

Maine Climate Council

Coastal and Marine Working Group Meeting

Co-Chairs:

Carl Wilson, Department of Marine Resources

Curt Brown, Ready Seafood Company



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection



October 31, 2023

Meeting Goals

1. Introduce Working Group members to each other, share process and expectations for our work together
2. Review existing *Maine Won't Wait (MWW)* goals and recommendations related to coastal & marine issues
3. Review progress towards MWW goals and targets
4. Set next steps and action items



Meeting Agenda

1. Maine Climate Council (MCC) Context (Amalia Siegel, GOPIF)
2. Working Group introductions
3. *MWW* strategies and progress (Co-chairs and 2020 subgroups)
4. Public comments
5. Next steps



Ground Rules

1. Share the floor
2. Raise hands to speak
3. Minimize distractions
4. Be respectful
5. Focus on task at hand



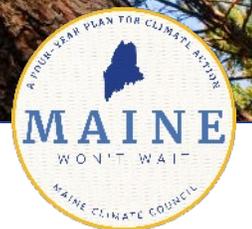
Maine Climate Council Context

Amalia Siegel, GOPIF

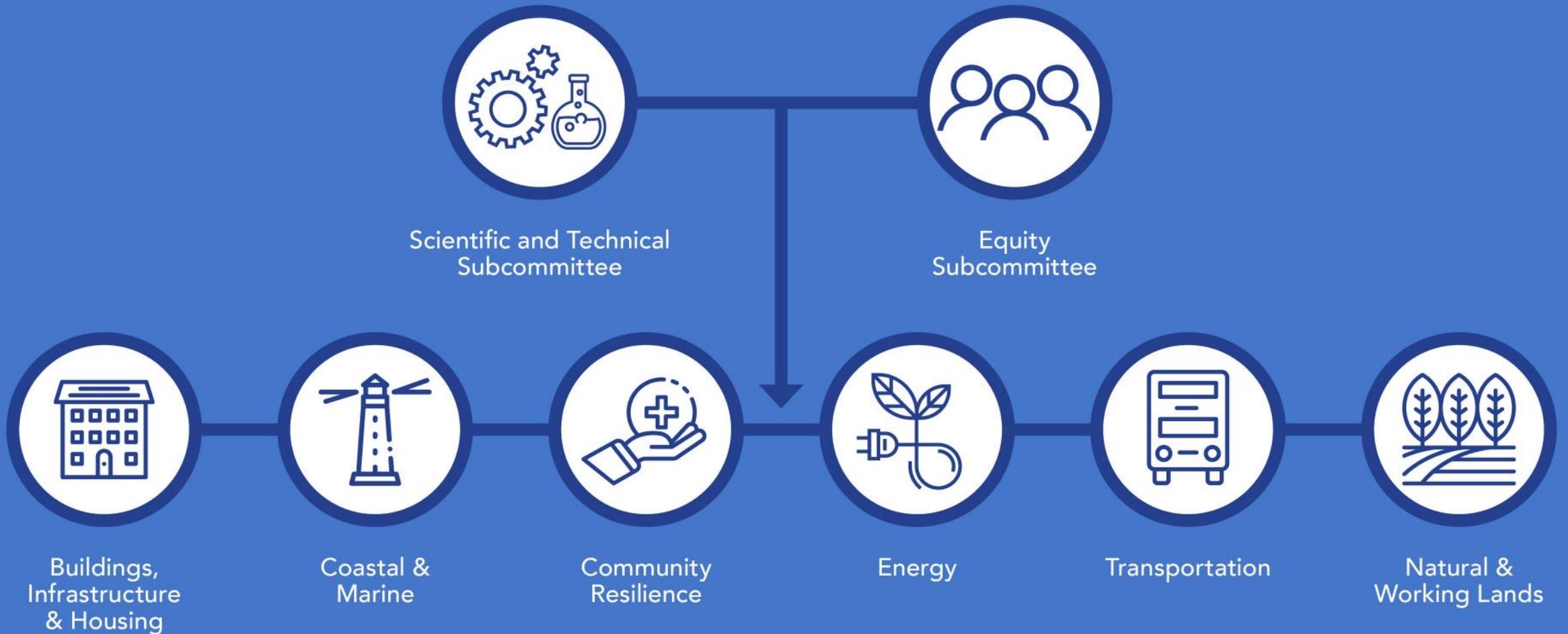


October 31, 2023

Coastal & Marine Working Group Meeting



Maine Climate Council



November 14, 2023

Coastal & Marine Working Group Meeting

CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



12.01.24

Updated Climate
Action Plan Due



Achieve State
Carbon Neutrality by

2045

Reduce Maine's Greenhouse Gas Emissions
by Targets Outlined in State Law

45%

BELOW 1990
LEVELS BY 2030

80%

BELOW 1990
LEVELS BY 2050



ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES ARE
RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

2024 Plan Timeline



DEC 1, 2020

Maine Won't Wait Climate
Action Plan Delivered to
Legislature



MAY 2023

Governor Announces
New and Returning
Appointments to
Climate Council



SEPT 2023 - JUNE 2024

Working Groups &
Subcommittees Meet to Update
Mitigation and Adaptation
Strategies



SEPT 2024

Climate Council
Meets to Consider and
Adopt Strategies



DEC 1, 2024

Updated Climate
Action Plan Delivered
to Legislature

November 14, 2023

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The charges of the working groups:

By June 2024, recommend updates to existing strategies or new strategies to address gap areas

Stages in the working group process:

1. **Taking Stock** of progress to date, existing *Maine Won't Wait* strategies, and equity recommendations
2. **Prioritizing** Working Group (WG) effort—where will the WG spend its time?
3. **Updating Strategies** using guided templates for discussion
4. **Reporting** back to the Climate Council a list of updated strategies using similar language and detail to *Maine Won't Wait*

New charges to integrate equity:

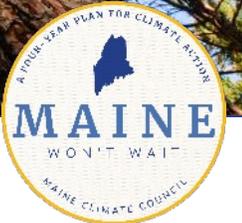
1. Consult with priority populations to make equitable recommendations
2. Review and consider **equity monitoring metrics** to track progress towards equity outcomes
3. Establish numeric goals and targets for priority **equity outcome metrics**

2023-2024 Working Group Introductions



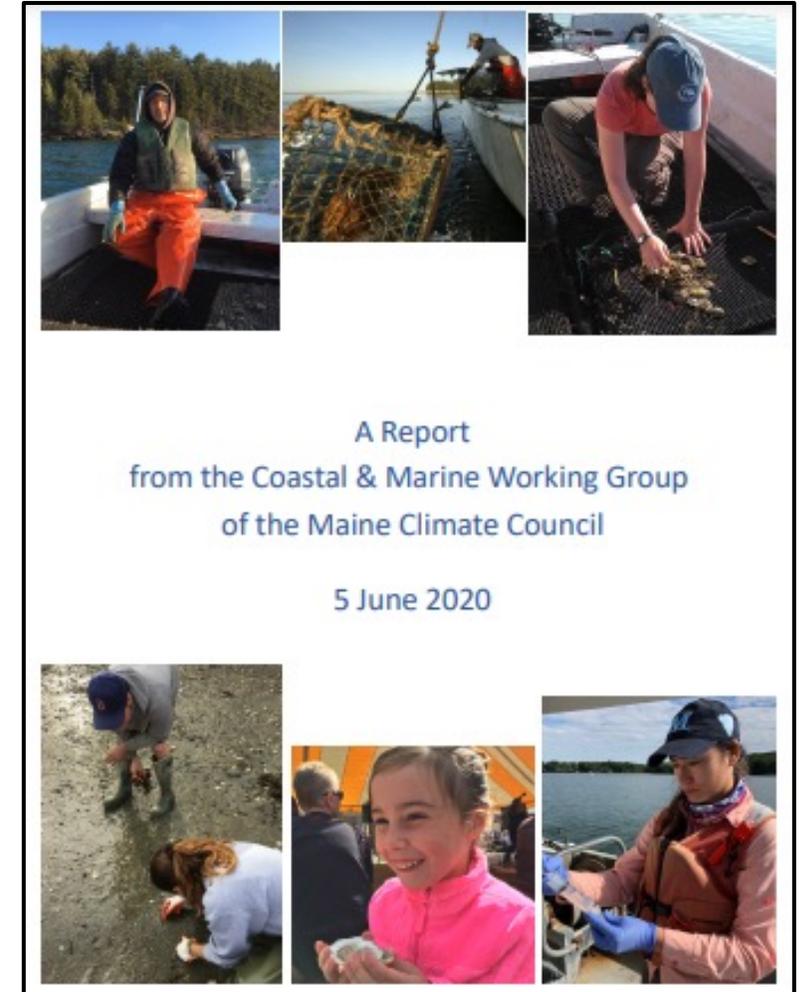
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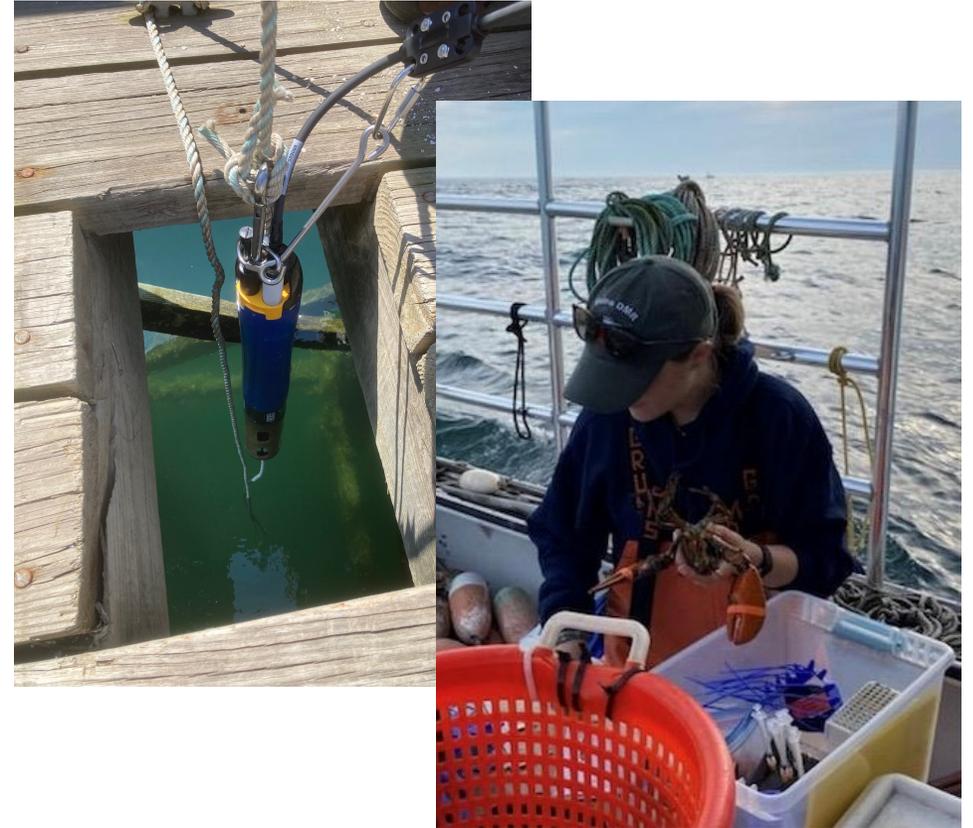
Review of the 2020 CMWG

- Dr. Heather Leslie (UM), Kathleen Leyden (DMR)
- August 2019 to June 2020
- 10 full group meetings facilitated by CBI
- Additional subgroup meetings and writing
- Resulted in six strategies
- Strategies incorporated into MWW



How the work got done

- Several Active Subgroups:
 - Long-term monitoring
 - Blue Carbon and Habitat
 - Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - Infrastructure and Working Waterfronts
- Next: MWW strategies and illustrative examples since 2020



Photos: Jessica Waller

The *Maine Won't Wait* strategy recommendations that are directly related to the Coastal & Marine Working Group are mostly from Strategy E, with one additional tie-in from Strategy D

Strategy E

Recommendation #1: Protect Natural and Working Lands and Waters

Recommendation #2: Develop New Incentives to Increase Carbon Storage

Recommendation #3: Expand Outreach to Offer Information and Technical Assistance

Recommendation #4: Enhance Monitoring and Data Collection to Guide Decisions

Strategy D

Recommendation #1: Take advantage of new market opportunities

* **The Equity Subcommittee** also generated recommendations associated with Strategy D & E. We will review these and provide additional context in our second meeting.

Over the past three years,

**Maine has honored the
recommendations of *Maine Won't
Wait* and made significant progress
towards the goals related to coastal
& marine issues**



Investing in resilient culverts

\$35 million

Received in four federal discretionary grant awards through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Supports heritage fishing industries

Culvert replacement will help fish passage and transportation infrastructure in Maine

Provides for Atlantic salmon, alewives, and other sea-run fish to return to historic habitat

Resilient to storms and floods

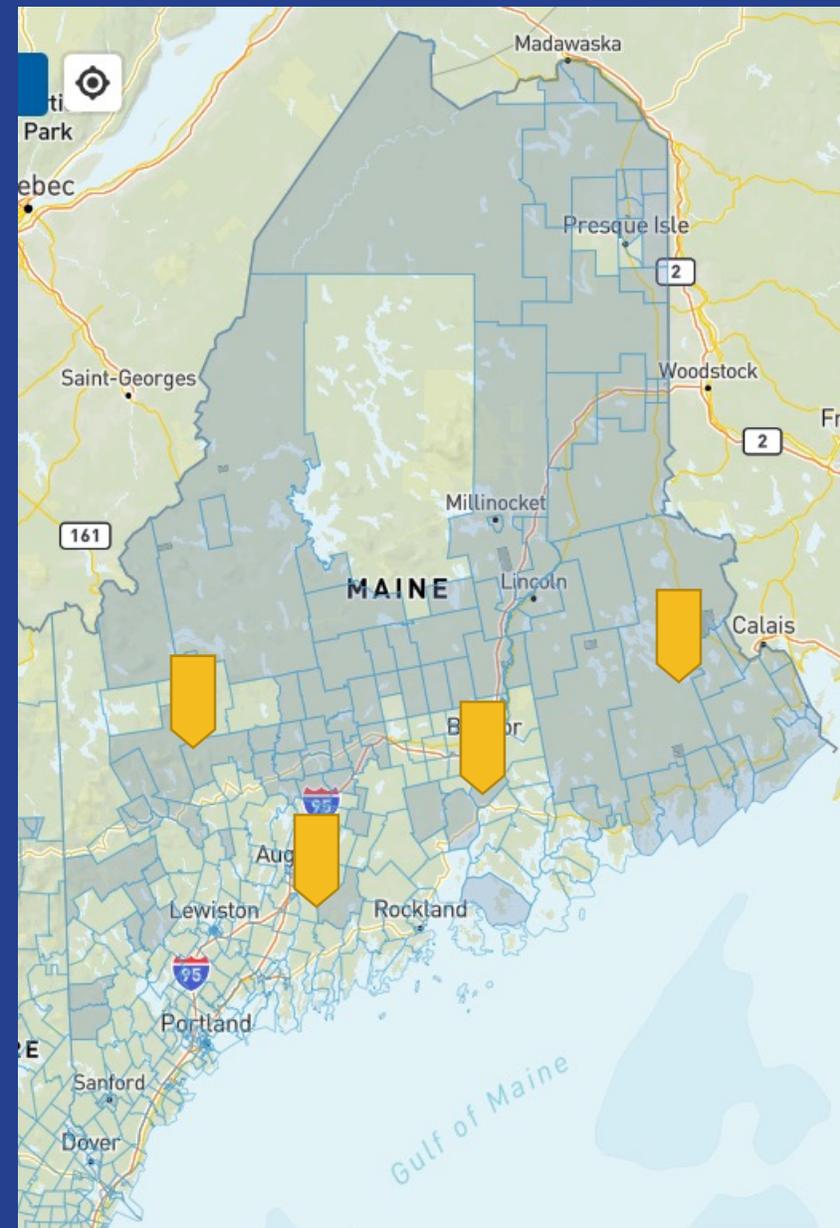
Culvert (n.):

A tunnel carrying a stream or open drain under a road or railway



Data source (top to bottom): Oxford English Dictionary; Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Aljazeera

Locations of culvert and fish passage projects funded by BIL



Map: CEJST disadvantaged communities

Maine Climate Science Information Exchange (MCSIE)

Established 2022 to support coordination between Maine's scientific community and decision-makers



Focuses on agriculture and food systems, forests, forests products, **marine resources**, and **coastal communities**

Online research inventory launching fall 2023



Ivan J. Fernandez
Director, MCSIE
Co-Chair, Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee



Investing in Maine's working waterfront and fisheries



Seafood Dealer and Processor Program (SDPP)

Nearly \$16 million in federal funds, including \$10 million from Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan

Administered by Maine Technology Institute

Helping seafood dealers and processors in Maine recover from Covid-19 pandemic

Seafood Economic Accelerator (SEA Maine)

Developing a roadmap to create economic growth and resilience in Maine's seafood economy



Protecting Maine's marine species

Risk assessments for **Gulf of Maine** showed lack of data and high uncertainty of future outcomes

Led to significant proposed management actions that would impact **lobster and gillnet fisheries**

Federal funds will be used to;

- Document the presence of North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) and lobster fisheries in the Gulf
- Support development of a risk model based on better of NARW presence and fishing efforts
- Monitor the ecosystem necessary to support NARW
- Develop strategies and technology to minimize risk



North Atlantic Right Whale

Opportunities for Sequestering Carbon

New report from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates Maine sequesters 22% of New England's "blue carbon"

2022-2023 surveys by Maine DEP show declines in eelgrass area in Casco Bay and Midcoast region in recent years.



DEP marine unit eelgrass work in Casco Bay" (A. Brewer, DEP)



New and continued *opportunities*

1. Support science and monitoring needed for climate-informed decision-making
2. Incorporate climate adaptation into state marine policies
3. Support continued investments to support adaptation and resilience in the marine economy and infrastructure
4. Explore opportunities to encourage blue carbon sequestration and marine co-benefits

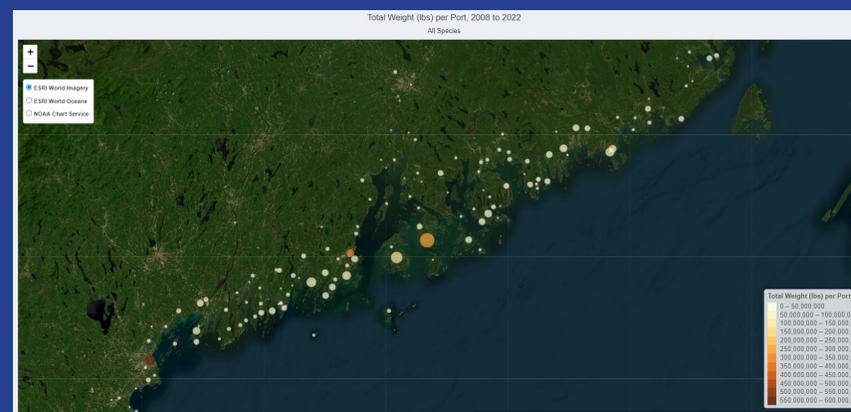
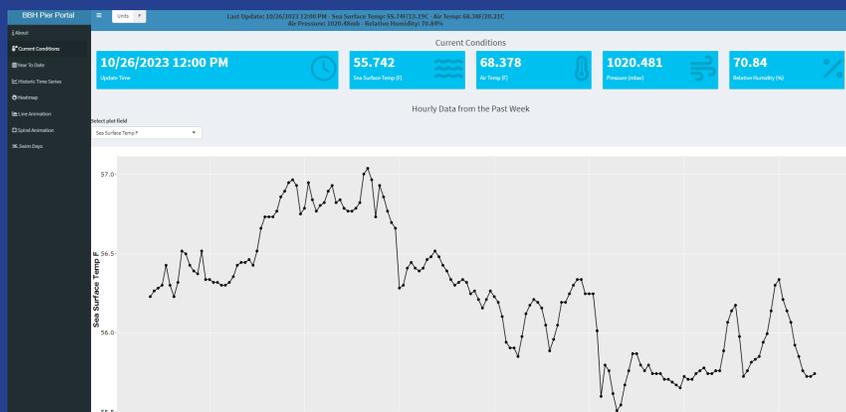
Other updates from 2020 CMWG subgroups

- 1) Long-term monitoring & Blue Carbon (Ivy Frignoca)
- 2) Fisheries and Aquaculture (Jesica Waller)
- 3) Infrastructure and Working Waterfronts (Nick Battista)

Fisheries and Aquaculture

- 1) Long-term data for industry
- 2) Ecosystem approaches
- 3) Evaluate policy and regulatory structures

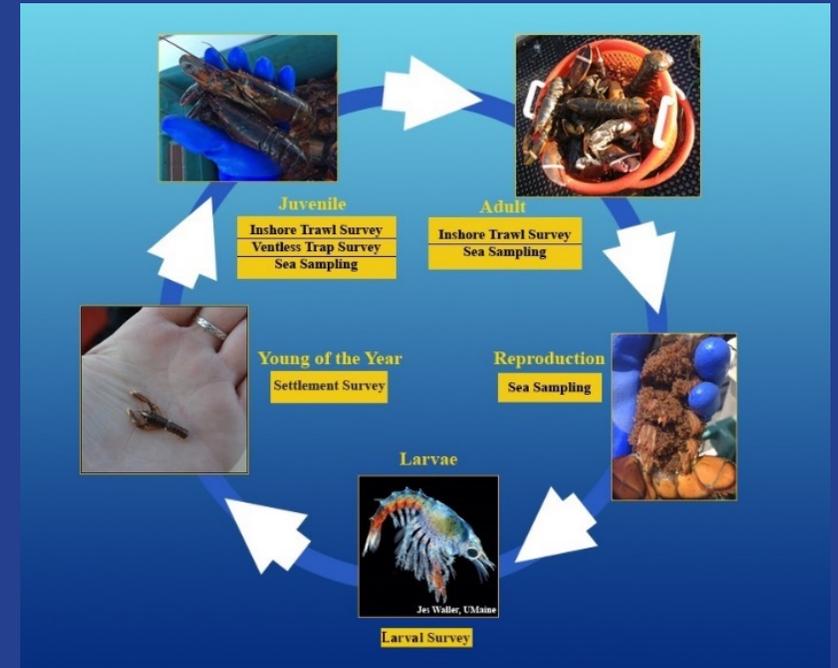
- DMR Marine Science, Division of Ecology and the Environment
- DMR Public Health, Nearshore Resources Program and Aquaculture Program
 - Data portals with program context



Fisheries and Aquaculture

- 1) Long-term data for industry
- 2) Ecosystem approaches
- 3) Evaluate policy and regulatory structures

- Grant funded research state-wide
- DMR & UM: Climate and fisheries faculty
- DMR & UM: Climate-focused review of programs



ICES Journal of Marine Science, 2023, 0, 1–13
DOI: 10.1093/icesjms/fsad134
Food for Thought



Reflecting on the recent history of coastal Maine fisheries and marine resource monitoring: the value of collaborative research, changing ecosystems, and thoughts on preparing for the future

J. Waller , J. Bartlett, E. Bates, H. Bray, M. Brown, M. Cieri, C. Clark, W. DeVoe, B. Donahue, D. Frechette, H. Glon, M. Hunter, C. Huntsberger, K. Kanwit, S. Ledwin, B. Lewis, R. Peters, K. Reardon, R. Russell, M. Smith, C. Uraneck, R. Watts and C. Wilson

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Downloaded from <https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/icesjms/fsad134/6888888> by University of Cambridge user on 02 October 2023

Working waterfronts infrastructure is important to the future of Maine's coastal communities – a changing landscape

- Elevated concern for the future of working waterfront businesses due to environmental/climate changes in the Gulf of Maine and impacts to businesses that rely on working waterfronts
- Demographic changes, housing pressures, in-migration, gentrification of coastal communities, are all putting pressure on the land side of working waterfronts
- Zoning and related land use regulation for working waterfronts is complex and hard for both businesses and capacity constrained communities to navigate. In some places there is also an increased willingness for abutting or other landowners to resort to costly and time consuming litigation
- Multiple instances of communities coming together to support a particularly important piece of working waterfront infrastructure – including the former Stinson Canary in Prospect Harbor, GMRI's acquisition of Union Wharf, and multiple other efforts along the coast.
- At least 5 new reports or significant resources that help us better understand the pressures facing working waterfronts
- Renewed interest and energy for Maine's Working Waterfront Coalition to support communities, specific working waterfronts, and elevate the needs of working waterfronts into state policy

Maine's Working Waterfronts – CMWG Work

Climate ready infrastructure – Accounting for and helping working waterfronts understand and address the impacts from sea level rise and storm surge to the physical infrastructure

Infrastructure that supports others in adapting to climate change – Building the resilience of working waterfront businesses to withstand environmental changes provides a critical location for other businesses, those who make their living on the water, to adapt and change.

Location for GHG mitigation projects – stabilizing or controlling energy costs can help these businesses be better positioned to respond to dramatic shifts in the ecosystem or social pressures on land. Mitigation here is a critical adaptation strategy for these businesses.

Privately owned infrastructure providing a public good – many key working waterfronts are privately owned operations that provide a public good, including access to public trust resource. They are often left out of community resilience related work.

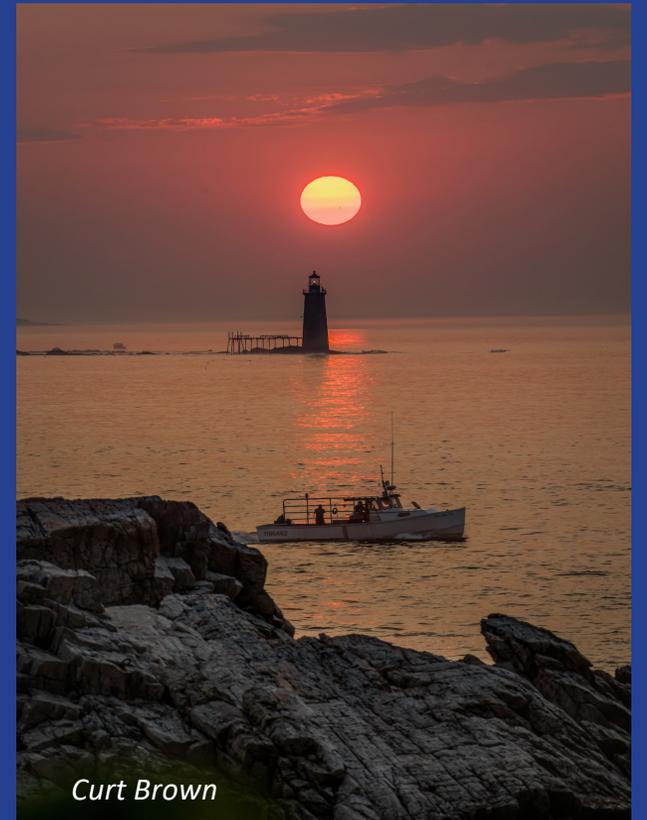
Public comment period

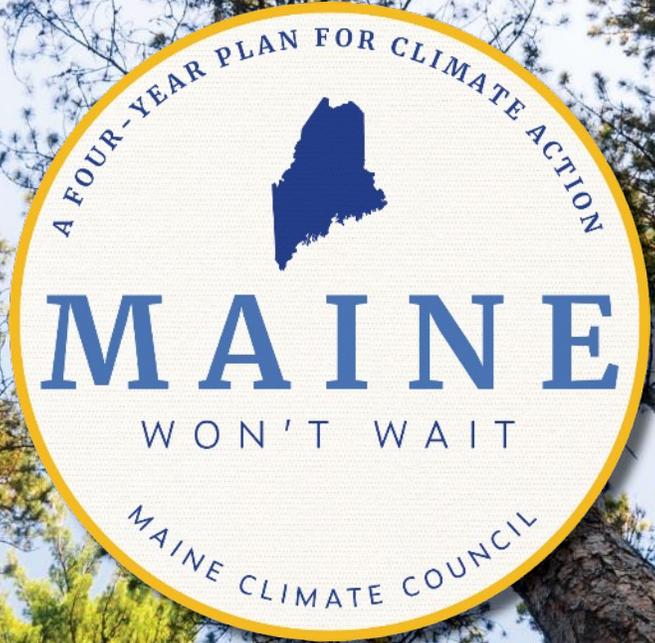
Questions



Next meeting and steps

- **Monday, November 27th**
 - location TBD, reach out if you would like to host
- **Action items for next meeting:**
 - 1) Review Maine Won't Wait, Equity Report
 - 2) Come prepared to prioritize strategies D & E as:
 - Good as is
 - Good as is with some updates
 - No longer relevant
 - New strategy on a specific issue needed
 - 3) Decide what subgroup to join (or suggest a new one)





A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL