

Maine Coastal Program



Accomplishments
2012 | 2013

Director's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are excited to share this snapshot of the Maine Coastal Program's work over the last two years. The Coastal Program (MCP) invests in projects and initiatives that help balance the conservation and sound development of the Maine coast and its resources. As part of Maine's Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), our successes also reflect the work of other state agencies, our coastal towns and our many other collaborators. Our 36-year partnership with NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management) continues to fuel our work with critical funding and technical assistance, and the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 still provides our strong foundation.

Our work addresses an array of issues vital to healthy coastal resources and robust coastal economies, including access to the shore, harbor planning and management, habitat mapping and restoration, storm hazard resiliency, land use planning, water quality and citizen stewardship.

Exciting new efforts over the last two years included:

- Releasing the Maine Coastal Public Access Guide, a three-volume series to help Mainers and visitors discover more nooks and crannies of our coast that are open for public use.
- Reaching more communities with science-based information about shoreline change and the anticipated effects of more frequent and severe storms.
- Lending land use planning assistance to help towns plan for public infrastructure, housing, natural resources and other critical assets.
- Successfully demonstrating that using low-cost technology for data acquisition results in high quality data about seafloor characteristics.
- Joining with other New England states, federal agencies, tribal governments and an array of stakeholders in a forward-looking regional ocean planning effort.

We hope you agree that our focused attention to priority issues and the results we produce are useful and of high quality - we welcome your feedback and questions.

Regardless of the role you and your organization play in management of coastal resources, we thank you for your commitment, and we look forward to a productive year in 2014!

Kathleen Leyden

Director, Maine Coastal Program

Meet the Staff

Back to Front, L to R

Tom Miragliuolo, Land for Maine's Future Program

Melissa Anson, Public Access Specialist

Phil Carey, Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Todd Burrowes, Policy Analyst

Matthew Nixon, Assistant Program Director

Peter Slovinsky, Maine Geological Survey

Kathleen Leyden, Director

Ruta Dzenis, Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Aline Smith, Secretary

Theresa Torrent, Outreach Coordinator

Missing: Mac Stocco, Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Emily Norton, NOAA Coastal Fellow



PHOTO CREDIT – 179 Photography

Shoreline Change, Coastal Storms and Hazard Resiliency

Projects in Focus:

Coastal Hazards Resiliency Tools for Municipalities

MCP brings scientific and land use planning expertise to coastal communities who want to increase their ability to adapt to changing shoreline conditions and “bounce back” more quickly after damaging coastal storms. MCP-funded geologists at the Maine Geological Survey map future scenarios and create “vulnerability assessments”; MCP-funded planners in our Municipal Planning and Assistance Program and Regional Planning Commissions conduct extensive outreach at town halls and help communities develop “adaptation strategies” for future storms.

Partnering with three coastal Regional Planning Commissions, MCP worked with 23 communities in 2012 and 2013. Successes include revised local comprehensive plans and floodplain ordinances, and development of transferable evaluation and adaptation strategies for low-lying wastewater treatment plants. Work is underway with the Towns of Scarborough, Topsham, Bath, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, and Phippsburg to plan for potential sea-level rise impacts on salt marshes. MCP also provided funding to the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership for a preliminary impact analysis of the effects of sea-level rise on the Bay’s salt marshes and preparation of advisory reports for 10 Casco Bay coastal towns. www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/climate_current.html

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission Vulnerability Study

Lincoln County, the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC) and MCP-funded staff at the Maine Geological Survey partnered with 16 municipalities to evaluate the risks to infrastructure and the natural environment posed by increasingly severe and frequent coastal storms. An interactive link on the LCRPC website allows users to see how different sea-level rise scenarios may affect their towns or specifically their properties lcrpc.org/sea-level-rise-scenarios. Direct “hits” on the site exceeded all other activities on the website with the exception of a county business directory and the home page itself.



Simulation of Highest Annual Tide and 1 ft. of Sea-level Rise in downtown Damariscotta, ME. Blue indicates areas of potential routine flooding, and red indicates potentially vulnerable structures. With partial funding from an MCP Coastal Community Grant, Damariscotta will complete a more detailed assessment of portions of its historic downtown in 2014.

“The Sea-Level Rise project arrived at about the right time – a teachable moment for many coastal constituencies. The vulnerability of the marine commercial infrastructure, primary roads, and high value coastal residences in the zone proximate to the shore will clearly be driven home by project results, especially the town-by-town mapping of at-risk structures.”

Mal Carey – LCRPC Board, Coastal Hazards Project Oversight Committee, Newcastle Planning Board

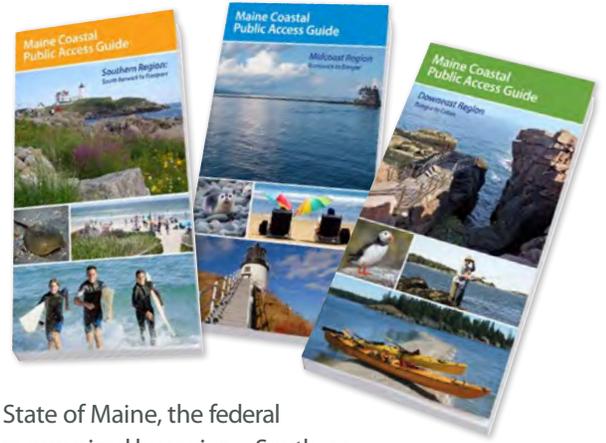
Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

Public Access

Projects in Focus:

Maine Coastal Public Access Guide

The Maine Coastal Public Access Guide is a three-volume guide to over 700 publicly-accessible shore sites along the coast of Maine. With sand and cobble beaches, rocky headlands, islands, bluffs, estuaries, salt marshes and downtown waterfronts, Maine's coastline is diverse and offers opportunities for any outdoor enthusiast. The Guide covers access points on lands owned by municipalities, the State of Maine, the federal government, land trusts, and other private organizations. The Guide's three volumes are organized by region – Southern Region (South Berwick to Freeport), Midcoast (Brunswick to Hampden), and Downeast (Bangor to Calais). Even the most seasoned coastal traveler is sure to find a new wonder along Maine's beautiful coast. www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/coastal-access-guide.htm



Town of Camden – River-to-Harbor Walk

With an MCP Coastal Community Grant, the Town of Camden completed a feasibility assessment and conceptual designs for a new 2.25-mile multi-use pedestrian pathway along the Megunticook River. The proposed River-to-Harbor Walk will improve access from residential areas to the downtown and coastline, offering an added attraction for visitors, employees and businesses. With a second award from MCP (a Shore and Harbor Planning Grant), Camden completed engineering plans for improvements to the Camden Harbor public landing.

"As the Chair of the Camden Select Board, we are responsible to those who elected us to office. We understand the value of sound planning before implementation but must also balance the importance of community input. With funding assistance from the Maine Coastal Program, we were able to engage hundreds of community members and create a road map that will guide us for years to come."

Martin Cates, Chairman, Camden Select Board



Town of Yarmouth – Reconnecting Yarmouth Village to the Working Waterfront

Several decades ago, the construction of Interstate 295 through Yarmouth severed the linkage between its historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods and the harbor. With MCP and municipal funding, the Town of Yarmouth undertook a feasibility study to identify opportunities for re-establishing pedestrian connections between Main Street, the town landing and the marinas.

MCP's Coastal Community Grant Program supported the following additional public access projects in 2012 and 2013:

- Bar Harbor Open Space Plan
- Belfast Passy Rail Trail
- Cutler Public Access Project
- Wells Harbor Pedestrian Bridge Study
- South Berwick Conservation/Open Space Plan

Conserving Coastal Lands

Projects in Focus:

Land for Maine's Future (LMF)

The Land for Maine's Future Program uses voter-supported bond funds to protect conservation and recreational lands throughout the state. The MCP provides funding for 25% of LMF's staff. In 2012 and 2013, the Program completed 20 projects in coastal towns, including large expanses of bold ocean frontage, mountains, additions to state parks, valuable habitat, one of the state's most significant archeological sites and more than 5.5 miles of shoreline.



LMF in Action – Sipp Bay Gateway Project

Sipp Bay is a northern arm of Cobscook Bay in the Town of Perry, in Downeast Maine. The Gateway project included approximately 16 acres and more than 4,300 feet of ocean frontage on the Bay. The property is a former campground and is regularly used by clam harvesters. Situated on a peninsula, the property has stunning views in all directions. Title to the property is now held by Maine Coast Heritage Trust.



Conserving and Improving Maine's Working Waterfronts

Projects in Focus:

In addition to protecting conservation and recreational lands, the Land for Maine's Future Program also conserves commercial fishing access to the shore by purchasing "working waterfront covenants". These legally-binding agreements restrict the use and development of the shore to commercial fishing and associated activities. MCP supports the Working Waterfront Program through funding of staff in the Land for Maine's Future Program and the Department of Marine Resources. In 2012 and 2013, LMF funded six working waterfront projects, ensuring that the properties will always serve the commercial fishing industry – including one of the state's largest co-op buying stations; property owned by the state's largest mussel producer and harvester; property of a well-known boat builder and service provider; and several wharfs where seafood is purchased.

Moosabec Mussels

With LMF working waterfront funds, the State acquired a working waterfront covenant over this property located at the entrance to Jonesport Harbor in Downeast Maine. Moosabec Mussels, Inc. lands 25% of Maine's mussel harvest – their 2 lb. packages can be found at most Whole Foods Markets east of the Mississippi. They also land, process, and market quahogs, periwinkles, lobsters, crabs, sea urchins, scallops, seaweed, clams, worms and sea cucumbers. These funds helped the applicant purchase an additional fishing vessel and make several site improvements. Moosabec Mussels employs 12 people, and an additional 45+ fishermen regularly land their catch at the property.



Shore and Harbor Planning

MCP's Shore and Harbor Planning Grants Program promotes innovative waterfront planning and harbor management, balanced development of shore and harbor areas, and planning for waterfront infrastructure improvements and access to the shore. In 2012, MCP awarded five planning grants to the City of Bath and the Towns of Frenchboro, Harpswell, Rockport and Wells. In 2013, eleven towns received grants—Freeport, Waldoboro, Brunswick, Northport, Yarmouth, Kittery, Topsham, Deer Isle, Biddeford, Camden and Bowdoinham.

Town of Bowdoinham – Restroom & Pumpout Facility at Maily Waterfront Park



Wastewater discharge from boats into coastal waters is still a concern along the Maine coast. Adequate and well-sited boat pumpout stations are necessary to alleviate this persistent problem. Using Shore and Harbor Planning Grant funds, the Town of Bowdoinham reached out to resident boat owners and transient boaters to confirm the system capacity needed and to determine appropriate hours of operation and potential fees. Preliminary designs for the pumpout facility and a public restroom were completed, including considerations for electric supply and treatment and disposal of the effluent.

"Bowdoinham has discussed the need for a restroom and a pumpout facility at our waterfront park for many years, but we've lacked the resources to move this project forward. The Shore and Harbor Grant allowed us to take the first step in making these facilities a reality."

- Nicole Briand, Town of Bowdoinham, Town Planner

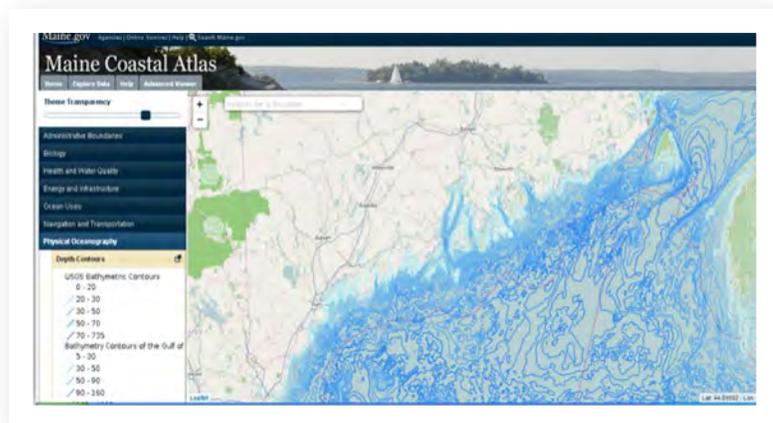
Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

Town of Northport – Saturday Cove Access Project

Saturday Cove is a primary point of access for commercial fishermen in Northport. To alleviate problems with limited parking and limited access at low tide, the Town used Shore and Harbor Planning funds to develop a plan for improving access at the cove. The plan included recommendations for a new pier, a seasonal ramp, seasonal floats and a new boat launch. Northport is now well positioned to qualify for construction grant funds from other sources.

“The Maine Coastal Program Shore and Harbor Grant has been a tremendous help to the Town of Northport in prioritizing our projects at Saturday Cove. We were able to bring in an engineer and do a complete study on erosion control measures, our float system, boat launch, and overall access. We now have a clearer understanding of the priorities at the Cove and how to go about accomplishing them.”

- Barbara Ashley, Town of Northport, Town Administrator



Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative

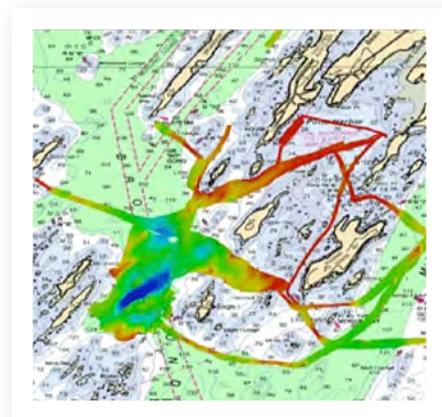
Created by the Maine Coastal Program in 2013, the Maine Coastal Mapping Initiative (MCM) is acquiring critical data about the terrain of the seafloor that will be used by regulatory and planning agencies to maintain vibrant marine ecosystems, expand offshore economic opportunities, improve maritime safety and prepare for anticipated environmental changes. So far, topographic and habitat maps have been created for 150 square miles of the seafloor off of Maine’s Midcoast region, and priority areas for future mapping have been identified. The MCM is a collaboration among state, federal, and non-profit partners, including the Maine Department of Marine Resources, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Geological Survey, the University of Maine, the University of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Biodiversity Research Institute.

Data and Information

Projects in Focus:

Maine Coastal Atlas

The Maine Coastal Atlas is an online repository for coastal and marine spatial data. It contains hundreds of data layers on ocean species, human uses and ocean characteristics. It was developed to identify potential conflicts between existing and new uses in the ocean and to increase the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of siting and permitting decisions. A prototype of the Atlas was completed in 2013, and the website will “go live” in early 2014. www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/index.htm



Sonar Calibration Results, Harpswell Sound – This information will be used to collect accurate water depth measurements.

Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

City of Bangor – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Project

With partial funding from MCP, the Bangor Area Stormwater Working Group engaged residents in a community-based initiative to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. Volunteers stenciled storm drains, took part in street and stream clean-ups and participated in a stream bank tree planting and stabilization project.

“When you build something, sometimes you can only wish for people to be interested or participate. And sometimes you build something and they DO come. Be prepared not only for what happens when you don’t get the response you want, but also be prepared for response to exceed expectations.”

*Christopher R. Brewer, Project Coordinator
Penobscot County Soil and Water
Conservation District*



Bangor area residents doing their part for clean water

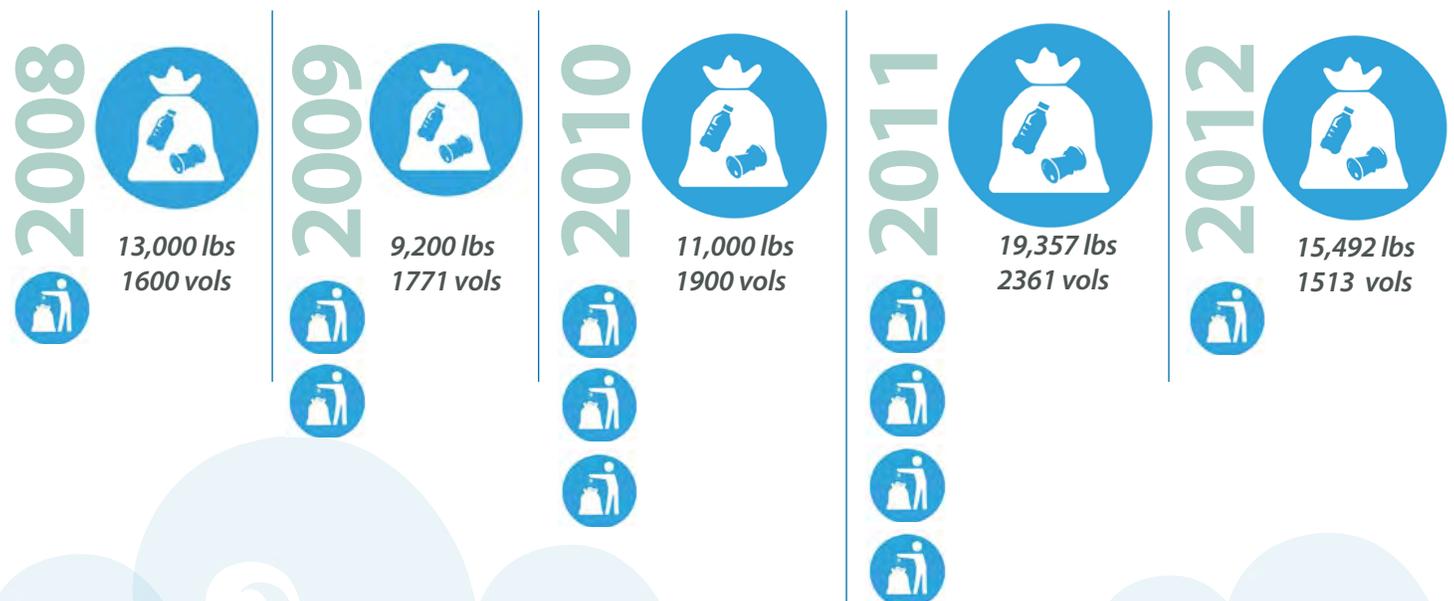
MCP’s Coastal Community Grant Program supported the following additional water quality-related projects in 2012 and 2013:

- Town of Camden – Water quality remediation for Camden Harbor and Laite Beach
- Town of Falmouth – Route 1 Commercial District Stormwater Management Plan
- Town of Georgetown – Georgetown Water Resources Project
- Hancock County Planning Commission – Blue Hill Bay Needs Assessment
- Southern Maine Planning and Development Council – Kittery Septic System Mapping and Watershed Protection Project
- Southern Maine Planning and Development Council – Stormwater Utility Feasibility Workshop for Kittery, Eliot and South York
- Town of Thomaston – Georges River Land Trust Water Quality Monitoring Program

Stewardship

Coastweek *celebrating over 25 years!*

The Maine Coastal Program has sponsored an annual statewide beach cleanup for 25 years. “Coastweek” takes place in September each year in tandem with The Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup. In a seven-day period, thousands of Maine residents remove tens of thousands of pounds of trash from vast portions of our coastline. Volunteers record their findings, and the data is incorporated into The Ocean Conservancy’s annual International Cleanup summary. Volunteers find a variety of items during the cleanups including beverage and food containers, fishing gear, rope, plastic packaging, bags, balloons, and some unexpected items — from expensive watches to toilet seats! MCP uses the data collected during Coastweek to carry out targeted outreach programs aimed at reducing marine debris at its source.



Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

Working at the Regional Level

Initiatives and Projects in Focus:

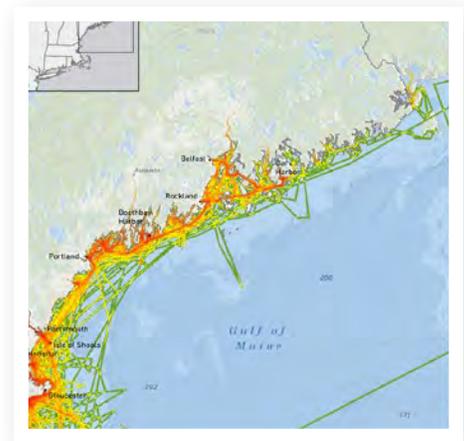
Regional Ocean Planning in New England

More than 140 laws and several dozen different federal agencies govern activities in New England's coastal waters. Too often decisions are made in a piecemeal fashion without a clear way to consider the needs, challenges, and perspectives of our region as a whole. The National Ocean Policy, established by Presidential Executive Order in 2010, called for the creation of "ocean plans"- to better manage the nation's oceans and coasts - in nine regions throughout the US and its territories. Ocean planning is a tool to anticipate new uses of the ocean, identify potential conflicts and address critical needs using a regional perspective to set priorities and make decisions. New England was the first region in the nation to respond to this call, and launched the Northeast Regional Planning Body (RPB) in November 2012. The Northeast RPB includes representatives from the six New England states, 10 federally recognized tribes, 10 federal agencies, and the New England Fishery Management Council. The Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Department of Marine Resources represent the State of Maine on the RPB. <http://neoplan.org/>

Part of MCP's role in the New England regional ocean planning process is to ensure that data collection and ocean mapping accurately reflect the characteristics and use of Maine's nearshore waters and that this information is properly vetted with Maine's stakeholders. In 2012 and 2013, MCP staff participated in initial efforts to map ocean uses off of our coastline, attended meetings of industry groups and environmental organizations, and co-sponsored public outreach meetings in several locations. Late in 2013, MCP assembled a 30-member multi-sector Maine Advisors Group to ensure that a regional plan will offer benefits to Maine's ocean users.

Recreational Boater Survey

Partnering with SeaPlan, MCP participated in the first ever Northeast Recreational Boater Survey in 2012. This project documented the location and intensity of marine recreational boating in Maine - and throughout New England - using an innovative, online interactive mapping tool and survey. MCP funding helped SeaPlan reach more Maine boaters in the survey. Of particular interest to the private sector, trades associations and state agencies, the project included an assessment of the economic impact of recreational boating. The survey found that the total economic impact of the recreational boating industry in Maine in 2012 was approximately \$205.3 million. Of that, over \$170M was associated with Maine-registered boaters. Boating-related expenditures topped \$112M, with approximately \$104.3M coming from Maine residents. The recreational boating industry employed approximately 1,854 year-round workers in Maine in 2012. www.seaplan.org/boating



Recreational Boater Route Density from the 2012 Northeast Regional Boating Survey

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

MCP represents the State of Maine on the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. This unique binational collaboration was established in 1989 by the Governors and Premiers of the three US states and two Canadian provinces that border and share the natural resources of the Gulf of Maine. For almost 25 years federal, state and provincial governments and non-governmental organizations have worked together to address the Gulf's most pressing issues for which a unified regional response is needed.

Three areas of focus for the Council are habitat restoration, improving environmental health and sustaining coastal communities. In 2012, MCP co-funded an evaluation of, and sustainability plan for the Gulfwatch Program. Since 1993, Gulfwatch has measured contaminants in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) to assess the types and concentrations of contaminants in coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine. It is one of the few monitoring programs and the only one in the Gulf of Maine to be coordinated across international borders. www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch/

Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

Partnerships with Other Agencies

The Coastal Program’s partner state agencies include the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection. MCP provides partial support for their work in the areas of volunteer water quality and toxic phytoplankton monitoring, permit reviews, fisheries management and the enforcement of environmental laws.

DMR staff at the agency's Lamoine laboratory testing for toxic phytoplankton

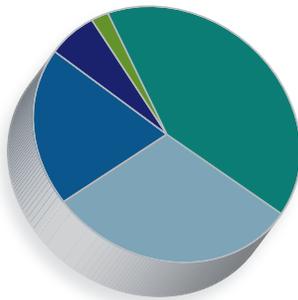


DEP staff and construction workers at the site of the new Bigelow Laboratory in East Boothbay

Maine Coastal Program Funding by Topic Area FY12 & FY13

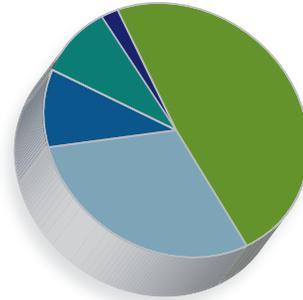
- Public Access
- Habitat Conservation (includes permit reviews)
- Coastal Hazards Adaptation
- Water Dependent Uses and Municipal Planning
- Interagency, Interstate, Federal and Partner Coordination

2012



FY12 Federal Funds

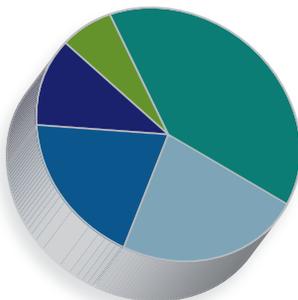
Public Access \$45,393
 Habitat Conservation (includes permit reviews) \$670,645
 Coastal Hazards Adaptation \$138,849
 Water Dependent Uses and Municipal Planning \$898,158
 Interagency, Interstate, Federal and Partner Coordination \$437,839



FY12 Matching Funds

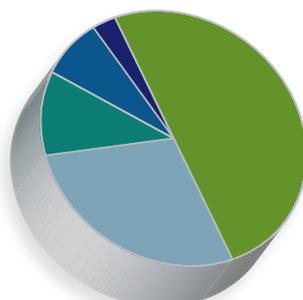
Public Access \$971,909
 Habitat Conservation (includes permit reviews) \$598,778
 Coastal Hazard Adaptation \$40,500
 Water Dependent Uses and Municipal Planning \$203,130
 Interagency, Interstate, Federal and Partner Coordination \$194,683

2013



FY13 Federal Funds

Public Access \$161,856
 Habitat Conservation (includes permitting and enforcement) \$554,204
 Coastal Hazards Adaptation \$279,270
 Water Dependent Uses and Municipal Planning \$948,843
 Interagency, Interstate, Federal and Partner Coordination \$445,321



FY13 Matching Funds

Public Access \$1,079,148
 Habitat Conservation \$606,741
 Coastal Hazards Adaptation \$62,478
 Water Dependent Uses and Municipal Planning \$231,452
 Interagency, Interstate, Federal and Partner Coordination \$174,990

Maine Coastal Program Accomplishments – 2012 and 2013

Stewardship Program Grants, Education Small Grants Program and Sponsorships

The MCP offers a limited number of small grant awards each year for education and stewardship events and programs that promote awareness of coastal resources and stewardship of our coastal communities and waters.

Activities Supported in 2012 and 2013 included:

Stewardship Grants

- Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition – Penobscot Bay Stewards 2012, 2013
- Damariscotta River Association – Midcoast Stewards 2012

Education Grants

- Pemaquid Watershed Association – Pemaquid Beach Interpretive Guide, 2012
- Cool ME – College Outreach for Ocean Literacy in ME, 2012
- Sustainable Ocean Studies – Summer Program, 2012, 2013
- Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve – Summer Educational Program Series, 2012
- Island Institute – Ocean Windpower Outreach Materials and Meetings, 2013

Sponsorships

- Maine Marine Trades Association – Boating Expo Show, 2012, 2013
- Maine Sea Grant – Maine Green Crab Summit, 2013
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust – Maine Land Conservation Conference, 2012, 2013
- Marine Environmental Research Institute – Speaker Series, 2013
- New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative – Ocean Literacy Summit, 2012
- Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine – Annual Science Meeting, 2012, 2013
- Maine Association of Planners – Annual Meeting, 2013
- Maine Downtown Center – Annual Conference, 2012, 2013
- Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association – Conference, 2012
- Maine Sea Grant – Maine Beaches Conference, 2013
- Maine Sea Grant – The American Lobster in a Changing Ecosystem: A US-Canada Science Symposium, 2013
- Island Institute – Introductory Workshop on Ocean Acidification, 2012

For more information about the **Maine Coastal Program**, visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/ or contact aline.smith@maine.gov; 207-287-2801

For more information about our **Coastal Community Grant Program**, visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/financial_assistance.shtml or contact elizabeth.hertz@maine.gov; 207-287-8061

For more information about our **Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program**, visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/grants/shore-and-harbor-planning-grants.html or contact matthew.e.nixon@maine.gov; 207-287-1491

For more information about **Stewardship and Education Awards and sponsorship requests**, visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/grants/discretionary-education-grants.html or contact theresa.torrent@maine.gov; 207-287-2351

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Maine Coastal Program
Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
State House Station 93 • 17 Elkins Lane Augusta, ME 04333-0093
www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/



