

# 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



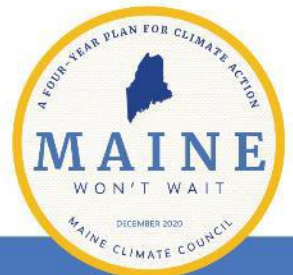
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
Environmental Protection



January 22, 2023

# Welcome

- If you are a working group member:
  - please rename yourselves and add \*asterisk in front of your name
- If you are a member of the public and / or interested state staff
  - please rename yourselves to include “public participant”
- Everyone’s voices are valuable
  - We will take working group member comments / questions first
  - Public participants, please add your comments and questions to the chat and we will make time to get to them



# Meeting Goals

1. Reflect on recent storms and impacts on ME
2. Presentation from UMaine on engaging with priority populations and equity considerations
3. Learn about current work related to CMWG
4. Meet as subcommittees to advance work and define next steps of strategy development

# Meeting Agenda

- 9:00** Welcome & Reflections on recent events  
*Co-Chairs Carl Wilson (ME DMR) and Curt Brown (Ready Seafood)*  
*Laura Taylor Singer (Facilitator)*
- 9:30** Engaging with Priority Populations and work of the UMaine Mitchell Center  
*Dr. Caroline Noblet, UMaine*
- 10:30** Eelgrass Mapping as an outcome of *Maine Won't Wait*  
*Angie Brewer, DEP and Jeremy Gabrielson, MCHT*
- 10:50** Public Input
- 11:00** Breakout Subcommittee meeting and updates
- 12:00** Adjourn

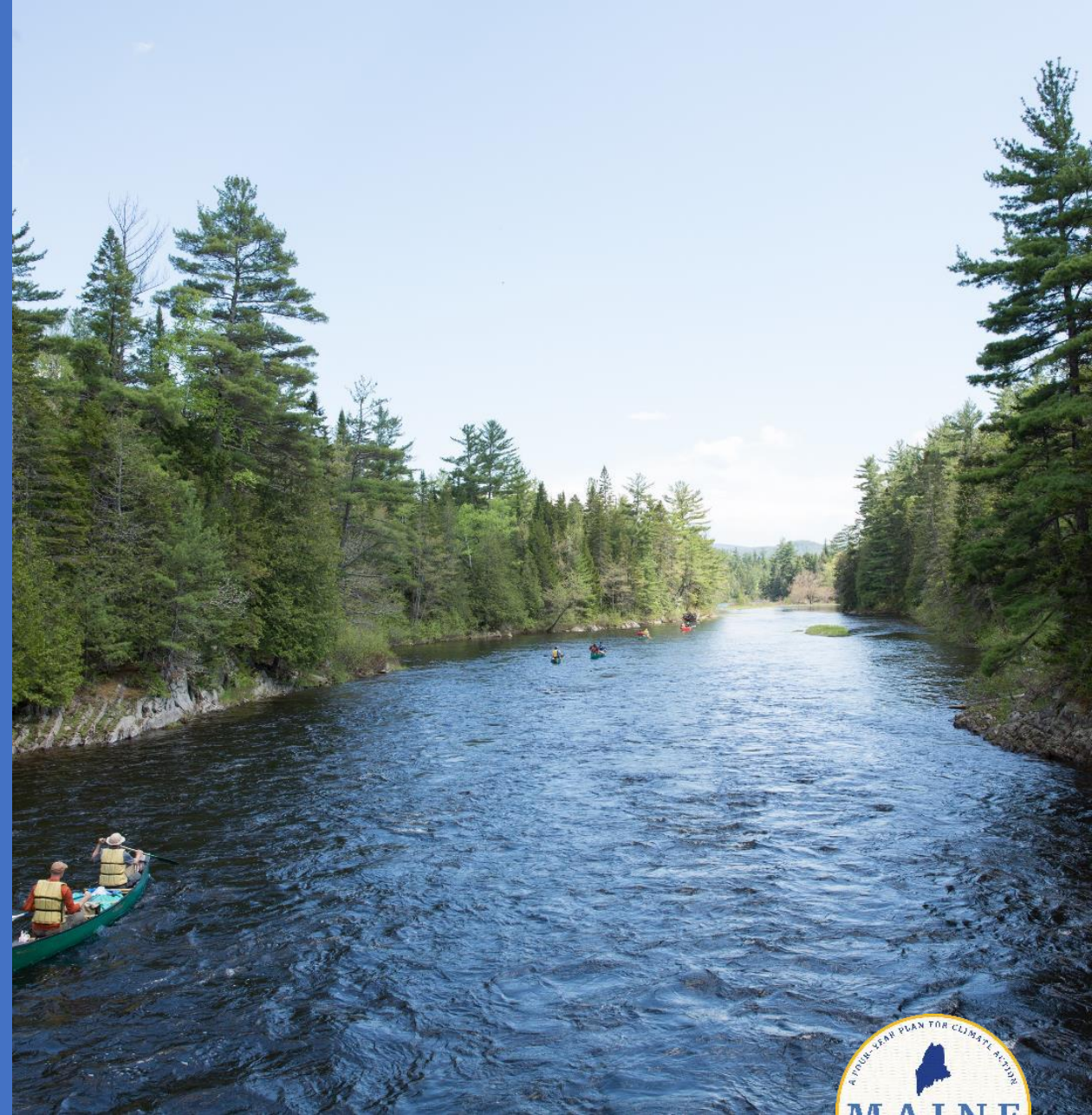


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# Engaging with Priority Populations and Engagement led by the Mitchell Center

*Dr. Caroline Noblet, UMaine*

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# **Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives**

— Coastal and Marine Working  
Group —

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## Goal

To ensure the populations in Maine most impacted by climate change are aware of and have the opportunity to influence State climate programs and policies by iteratively and intentionally engaging these “priority populations” in the Maine Climate Council process in ways that are meaningful for each population.

# Meet the Team!



**Dr. Sharon  
Klein**

Associate  
Professor,  
School of  
Economics



**Dr. Caroline  
Noblet**

Associate  
Professor,  
School of  
Economics



**Dr. Linda  
Silka**

Senior Fellow,  
Mitchell  
Center for  
Sustainability  
Solutions



**Dr. Quixada  
Moore-Vissing**

Faculty Fellow,  
Mitchell  
Center for  
Sustainability  
Solutions



**Dr. David  
Hart**

Director,  
Mitchell  
Center for  
Sustainability  
Solutions



**Catherine  
Mardosa**

Masters  
Student,  
Anthropology  
&  
Environmental  
Policy



**Louise  
Chaplin**

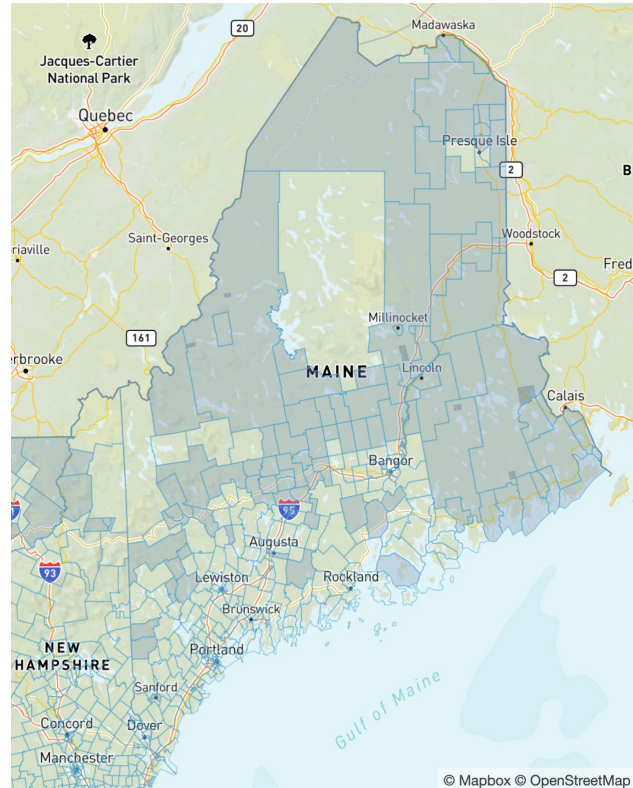
Undergraduate  
Student,  
Ecology &  
Environmental  
Science



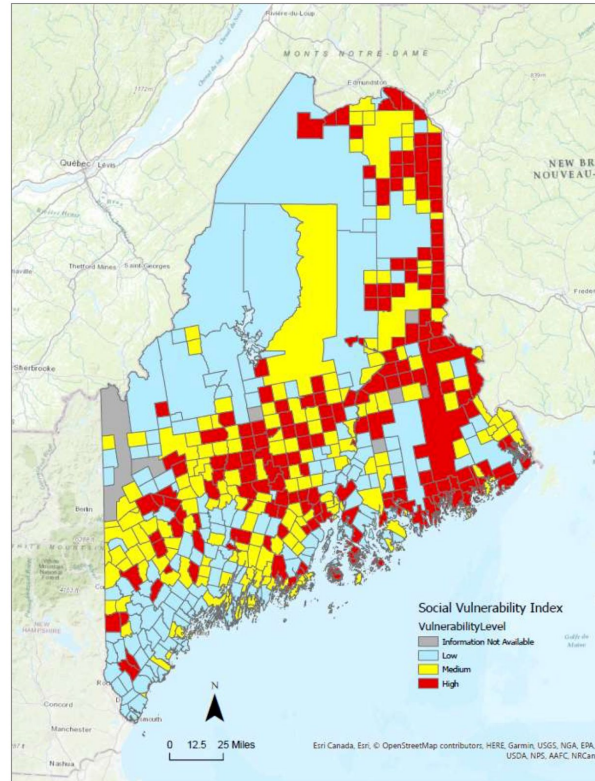
# “Priority Populations”

- Low income households, including renters, home owners, and mobile home residents
- Older adults and youth
- Black or POC communities
- Tribal communities
- Low income communities
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers
- Recipients of LIHEAP, LIAP, or other energy assistance benefits
- People with mobility challenges
- People without access to reliable transportation
- Migrant farm workers and other outdoor workers
- Businesses in the natural resource industries like agriculture, forestry, and fishing who are operating at the economic margin or suffer disproportionate climate risk
- Un/underemployed people who are also representatives of a priority population or are transitioning from prison or recovery
- Minority, women-owned or veteran owned business enterprises (MWBVEs)
- Rural communities and small towns with limited staff or fiscal capacity
- Climate-frontline communities

# Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



# Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



# Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



## Final Recommendations of the Equity Subcommittee

March 2023

# Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023

## Proposed Next Steps Include:

- **Establish baseline data on the distribution of, access to, and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters across the state, especially for disadvantaged communities.** This should include assessing visitor diversity at, and access to, working and recreational waterfronts. Identify barriers to access and affordability for low-income families and economically and climate vulnerable businesses. Identify interventions which improve access and reduce costs.
- **Expand access to natural resource grants for disadvantaged communities.** Establish equity criteria across all state natural resource grant making and establish baseline data on applications and funding for natural resource grants by community or applicant characteristics. Expand outreach about funding opportunities into historically underserved communities; identify and address barriers in application processes; offer technical assistance to lesser-resourced communities and other applicants; prioritize funding awards to historically underserved people, communities, or businesses; and consider lower match requirements in communities with fewer resources (including but not limited to economic, financial, staff capacity time or training, physical or technical resources).
- **Assess the impacts of climate risks on the food supply chain in Maine,** particularly in communities which experience food insecurity or rely on subsistence agriculture. Explore opportunities to ensure that Maine grown food can mitigate supply chain risks while improving access to food for all people.

# Existing & Potential Project Partners

**A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)**

**Center for Ecology-Based Economy  
(CEBE)**

**Community & Wabanaki  
Sustainable Energy Teams**

**Community Organizing Alliance**

**Island Institute**

**Maine Environmental Education  
Association**

**Maine Housing**

**Maine Immigrant Rights  
Coalition**

**Resilient Communities L3C**

**Sunrise County Economic  
Council (SCEC)**

**WindowDressers**

# Q1: What are preferences for, and possible interventions to, further access and use of natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

**Strategy:** E

**Population:** Citizens of disadvantaged communities; low-income households; economically and climate vulnerable businesses

## **Engagement Activities:**

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

**Potential Community Partners:** Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams; **Suggestions?**

# Q2: What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?

**Strategy:** E

**Population:** Disadvantaged communities - municipal/tribal staff; Businesses in the natural resource industries

**Engagement Activities:**

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

**Potential Community Partners:** Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams; **Suggestions?**



# Q3: What are needs, preferences, barriers, and opportunities related to locally produced food?

**Strategy:** E

**Population:** Disadvantaged communities - citizens and municipal/tribal staff; Businesses in the natural resource industries

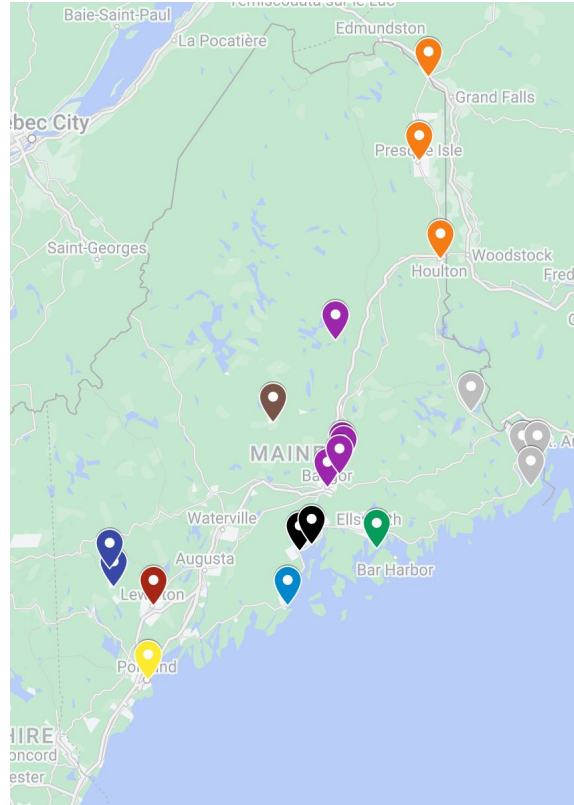
**Engagement Activities:**

- Focus groups
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# Specific Populations

Bangor	Orono
Belfast	Pembroke
Dover-Foxcroft	Portland
Houlton	Presque Isle
Indian Island	Rockland
Indian Twp	Searsport
Lewiston	Trescott Twp
Millinocket	Trenton
Norway	Van Buren
Old Town	West Paris



- Androscoggin
- Aroostook
- Cumberland
- Hancock
- Knox
- Oxford
- Penobscot
- Piscataquis
- Waldo
- Washington

**AND:**  
Maine Islands  
Low-income landlords  
across the state

## Timeline from here

1. Detailed engagement plan with Partner Organizations (by 2/9)
2. 1st round of engagement activities (by 4/15)
3. Report to WG about 1st round (by 4/26)
4. 2nd round of engagement activities (by 6/7)
5. Report to MCC about 2nd round (by 6/17)
6. Reflection discussion with WG & MCC members from “priority populations (by 9/30)

# We need your help!

1. From your Working Group's read of the **Equity Sub Committee report**, are the questions outlined above appropriate for this working group?
2. When you review the list of **specific populations**, are there
  - any missing that should be included for specific questions?
  - populations that should be extra priority for your working group?
4. Are there additional potential **partner organizations** we should be talking to for specific populations/questions? In all three questions, we are seeking **Suggestions**
5. Please provide additional information/feedback on our survey (link in chat)  
[https://umaine.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b1WCQDOn65wL5dQ](https://umaine.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1WCQDOn65wL5dQ)

**Thank you - and be in touch!**

Catherine Mardosa: [catherine.mardosa@maine.edu](mailto:catherine.mardosa@maine.edu)



# CMWG Jan. Meeting: Seagrass Actions Overview

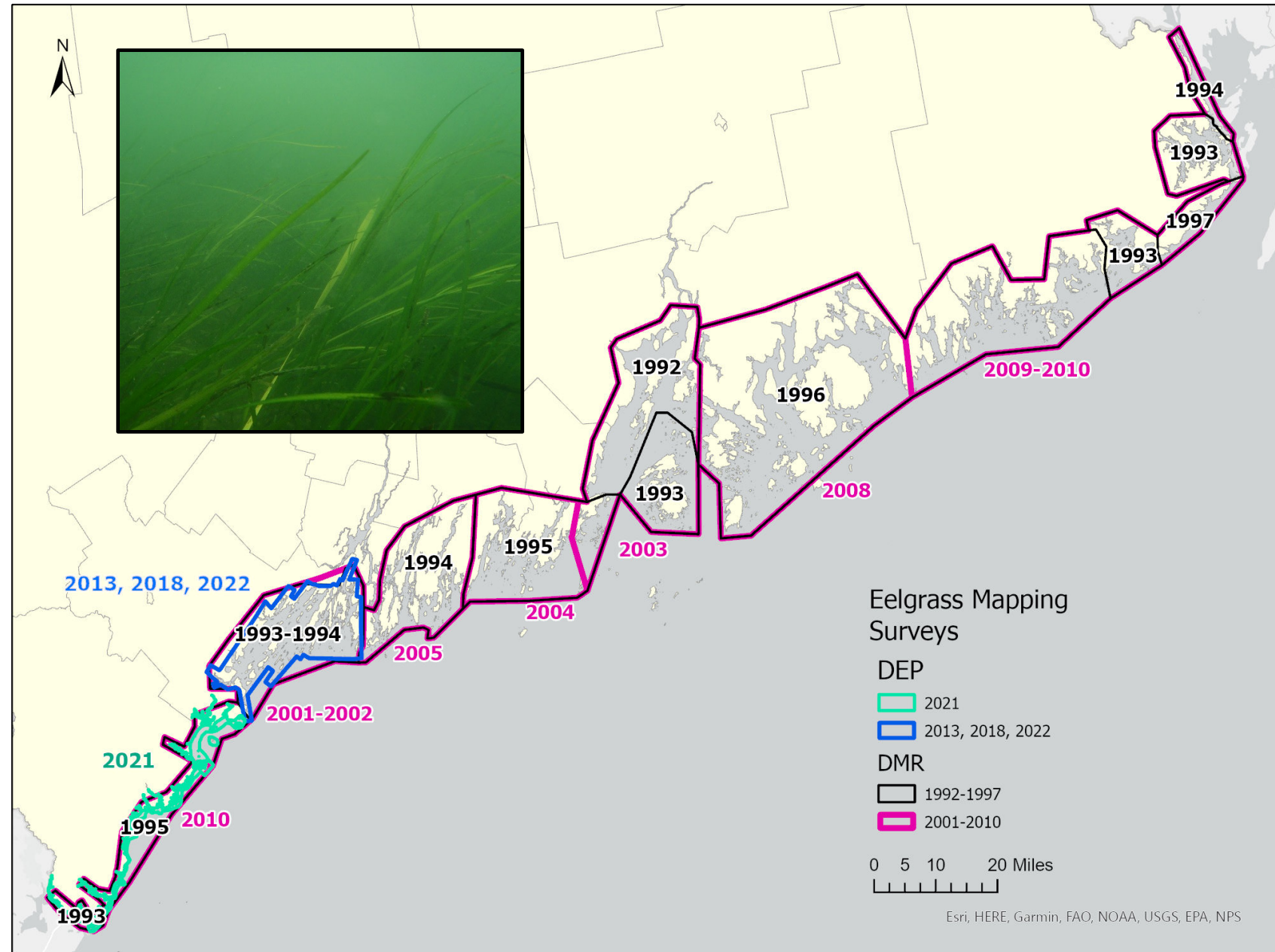
Angela Brewer  
Section Leader, Marine Unit  
Division of Environmental Assessment  
Bureau of Water Quality

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land, and Water*

# Seagrass Mapping

- **DMR:** 1992-2010 aerial survey in segments
- Allowed once ~decadal change analysis
- **DEP:** smaller scale surveys since 2013 with Casco Bay focus
- Mapping program created by legislation in 2021

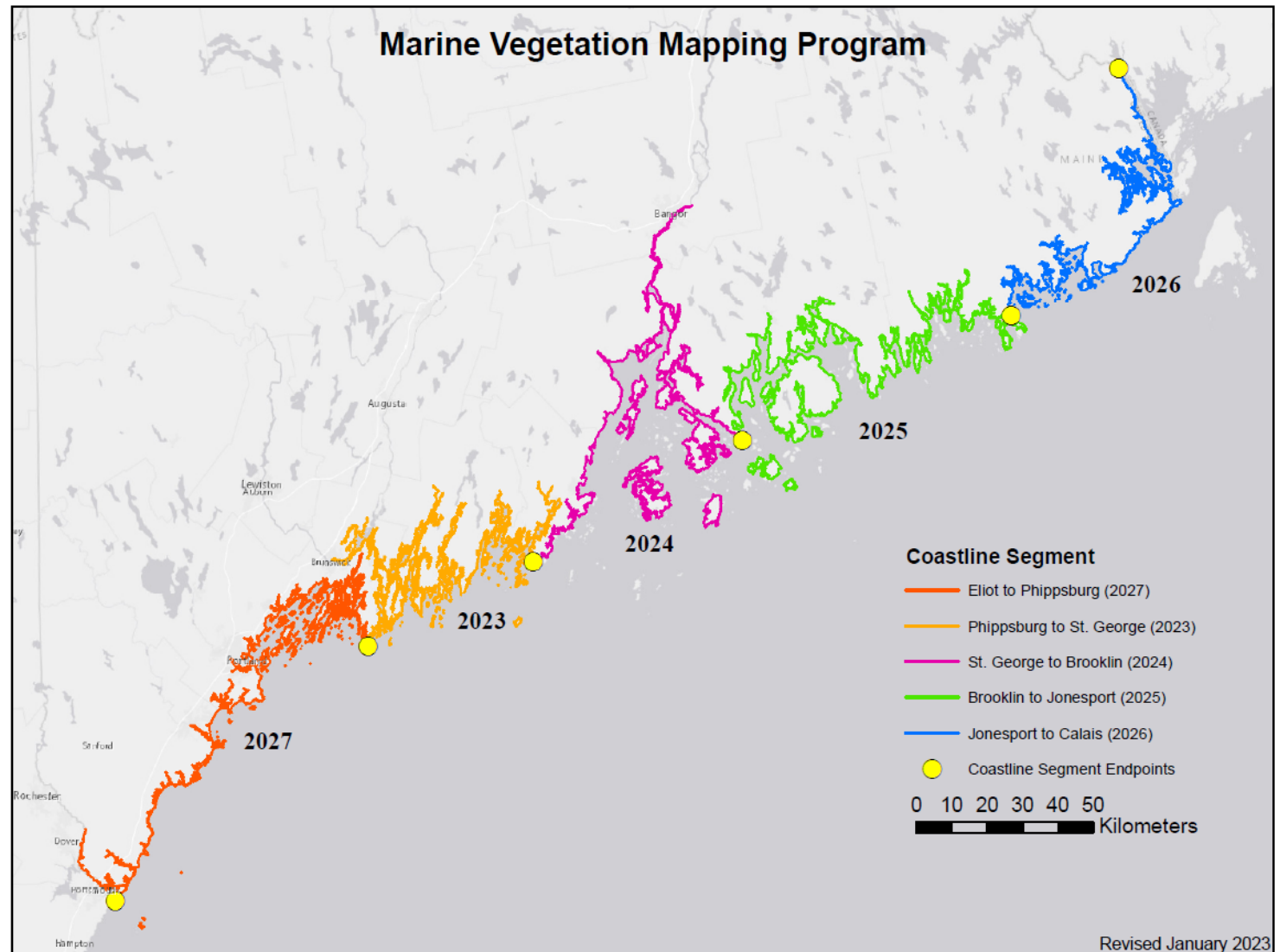


- Marine Vegetation Mapping Program (MVMP) delineates seagrass & fills in gaps for salt marshes

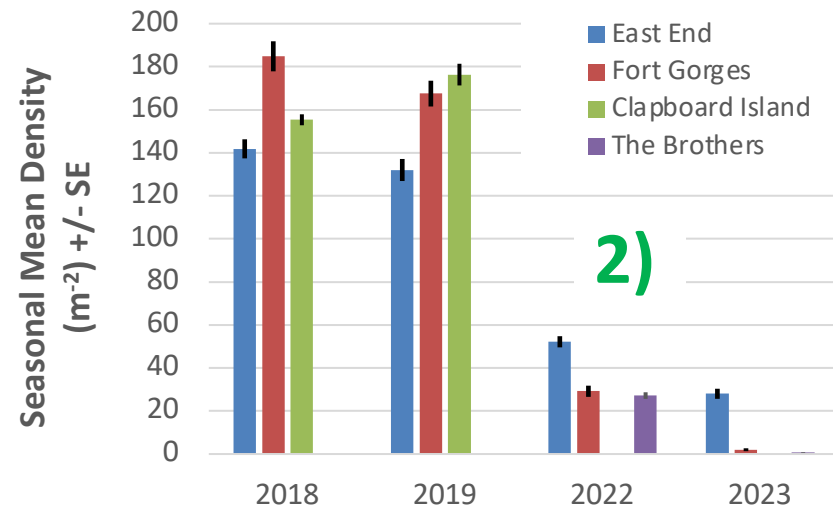
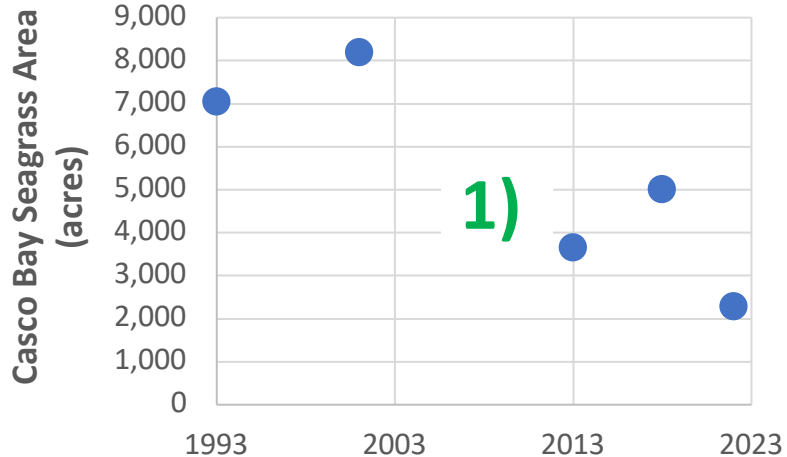
- 2023 Midcoast survey, included Merrymeeting Bay (thanks, Nature Conservancy!)

- Surveys scoped at cost of plane-acquired, color and near infrared imagery

- Find low tide imagery and polygon layers on [Maine GeoLibrary](#), and regional eelgrass distribution and carbon storage heat map at [Northeast Ocean Data Portal \(NROC\)](#)







Report to the Joint Standing Committee on  
Environment and Natural Resources  
130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Session

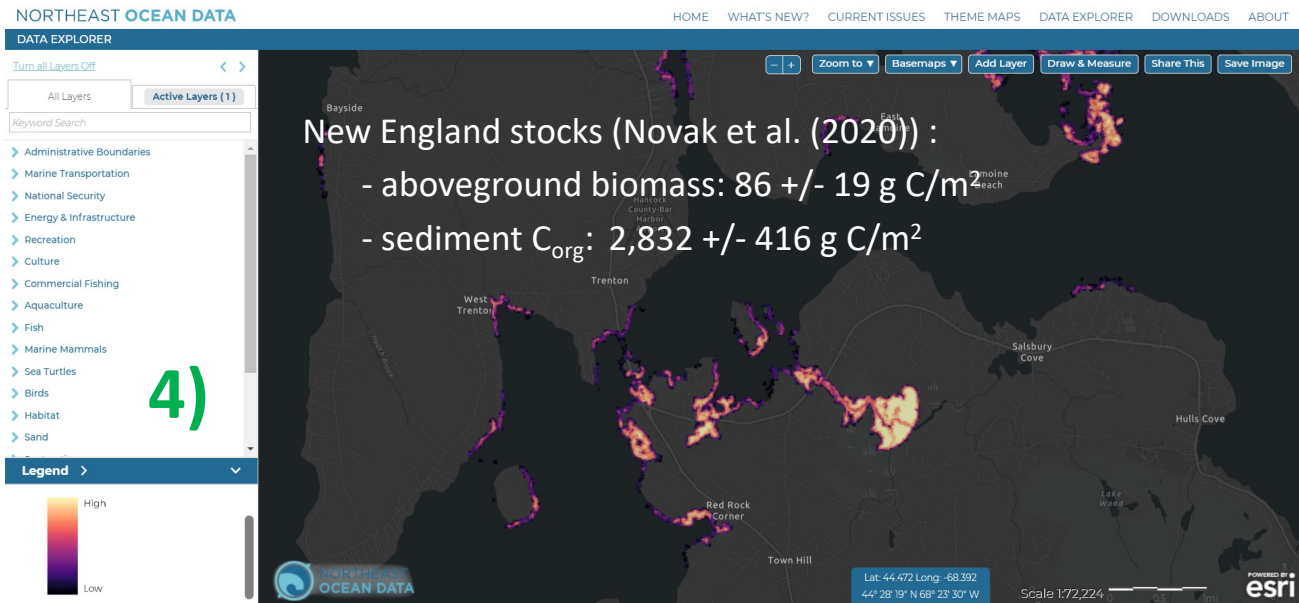
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**Ninth Biennial Report on  
Progress toward  
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals**

July 2022

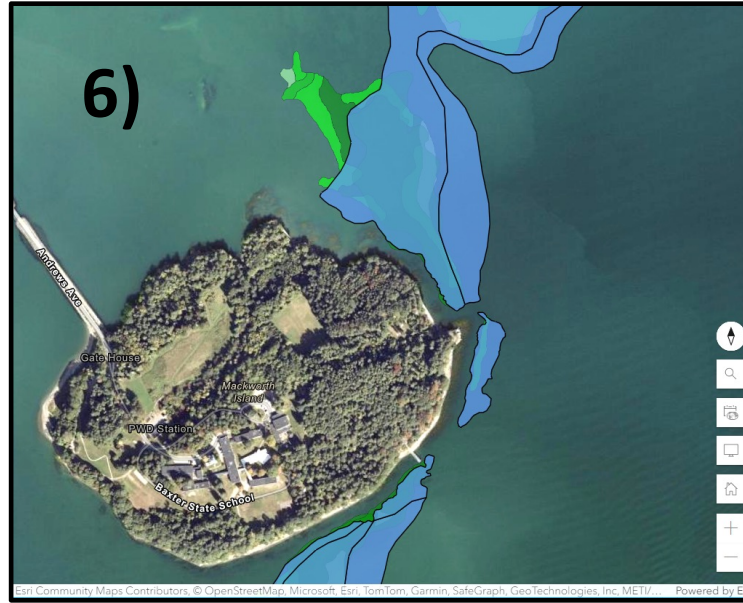
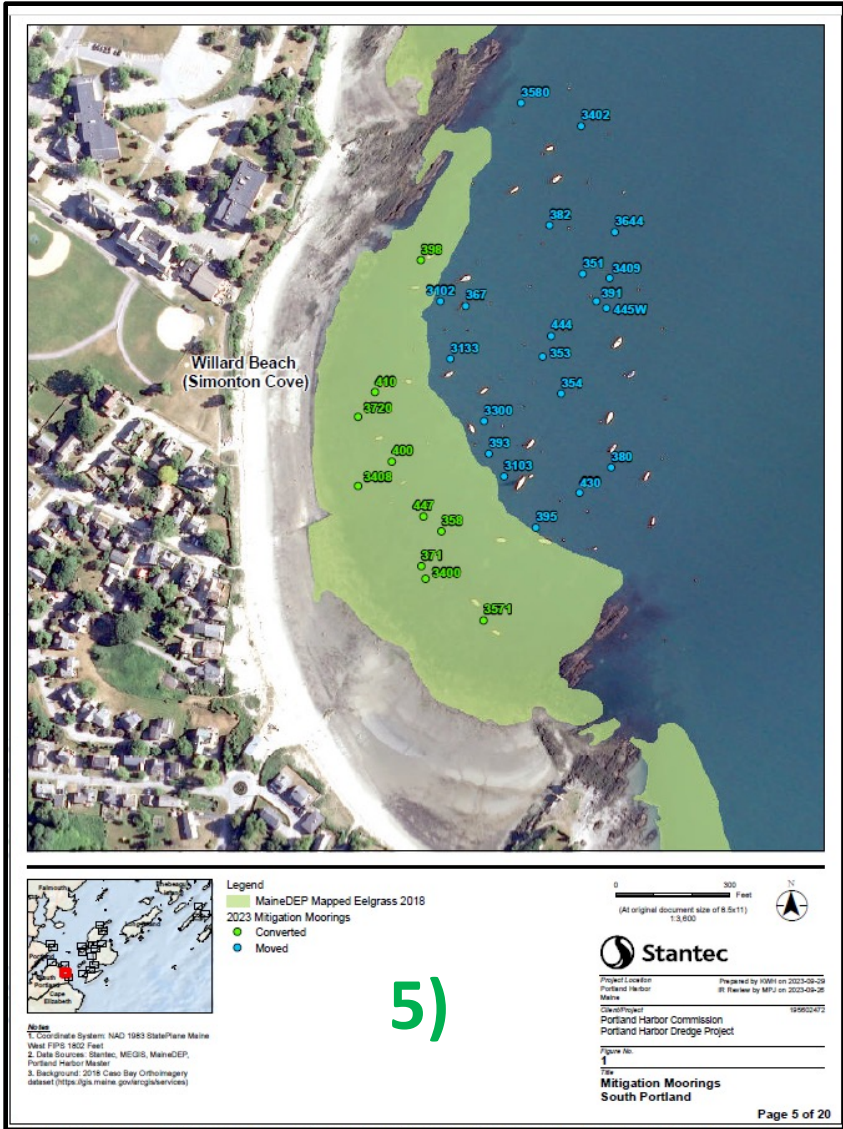
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Bureau of Air Quality  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

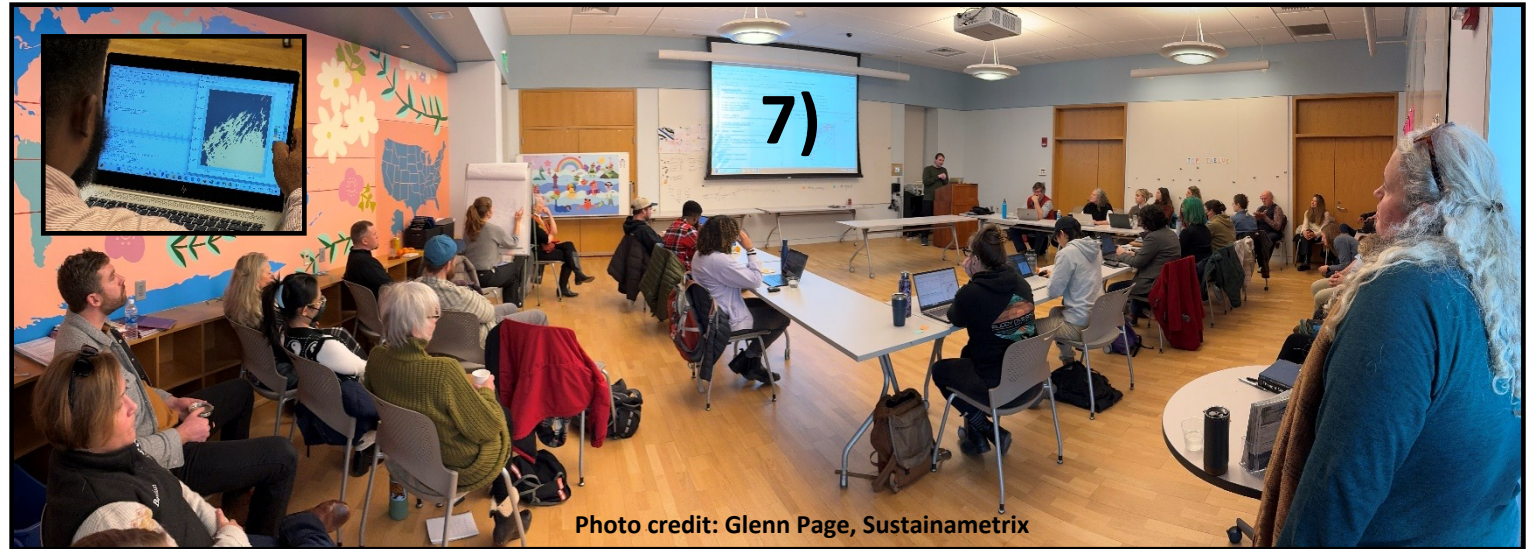


- 2020 MWW strategies E1-E4 address coastal vegetated habitats: conserved lands, high biodiversity areas, carbon stock inventory, monitoring incl. sequestration





- 2024 MWW update to address applications of mapping knowledge and leverage monitoring and research?





Contact:

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[angela.d.brewer@maine.gov](mailto:angela.d.brewer@maine.gov)

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)





# CMWG January Meeting

## Habitat & Blue Carbon: Tidal Marshes Update

Jeremy Gabrielson  
[jgabrielson@mcht.org](mailto:jgabrielson@mcht.org)

Old Pond, Hancock

# Blue carbon

## INCREASE IN MARSH SURFACE ELEVATION

- How much carbon is in the marsh?
- How much does it capture annual?

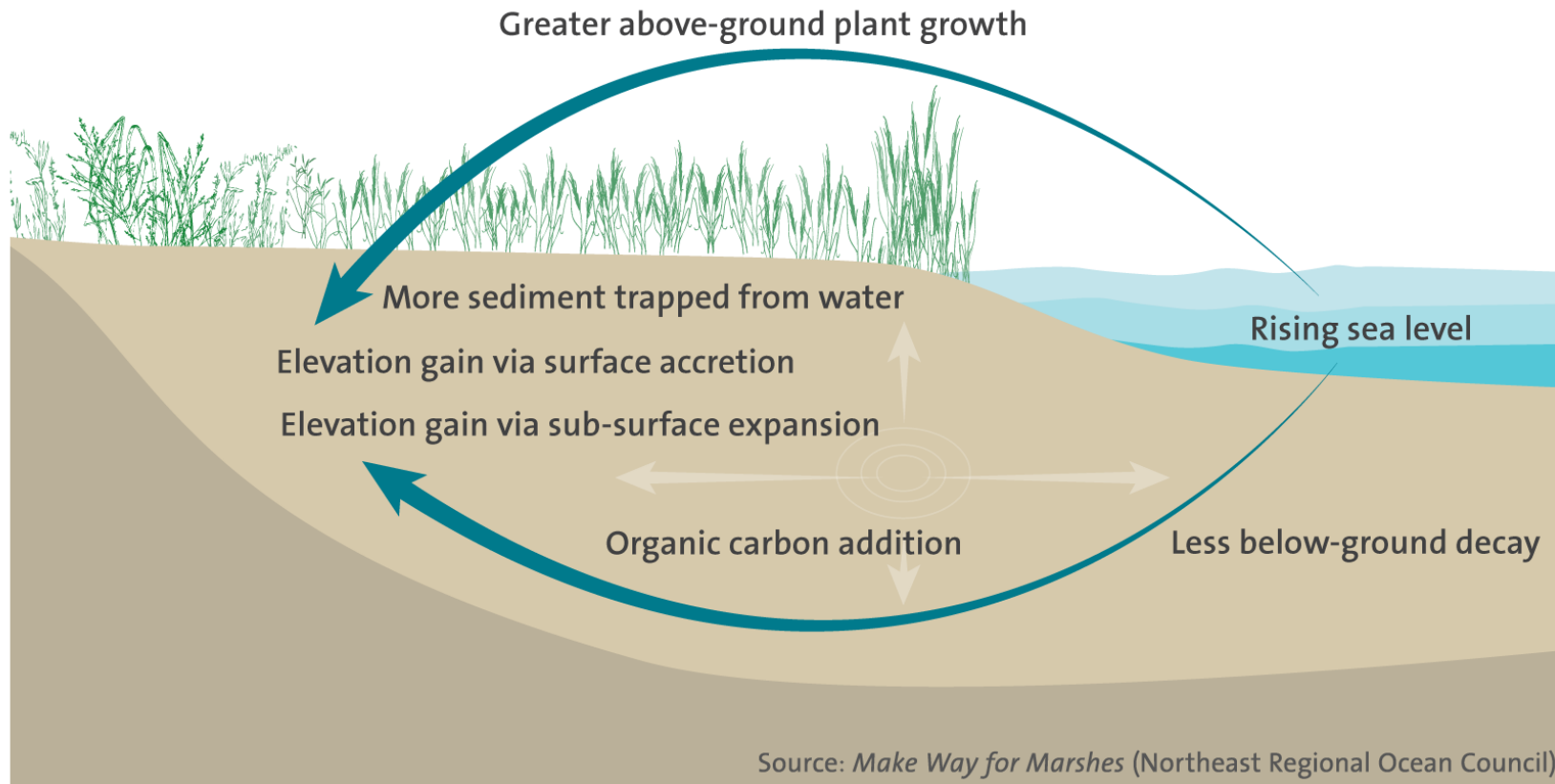
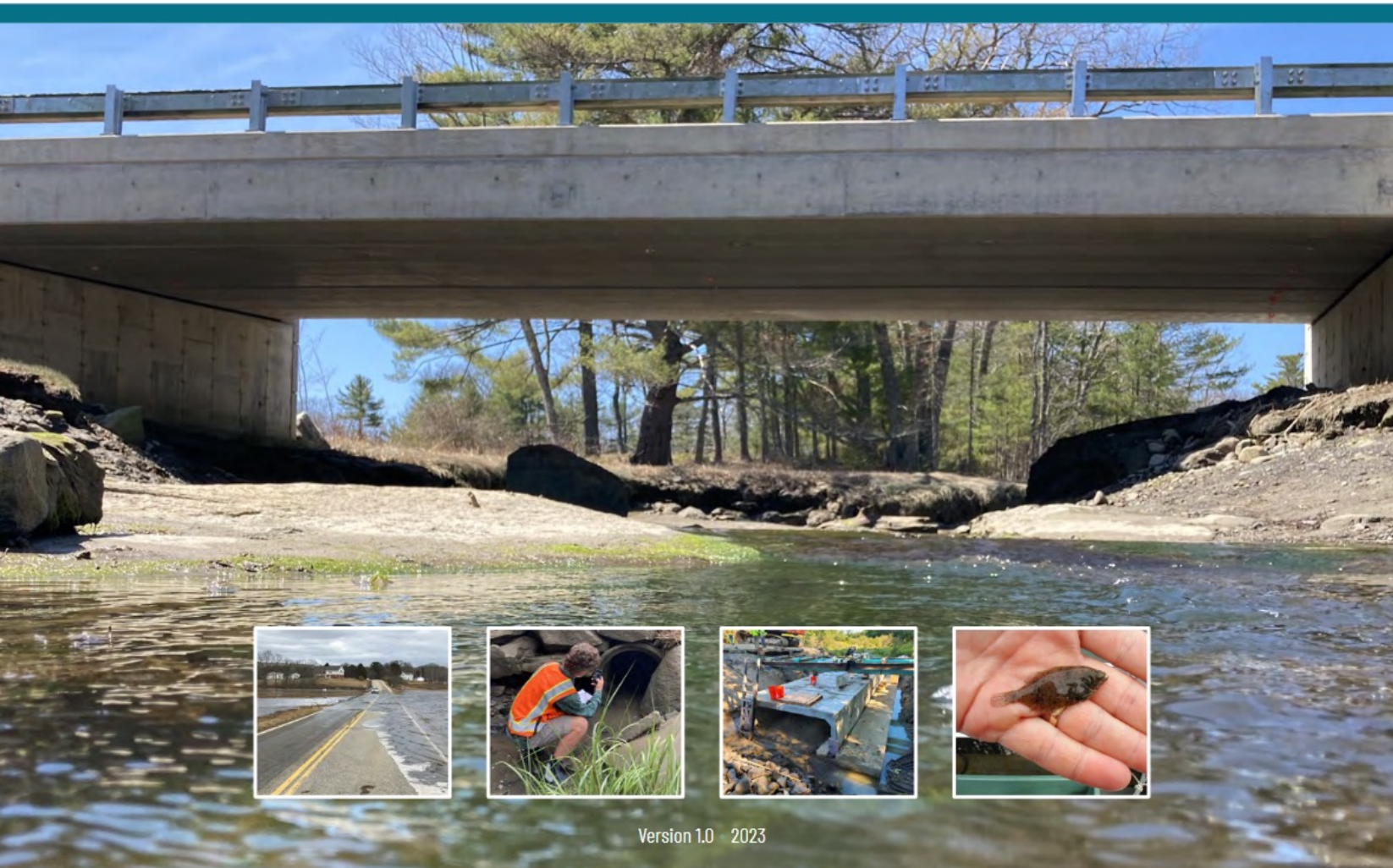


Image: Northeast Regional Ocean Council

<https://www.northeastoceanouncil.org/committees/coastal-hazards-resilience/resilient-shorelines/make-way-for-marshes/>

# The CoastWise Approach

Achieving Ecological Resilience and Climate-Ready Road Crossings in Tidal Environments



Version 1.0 2023

## Tidal crossings

- 900+ tidal crossings
- Influence:
  - Habitat
  - Carbon capture
  - Transportation
  - Community

Image: [https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov/dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023\\_updated.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov/dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023_updated.pdf)



Marsh restoration work at Old Pond, Hancock

# Marsh platform restoration

- Marshes were farms
- Repair the hydrology
- Projects underway



# Research

- Long-term monitoring
- Sources of sediment
- Influence of tidal restrictions
- ...What about mudflats?





# What's next?

- More research
- Integrate w/ habitat
- Projects underway!

# Next Meeting

- **Thursday, February 15th at 9:00AM**
  - **DMR Commissioner and External Affairs Director**
  - **Subcommittee updates**
  - **Location: DMR lab in West Boothbay Harbor**
- **Google Drive for CMWG**
  - <https://tinyurl.com/48arx8hc>



# 2024 CMWG Subcommittees

- Fisheries/Aquaculture  
*Ben Martens, Jes Waller*
- Working Waterfronts/Infrastructure  
*Nick Batista, Bill Needleman*
- Monitoring  
*Becca Peters, Ivy Fringoca*
- Coastal & Marine Habitats/Blue Carbon  
*Jeremy Gabrielson, Curtis Bohlen*



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