in, participate, engage - use chat
3. Stay on task
4. Share the floor
5. Be respectful - disagree all you need to; don't be disagreeable

Initial Framework for a Center's High-Level Purpose

1. Coordinating and Convening

- *Hub for networking & alignment*
- *Track players & activities*
- *Engage partners across sectors*

2. Data Synthesis, Information Sharing, and Raising Awareness

- *Share jobs, revenue & resource data*
- *Support municipalities with tools*
- *Showcase statewide activities*

3. Advocacy, Policy, and Attracting Funding

- *Build brand & identity*
- *Elevate visibility with policymakers & shape policy reforms*
- *Pursue grants & investment*

Review of Basic Organizational Structures

- 1. Office/Bureau** – *Embedded within a current state department*
- 2. Independent State Entity** – *Created by statute, Governor appointed board/not part of a line agency*
- 3. State-Authorized Host** – *Created by statute, but housed at a nonprofit or university*
- 4. Community Nonprofit** – *Fully independent, citizen-led organization*

Breakouts

Examining Trade-offs of various organizational structures

Key discussion questions:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the four possible structures for a Center?
2. Does one model jump out as showing immediate promise?
3. Do you see other potential ways to structure a Center (outside of the four presented by Charlie)?
4. Is there anything else you want to raise in the small group setting?

Next Steps

- **Develop Recommendation for an Organizational Structure**, drawing on today's input
- **Prepare for Next Meeting** (Mon, Oct 20, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM): focus is on “Blue Economy Workforce”
- **Attend various Blue Economy events** across the state
- **Continue Engaging Stakeholders** – conversations with Washington County leaders, state officials, and others

October Blue Economy Events

10/3: Maine Blue Economy Innovation Summit

10/8-9: Blue Economy delegations in Maine

10/21: Coastal Carbon Ecosystems Symposium

10/23: Maine Algae Science Day

10/24: Blue Economy Investment Summit

What's missing?

BETF 2.0 Meeting Schedule 2025

- **Wednesday, September 10 - 10:00AM – 12:00PM**
What is the unique purpose of the Maine Blue Economy Center?
- **Wednesday, October 1 - 10:00AM – 12:00PM**
How should a Center operate?
- **Monday, October 20 - 11:00AM – 1:00PM**
What are the key Workforce issues to advance Maine's Blue Economy?
- **Tuesday, November 18 - TBD**
Review Draft Report, take final input from Task Force
- **Wednesday, December 3**
Final report due to Legislature.

All meetings will be virtual and are open for the public to observe.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!