



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH
P.O. BOX 8, 194 MCKOWN POINT RD
W. BOOTHBAY HARBOR, ME 04575

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

January 11, 2023

Dear Shellfish Committees, Town Clerks, and Town Officials:

This letter is a reminder to submit your **Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Report before April 1, 2023**. We have also included some news highlights and important information.

The Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Report identifies the key management components within municipal shellfish programs that must be completed for your program to meet statutory and regulatory requirements under Title 12 M.R. S. Chapter 623 §6671 and DMR Regulation Chapter 7.30(4).

The completed Annual Municipal Shellfish Management Review Report for the year 2022 must be submitted to the DMR Bureau of Public Health by mail email (DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov). Incomplete reports will be returned for corrections so please take the time to fill it out correctly and completely, reaching out to your Marine Resource Scientist (formerly Area Biologist) for assistance as needed. Enclosed is an **updated** list of towns covered by each Marine Resource Scientist, as well as contact information. Any municipality that has not submitted their completed annual review within 30 days of the due date (**April 1**) will receive a letter from the Commissioner giving notice of failure to meet Title 12, Chapter 623 §6671 and DMR Regulation Chapter 7 requirements. Failure to submit the required information within an additional 30 days may result in the Commissioner rescinding the town's shellfish ordinance.

All forms for the Annual Review can be found as fillable pdfs at <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/shellfish/municipal-shellfish-management-program/dmr-municipal-shellfish-management-forms>. The newest versions of the municipal shellfish management forms must be used, old versions are not accepted and will be returned. Required forms include:

- Annual Review Form
- Budget Worksheet
- Enforcement Worksheet

As a reminder, any town considering license allocation changes in 2023 should include supporting information such as survey data, classification changes resulting in increased or decreased resource availability, and/or landings data. Allocation changes without supporting data are unlikely to be approved. Think ahead to 2024 and plan the necessary data collection in 2023!

News and Updates:

- The DMR Shellfish Management Program has transitioned to the **Nearshore Marine Resources Program** (NSMR Program) to fill a growing need to understand critical issues related to shellfish, seaweed, marine worm, and other molluscan species within coastal communities in the context of global climate change. DMR has hired a new Marine Scientist IV to lead this group which includes the existing Area Biologists (Marine Resource Scientist II) and two new Marine Resource Scientist I positions. Meredith White is the Nearshore Marine Resources Program Supervisor and can be reached at meredith.m.white@maine.gov. Meryl Grady and Katie Tilton have been hired as the new Marine Resource Scientist Is. Starting January 16, they will take on a limited role in Municipal Shellfish Management and will also take over management of specific state-managed resources. Please see the attached updated list of towns covered by each Marine Resource Scientist.
- In an effort to improve communication between the municipal shellfish programs and the DMR, we are requiring that a minimum of one Shellfish Committee Meeting per Municipality or Regional Group is attended by an NSMR Program Marine Resource Scientist each year. Water Quality Growing Area Managers will also attend a minimum of one Shellfish Committee Meeting per year. Municipalities may further request attendance at more than one Committee Meeting. Marine Resource Scientists will be reaching out to their Shellfish Committees, Town Clerks, and Town Officials in January to ask if there is a particular meeting that you want them to attend. They will reach out at least 1 week before each meeting to ask if you want them to attend. If they have reached out and heard no response from the

municipal program three times in a row, they will assume the municipal program does not want them to attend and will cease proactive requests for the rest of 2023.

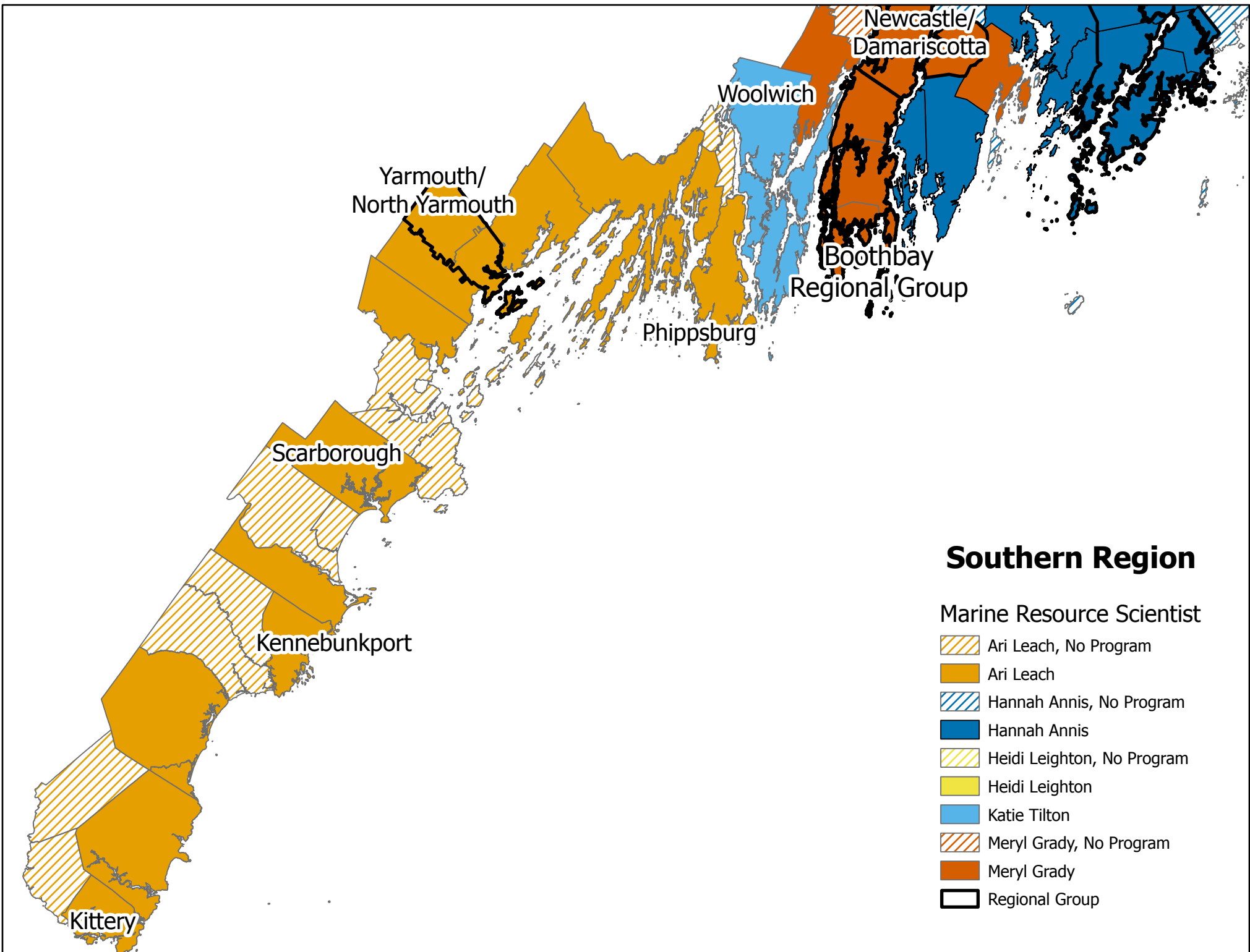
- We will be holding three Regional Meetings (Southern, Central, Eastern) in November/December 2023 – more details to follow.
- DMR is conducting internal evaluations of the municipal shellfish management programs. A gap was identified, as it appears we lack Shellfish Management Plans for some municipalities, as required by DMR Chapter 7.20, which outlines that municipalities must have a Shellfish Management Plan accepted by the Department prior to the Department's approval of a Municipal Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. By the end of 2023, each Municipal or Regional Shellfish Conservation Program must have a new or original Shellfish Management Plan accepted by the Department. Further details will follow in Spring 2023.
- The 2023 **Municipal Shellfish Warden training** will be conducted at the University of Maine's Hutchinson center in Belfast on March 29 and 30 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. (recertification only is March 29 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM). This training is only offered once per year, please save the date.
 - **New Wardens** - The deadline for [new warden applications](#) will be Feb 1, 2023. You may submit your training applications to DMRpublichealthdiv@Maine.gov.
 - **Active Wardens** - Please check your certification status to see if you need to be recertified.
- For more information regarding the Municipal Shellfish Warden program and how to apply, please visit our [website](#).

If there are questions concerning these updates or the requirements of the Annual Review, please contact myself, your Marine Resource Scientist, or the Shellfish Program Coordinator (DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov).

Sincerely,



Meredith White
Supervisor, Nearshore Marine Resources Program
meredith.m.white@maine.gov
207-350-7163



Newcastle/
Damariscotta

Woolwich

Yarmouth/
North Yarmouth

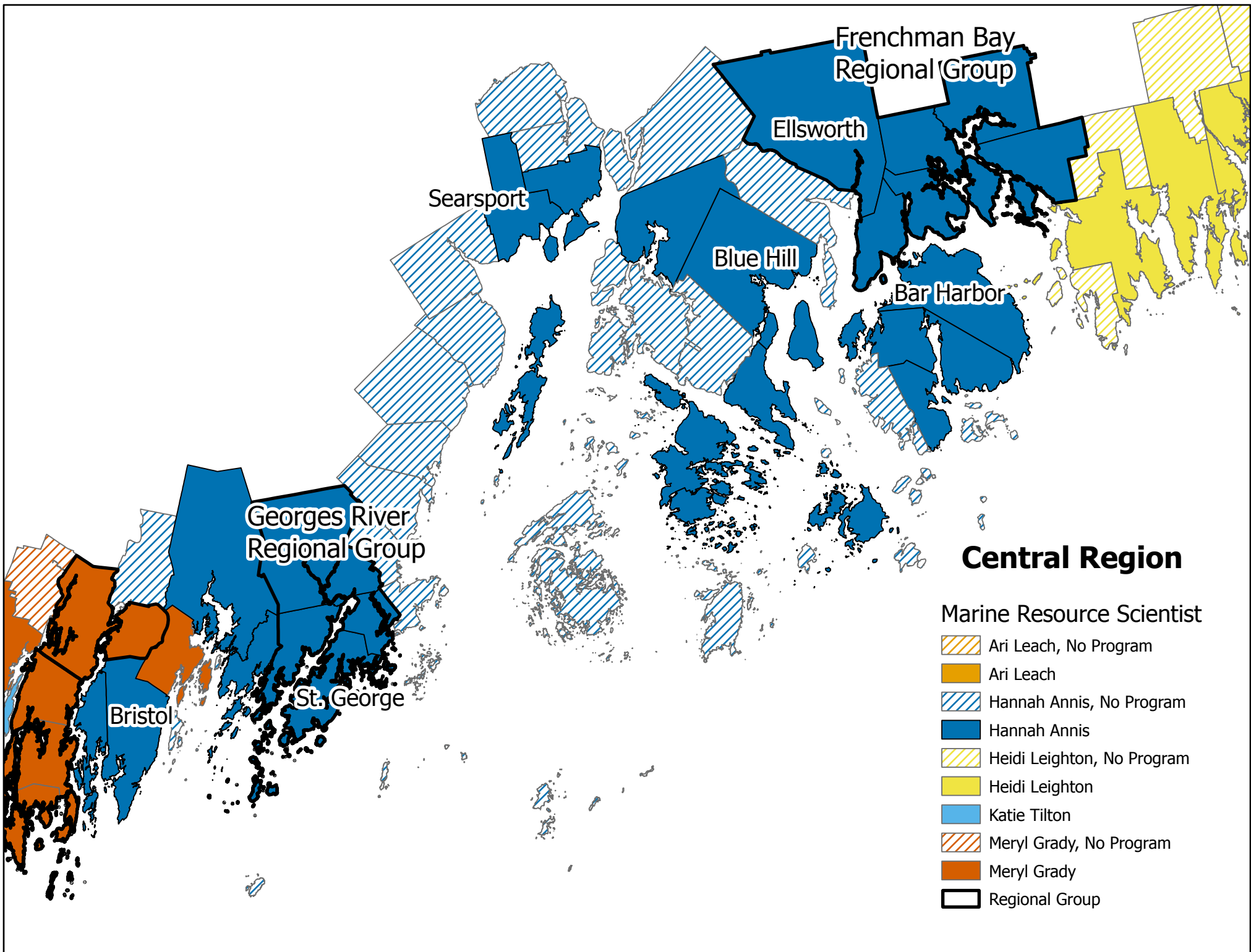
Boothbay
Regional Group

Phippsburg

Scarborough

Kennebunkport

Kittery



Frenchman Bay
Regional Group

Ellsworth

Searsport

Blue Hill

Bar Harbor

Georges River
Regional Group

St. George

Bristol

