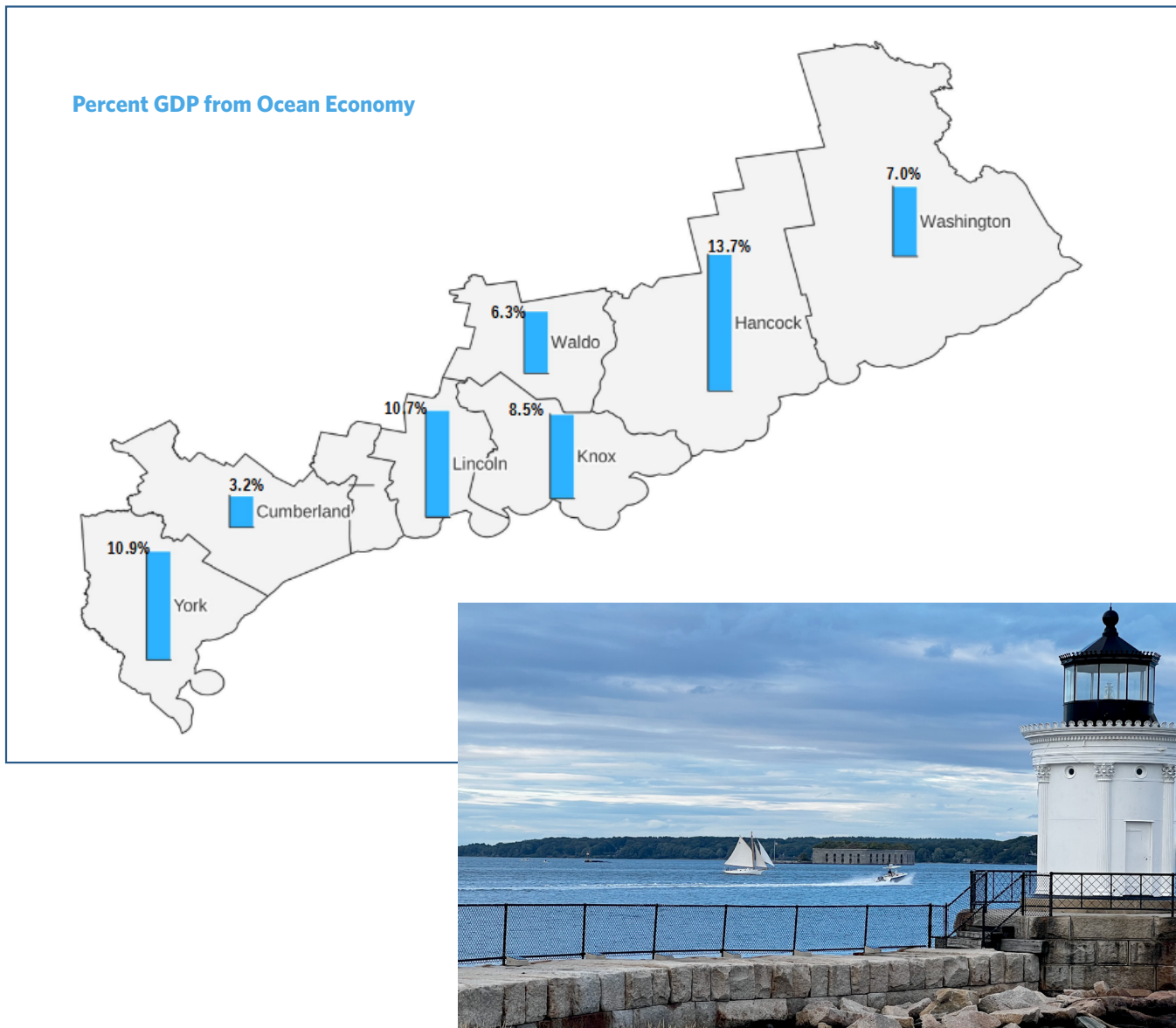


ACCELERATING MAINE'S BLUE ECONOMY

Key Findings of Maine's Blue Economy Task Force



WHY IT MATTERS

The State of Maine's Blue Economy

- **Maine has a long maritime history and abundant coastal resources** that make it well-positioned for blue economy leadership.
- **Maine's ocean related economy was worth \$6.8 billion in 2021.** It employed over 90,000 people and paid out \$4.2 billion in wages.
- **Other states are outpacing Maine in organizing and funding** their blue economies.
- **Without strategic action, Maine risks missing out** on economic opportunities in a key Maine sector.

(continued →)

Maine's Competitive Advantages

- **Strategic Location**
First U.S. port for vessels from northern Europe
- **Deepwater Ports**
Critical for shipping, maritime industries, and research
- **Skilled Workforce**
Generations of expertise in maritime industries
- **Research and Innovation Hubs**
Expanding institutions at the forefront of marine science
- **Strong Maritime Heritage**
Longstanding leadership in fishing, aquaculture, and boatbuilding
- **Legacy of Sustainable Food Production**
A history and tradition of producing healthy, desirable, sustainable food from the ocean and land

Opportunities for Growth in Maine's Blue Economy

Sectors with High Economic Growth Potential:

- **Aquaculture and Marine Vegetation**
Sustainable seafood and seaweed-based products
- **Marine Biotechnology**
Innovations for medicine, cosmetics, agriculture, and food
- **Ocean Data and Marine Research**
Monitoring, forecasting, and climate solutions
- **Resilient Coastal Infrastructure**
Adapting to rising seas and extreme weather
- **Sustainable Boatbuilding and Marine Propulsion**
Electrification and next-gen materials

Challenges Holding Maine Back

- **Fragmented Blue Economy Strategy**
Maine lacks a coordinated plan
- **Regulatory Barriers**
Slow permitting discourages investment
- **Limited State and Federal Investment**
Maine lags in securing funding
- **Workforce and Housing**
Hard to attract and retain skilled workers
- **Climate Change Risks**
Warmer Gulf of Maine and extreme weather affects marine industries



Key Recommendations for Action

- **Establish a Maine Center for the Blue Economy**
A public-private hub to drive innovation, secure funding, and attract talent
- **Prioritize State Investment in Blue Economy R&D**
Create a dedicated fund to accelerate research for marine industries
- **Streamline Regulatory Processes**
Create a state blue economy ombudsman and reduce permitting delays to accelerate industry growth
- **Expand Workforce Training and Education Programs**
Strengthen talent pipelines for blue economy jobs
- **Strengthen Working Waterfronts and Coastal Infrastructure**
Invest in sustainable coastal development.

THE TAKEAWAY

Maine Must Act Now

Investing in the Blue Economy=more jobs, more innovation, and a stronger coastal economy

STATE LEGISLATORS AND STAKEHOLDERS



Support policies that drive Maine's Blue Economy forward

Scan QR code or visit the Task Force's report at

<https://www.maine.gov/decd/business-development/blue-economy>