

Protecting Maine's Beaches for the Future: 2017 Report Update

Tina Zabierek, DEP Policy Director

Robert Marvinney, DACF State Geologist



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

History

- Over the years, the Legislature has discussed many coastal issues
- Numerous stakeholder groups (2004-2006, 2016)
- Some recommendations from 2006 report implemented, some delayed
- In 2016, L.D. 1254 *Resolve to Further Study the Implementation and Funding of a Beach Management Program* passed

History

2004-2006 Stakeholder group goals

- Reduce the threat or risk of erosion to beaches
- Enhance beachfront for habitat
- Enhance beach for recreation and tourism
- Improve public safety
- Improve coastal public access
- Protect residential and commercial development and public infrastructure

History

February 2006 Report to the Legislature

Protecting Maine's Beaches
for the Future

A Proposal to Create an Integrated
Beach Management Program



A Report of the Beach Stakeholder's Group
to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources
122nd Maine Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

February 2006

2006 Report Implementation

Accomplished

- Revised Ch. 355 Sand Dune Rules to improve balance between development and hazard mitigation
- Improved habitat awareness and protection
- Continued beach mapping
- Improved educational materials for homeowners

Not Accomplished

- Recommendations to improve nourishment options and funding to support

Why are Beaches Important?

Importance of The Maine Beaches region to Maine's tourist market:

- About 12 million visitors in 2015, 3.8% increase over 2014 and about 30.4% of all Maine visitors
- In 2015, visitors spent more than \$1.6 billion, up 1.8% from 2014
- For 25% of overnight visitors and 35% of day visitors to Maine, Beaches region is their primary destination
- 4.46 million are overnight visitors and 7.55 million of those are day visitors

**Source: Maine Office of Tourism - DPA 2015 The Maine Beaches Regional Tourism Impact Estimates*

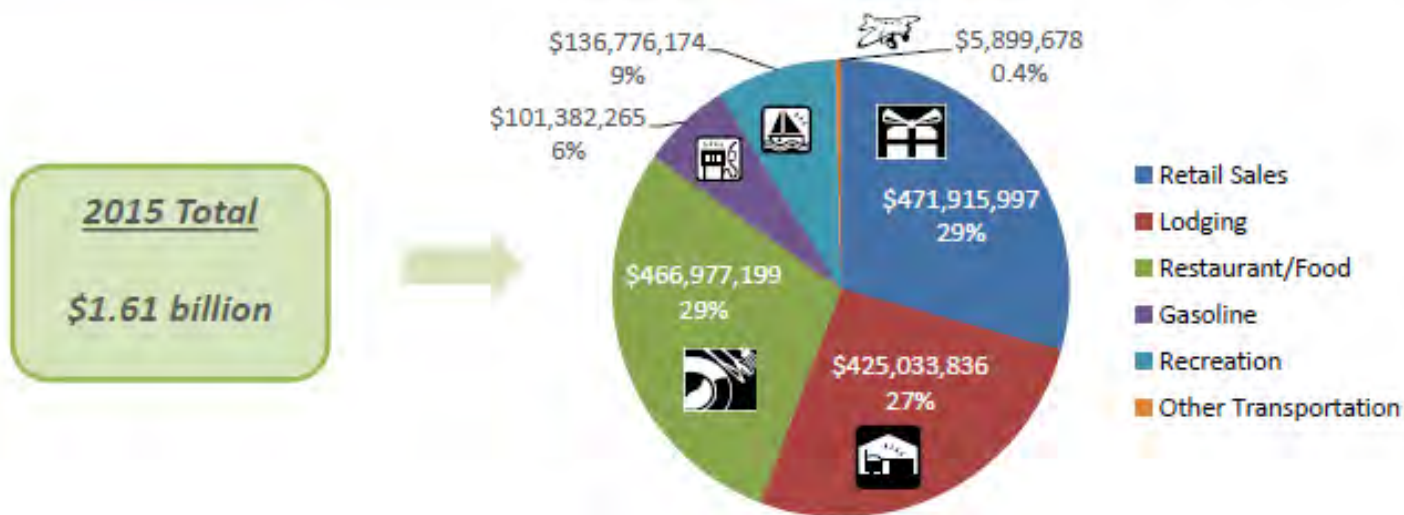




The Maine Beaches

2015 Regional Tourism Impact Estimates

In 2015, Maine Beaches visitors spent more than **\$1.6 billion**, up 1.8% over 2014.



Directives of L.D. 1254, Resolve to Further Study the Implementation and Funding of a Beach Management Program

- Update data & findings in 2006 report
- Implementation recommendations for an IBMP
- Comprehensive beach nourishment policy
- Implementation timeframes
- Public access easements
- If applicable, identify funding sources

Working Group Members

Tina Zabierek

Policy Director, DEP

Lindsay Tudor

Wildlife Biologist, IF&W

Mark Bergeron

Land Bureau Director, DEP

Robert Marvinney

State Geologist, DACF

Kathleen Leyden

Director, Maine Coastal Program

Robert Foley

Director, Maine Save Our Shores

Carolann Ouellette, Dir. Econ. &
Comm. Develop./*Douglas Ray*, Dir.
Legis. Affairs & Comm.,
Maine Office of Tourism

Laura Zitske

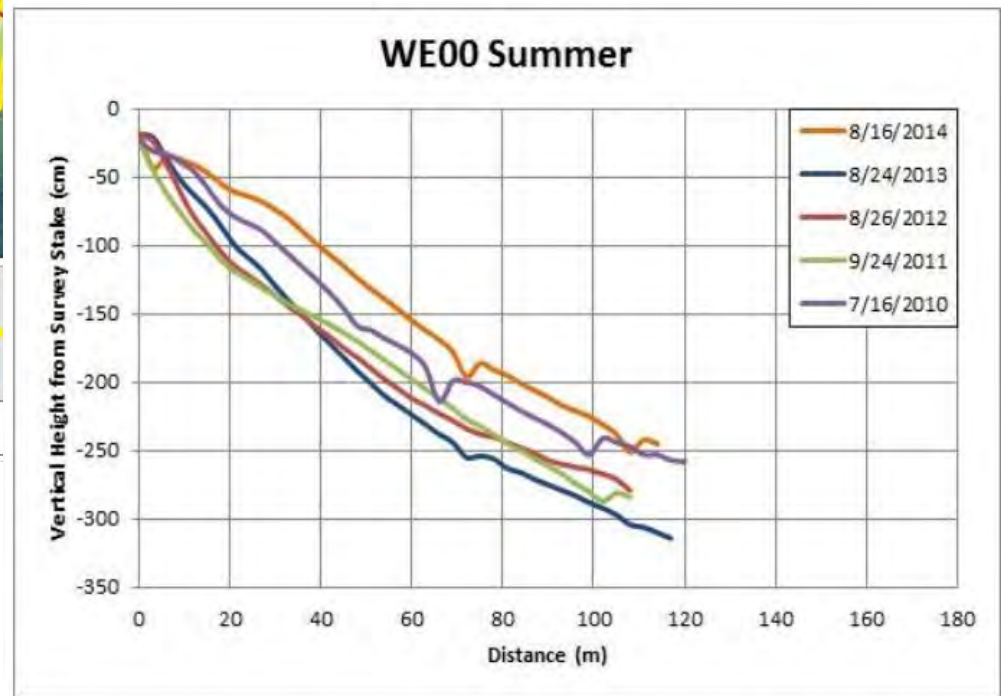
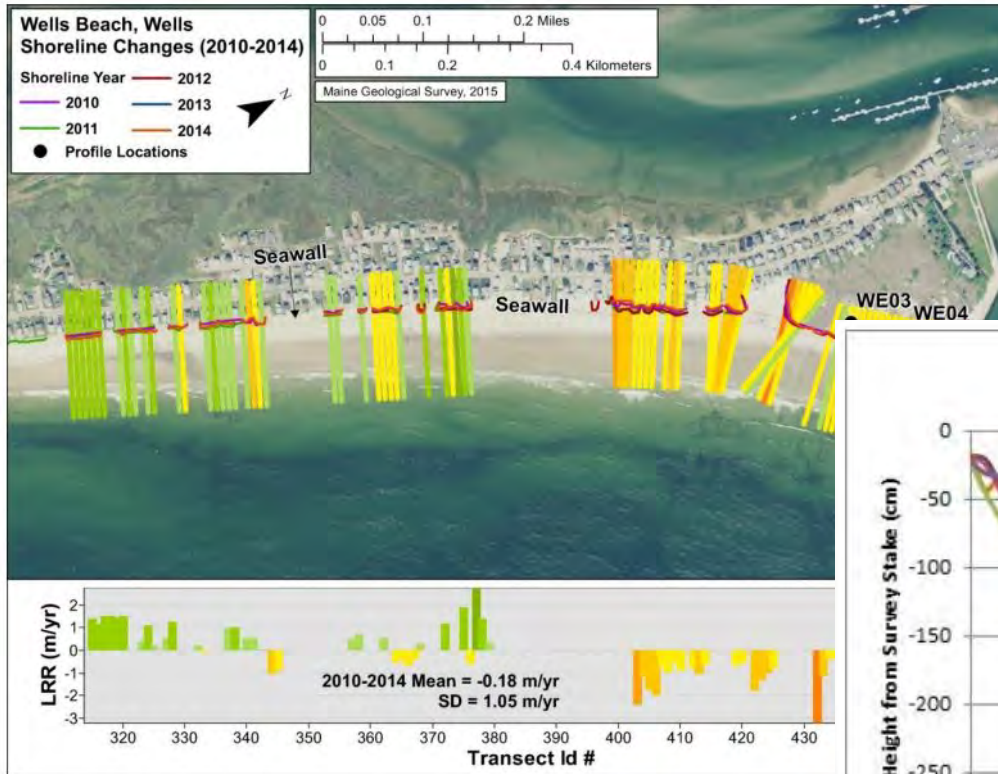
Plover & Least Tern Proj Mgr,
Maine Audubon Society

Updated Data and Findings

Working Group Updated...

- Tracked implementation of 2006 report recommendations;
- Economic assessment of The Beaches Area;
- Geologic profile changes with MGS data;
- Chronology of Significant Events;
- Wildlife Habitat Ranking;
- Compilation of Funding Options

Updated Data and Findings



Implementation Recommendations

Create a beach nourishment proposal process where...

- Applicants have a competitive opportunity for beach nourishment project funding
- Criteria ranking system for beach nourishment and management proposals
- More than one proposal can be approved

Additional recommendations...

- Update Ch. 418 *Beneficial Use of Solid Waste* rule
- Establish funding mechanism



Potential Criteria

1. Severity of Erosion
2. Wildlife Habitat Value
3. Project Longevity
4. Matching Funding Sources
5. Recreational and Economic Benefit
6. Marine Resources
7. Access Opportunities
8. Threats to Developments
9. Future Change Considerations
10. Applicable Design Standards

Comprehensive Beach Nourishment Policy

– Recommended Steps in the RFP Process

Step 1: Establish State funding amount

Step 2: Create a detailed request for proposals

Step 3: Have a team/board review proposals

Step 4: Team rates each proposal against set criteria

Step 5: Funding awarded to top scoring proposals

Implementation Timeframes

- Funding source determined
- RFP process can begins
- RFP review process by committee
 - Annual or biennial



Public Access Easements

- Public access easements are incorporated into the criteria the proposals will be ranked on
- Responsibility on the project proposer to gain public access and easements
- Higher consideration given to beaches with more public access



Identifying Funding Options

Some funding sources discussed:

- Environmental Bond for Maine's Beaches
- Tourism Infrastructure Bond
- Dedicated Use of Fines and Penalties
- Real Estate Transfer Tax (Regional)
- Local Option Sales Tax



Tina Zabierek
SHS #33

Augusta, ME 04330-0033

christina.s.zabierek@maine.gov

(207) 287-5219

www.maine.gov/dep



Robert Marvinney
SHS #93

Augusta, ME 04330-0093

robert.g.marvinney@maine.gov

(207) 287-2804

www.maine.gov/dacf.mgs/index.shtml

