

## Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds List

**MARINE WATERS****Impaired Marine Waters**

Unlike the lake and stream prioritization, the marine waters listed as impaired waters on the 2016 Integrated Report were not used as a starting point for the NPS Priority list. Marine waters have fewer numeric criteria and rely more on narrative criteria (i.e., best professional judgment). The 2016 Integrated Report impaired marine waterbodies list does not align geographically with the DMR shellfish harvest closure lists, and it does not clearly distinguish between NPS and point source contributions. To keep prioritization criteria objective, the marine priority list is focused on data associated with bacterial closures and is reliant on data, knowledge, and priorities from other organizations. Because of this, there is a more exclusive and smaller list for marine waters than for lakes and streams. Additions to the marine priority list are anticipated as more information becomes available.

Marine watersheds or coves/segments of the listed waters were added to the priority list if they met at least one of the following criteria:

- Marine waters or beaches that **Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB)** has identified as likely areas with NPS sources of bacteria at levels that are concerning for primary contact recreation.
- Marine waters that the **Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP)** has identified with high/moderate value shellfish beds, high/moderate harvester interest, and associated NPS sources documented in the CBEP report, *Expanding and Sustaining the Shellfisheries of Casco Bay 2011* (2012).
- Marine waters associated with a **Maine Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Program (MS4)** priority watershed.
- Nearshore waters and intertidal clam flats where partners (e.g., CBEP, Friends of Casco Bay, Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI), Wells Reserve) have documented **water quality indicators** with suspected NPS links. Indicators included documented eelgrass loss (only limited availability) or recurring macroalgae blooms, chronically high nitrogen relative to comparable ambient conditions and/or chronically low dissolved oxygen (<5 mg/l).
- Marine waters that the **Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)** has identified as having shellfish harvest closures related primarily to NPS threat, and that are protected embayments with limited assimilative capacity. Information available from sanitary surveys, watershed surveys, and local research and knowledge were used to determine if NPS threats were the dominant contributors to documented impairment or anticipated future impairment.

Some marine waters were not included on the priority list even if they met one or more of the above criteria due to the following reasons.

- Believed to have negative water quality indicators for **‘natural’ reasons**, such as high bacteria from wildlife, or having low dissolved oxygen as a result of high sediment oxygen demand in shallow, productive, low flushing coves.
- Believed to be impaired by **legacy pollutants**, particularly legacy toxics. If legacy pollutants would have to be addressed in order for the waterbody to meet class, then reducing NPS sources would not be sufficient for attainment of standards.
- **Large or exposed estuaries, coastal embayments, or coastal shorelines** with relatively high degree of flushing likely. The large scale of the area and influence of tides and surface currents make measureable improvement in water quality due to implementation of NPS watershed-based plans very unlikely.
- Source of pollution is tied primarily to **wastewater discharges**, a small number of failing **septic systems** or **overboard discharges**, or other **point sources**. While failing septic systems and overboard discharges are in the realm of NPS, NPS grant program does not fund replacing sewage systems, so small watersheds with just a few septic issues are a better fit to be addressed by the town.
- Sources of pollution are **not clearly of nonpoint origin or have limited NPS sources**. More information on probable sources is needed in order for prioritization for NPS.

#### Impaired\* Marine Waters Priority List (36 marine waters)

Marine Water	Area/Town	Priority List Reasoning
Anthoine Creek & Cove	South Portland	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
Basin Cove	Harpswell	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
Bunganuc Creek	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
Cape Neddick River	York	MS4 Priority Water
Churches Rock	So. Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat
Egypt Bay	Hancock/Franklin	DMR/NPS Threat
Goosefare Bay (including Gooserocks Beach)	Kennebunkport	MHB Priority Water, MS4 Priority Water
Harpswell Cove	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
Harraseeket River	Freeport	DMR/NPS Threat
Hutchins Cove	Bagaduce River / Northern Bay (Penobscot)	DMR/NPS Threat
Hylar Cove	Cushing	DMR/NPS Threat
Kennebunk River Estuary	Kennebunk	MHB Priority Water

Marine Water	Area/Town	Priority List Reasoning
<b>Little River and Bay</b>	Freeport	CBEP Priority Water
<b>Littlefield Cove</b>	Bagaduce River / Northern Bay (Penobscot)	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Littlejohn Island Causeway</b>	Yarmouth	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
<b>Maquoit Bay</b>	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
<b>Martin Cove</b>	Lamoine	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Medomak River Estuary</b>	Waldoboro	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Mill Cove</b>	South Portland	Negative Water Quality Indicators
<b>Mill Pond/Parker Head</b>	Phippsburg	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Mussell Cove</b>	Falmouth	CBEP Priority Water, DMR/NPS Threat
<b>North Fogg Point</b>	Freeport	CBEP Priority Water
<b>Northeast Creek</b>	Bar Harbor	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Oakhurst Island</b>	Harpwell	CBEP Priority Water
<b>Ogunquit River Estuary</b>	Ogunquit	MHB Priority Water, DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Pemaquid River</b>	Bristol	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Salt Pond</b>	Blue Hill/Sedgwick	DMR/NPS Threat, MERI
<b>Scarborough River Estuary</b>	Scarborough	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Seal Cove</b>	Vinalhaven	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Spinney Creek</b>	Eliot	MS4 Priority Water, Negative Water Quality Indicators
<b>Spruce Creek</b>	Kittery	MS4 Priority Water, Negative Water Quality Indicators
<b>Spurwink River</b>	Scarborough	MHB Priority Water, DMR/NPS Threat
<b>St. George River Estuary from Rte 1 crossing to head of tide</b>	Warren, Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat, Negative Water Quality Indicators
<b>Upper New Meadows River upstream from Howard Point, including the lakes</b>	Brunswick, Bath	Negative Water Quality Indicators, CBEP Priority Water
<b>Weskeag River</b>	S. Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat
<b>Willard Beach</b>	South Portland	MHB Priority Water

### Threatened Marine Waters

Marine waters that are not listed as impaired waters on the 2016 Integrated Report but that meet the criteria listed above were also included on the list.

#### Threatened\* Marine Waters Priority List (2 marine waters)

Marine Water	Town	Priority List Reasoning
<b>Biddeford Pool</b>	Biddeford	Negative Water Quality Indicators
<b>Jordan River</b>	Trenton/Lamoine	DMR/NPS Threat

*\*Note: Impaired vs. Threatened NPS Priority Water. When the Impaired and Threatened Marine Waters NPS Priority Lists were first developed, the DEP 2012 Integrated Report was used to determine if a water was listed as impaired or threatened. Marine waters with shellfish closures were not listed as impaired in the 2012 Integrated Report, however were listed as impaired in the 2016 Integrated Report. In 2018, the NPS Priority Waters List was aligned with the 2016 Integrated Report listings. The changes resulted in all except two of the NPS Priority Marine Waters being moved to the 'Impaired Marine Waters Priority List'. It is anticipated that whether a marine water is listed as a NPS Priority Impaired or Threatened Water will be dynamic as the Integrated Report continues to respond to shellfish closures and openings. It is not anticipated that the marine waters will be removed from the NPS Priority List as frequently, though they will be switched between the impaired or threatened categories as appropriate.*