

Downeast Fisheries Trail Initial Outreach Results, Spring 2010

June 4, 2010

Table of Contents

Introduction and Background

What Should be on the Trail?

 General Themes for all Areas

Washington County

Hancock County

 Stonington and Deer Isle Region

 Bar Harbor and MDI Region

 Winter Harbor and Schoodic Region

Downeast Fisheries Trail Methods and Ideas

 Signage

 Web, digital, and electronic options

 Activities on the Trail

 Engaging Students and Teachers

Appendix 1: Participants: meetings, surveys or other conversations as of Mid-May 2010

Appendix 2: Resources

Appendix 3: Existing sites in Washington County

Introduction and Background

Project background: Downeast Fisheries Trail in 2000

The original trail dates back to 2000 and was specific to Washington County. It was intended to help local residents learn about their fisheries heritage before it was gone, and to also educate visitors. The idea was that residents and visitors could travel from one end of Washington County to the other and learn about the region's fisheries heritage. Some sites were intended as drive-by sites and other sites have a place to stop with interpretive information on-site. Fourteen sites were on the original trail map and brochure. Four interpretive signs were put in place at: 1) The Milbridge pier (this is the closest sign to a working waterfront location); 2) Cobscook Bay in Eastport right at Carrying Place Cove; 3) Machias River at Bad Little Falls Park in Machias; 4) There was a sign in Lubec that has been removed. (See Appendix 3 for a description of original sites). Since 2000, little active maintenance or advertizing of the trail has occurred. In 2009, an effort was launched to revive the Downeast Fisheries Trail in Washington County and extend it into Hancock County.

Reviving and extending into Hancock County, 2010 and beyond

The project received grants from Maine Community Foundation (Fall 2009) and Downeast and Acadia Regional Tourism (January 2010) to revive the trail in Washington County and expand it into Hancock County. **The initial scope of these grants is to identify sites for the Downeast Fisheries Trail in 2010 and beyond, map these sites, and develop brochure and signage templates for outreach about the sites.** Built into the project is the development of a long term plan to maintain the Trail as a series of sites, as well as explore other ideas for celebrating and highlighting the region's fisheries heritage (including possibly: website, oral histories, learning centers, local product development, festivals, preservation of fisheries infrastructure etc.)

As of May 2010, the following organizations have been involved as collaborators, and meeting hosts, and some have committed staff time to the project: 1) Maine Sea Grant; 2) Sunrise County Economic Council; 3) Vacationland Resources Committee; 4) Lobster Institute; 5) DownEast and Acadia Regional Tourism; 6) Diadromous Species Restoration Research Network; 7) Bureau of Parks and Lands; 8) Penobscot East Resource Center; 9) Bar Harbor Whale Museum.

Goals of Downeast Fisheries Trail 2010

1. Support for fisheries economy/industry
2. Coastal community revitalization and community pride
3. Tourism economic development
4. Educational opportunities for the next generation

Outreach Results as of Spring 2010

A series of regional focus meetings happened during spring 2010 (Machias, Stonington, Winter Harbor, Bar Harbor), as well as a larger meeting at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in March 2010. In addition, project partners have initiated specific conversations with various interested stakeholders in the region. Finally, a survey with 5 questions has been created (both print and online version) though survey distribution and announcements at the time of these notes were limited. The purpose of all this outreach is twofold:

- to identify potential sites for the Downeast Fisheries Trail and
- to explore other ideas for celebrating fisheries heritage in the region.

We have made every effort to capture as much as possible of all of these conversations, focus group meetings and survey results into this **Initial Outreach Results** report. These notes reflect recommendations and ideas to help the project move to the next steps of actually identifying sites. A summary of this report will be available by early summer.

Project Contacts

General information about the project : www.seagrants.umaine.edu/downeast-fisheries-trail

Project coordinator : Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant nspringuel@coa.edu 288-2944 ext 5834

Washington County lead: Jen Peters, Sunrise County Economic Council scec@sunrisecounty.org 255-0983

What should be on the trail?

General themes for all areas

Participants as a whole felt that the project needs to include both historical and current fisheries heritage. Through the course of the meetings and outreach, there emerged a potential structure for the project whereby the Trail could serve as a gateway to local fisheries heritage projects. For example, for a geographical region like Stonington and Deer Isle, two or three sites could serve as central nodes for the region, and then people could drill down much deeper into local fisheries heritage via complimentary local information. A central node on the large Downeast Fisheries Trail could lead people to many more local sites and activities. This seemed exciting to many participants throughout the region.

- 1) The variety of seafood landed, from lobsters to scallops to mackerel.
- 2) The techniques used, including draggers, weirs, traps, hand-lines and nets.
- 3) Draggers, tub trawling, otter trawling, hook fishermen
- 4) The whole colorful history of the sardine industry on the Downeast coast.

- a) Quite young children were often employed in sardine packing plants, that sons often followed their fathers on the boat to pull lobster traps, and emptying a weir at low tide was a fascinating thing to watch.
- 5) "There is a wealth of information in this region..... I hope this grows to create a network to sustain fisheries in Maine."
- 6) "Look to make this project more than just looking back, but sustain today's fishery.
- 7) Historic location of fishing weirs
- 8) Working lobster wharfs
- 9) Clamming areas
- 10) Penobscot Museum has collection items to contribute. Don't let history slip away.
- 11) Heritage that supports current fishing industry.
- 12) Should highlight sardine factories, how fish scales are used.
- 13) Focus on culture
- 14) Heritage: geography, culture, natural environment, contemporary. Past and present
- 15) Cover present and past 10-25 years.
- 16) Level of excitement- there can be subunits or layers that occur at local level, and also have bigger sites.
- 17) Use Cobscook Trails model of brochure: Trail partnerships with land trusts, brochure placement, sell adds for Chamber, pigging back all trails into one booklet.
- 18) Evolution of technology and how it changed everything
- 19) When boats go out or come in. Include: weirs, clam factories, fish piers
- 20) Three big themes: customs, salt sheds, schooners
- 21) Alewife fisheries short history
- 22) Connect to Penobscot Nation
- 23) Sloops and trawlers
 - a) trawlers out of Boston came in spring- best fishing grounds
 - b) 1940's- sloop, down the coast all major bays to Machias bay, turn around fish back home
 - c) Sloops, schooner rigged boats fished November for cod and haddock through major bays
- 24) The history and depth that the Island/region was involved in w/ it- people traveled to China, other countries, fished Georges Bank in the 1700's for Cod, Mackerel, other species. Conservation and preservation activities on these different species
- 25) Early fishing fleets (Cod, mackerel, sardines, fin fishing, lobstering)
 - fish factories: salting, shipping, canning
 - (Spin-off businesses)
 - Fish Peir- a working site
- 26) Whole ecosystem concept
- 27) What it was, and what it is now- Importance of sustainability and diversity, and healthy methods of fishing- How technology advances eradicated or affected a lot of industry and not in a good way. Regulation and politics.
- 28) Family and historic involvement
- 29) Crab picking businesses
- 30) Diadromous fish
 - a) elver nets,
 - b) haverseting glass eels
 - c) Alewives as a bait source for lobstermen
- 31) Have celebrations at the location of a natural phenomenon: ex Damariscotta
- 32) Fear of shifting baseline- people don't know what nature or fisheries were like. Need to reboot people's ideas on marine environment and productivity
- 33) Cod museum in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia- history piece which is great for nostalgia but doesn't move you to a sense of pathos, to connection with what we lost and what we could have. What happened in

100 years? What can we do to reverse? What are we not reversing? We are connected! Move beyond reminiscing: what happened yes, but how can we help now?

- 34) Two fisheries management teams- this is not good because there is a disconnect between inland and coastal fisheries Only one wildlife agency- this is how fishery management should be as well
- 35) Project has multiple components: tourism, sustainable fisheries, and education/history/ awareness. Hope that the trail will increase awareness and ultimately increase fisheries purchases.
- 36) Need to get our grandkids to be proud of our heritage
- 37) Maine has a Maritime Heritage Trail – it was launched in 2006. The Downeast Fisheries Trail organizers are keeping track of this project and will coordinate with this state effort.
- 38) Old (2000) brochure photo is inadequate. The trail is not about people but about fisheries so pics need to be fisheries, for ex a lobster boat and a trap. Logo needs to be a "typical" fishery like lobster, shellfish, etc and not salmon
- 39) Approach for region: Brochures- 2 counties have larger map/brochures, each town has local brochures

Washington County

Washington County was home to the original DFT from 2000, and at that time, an outreach process helped identify the original 14 sites. One meeting was held in Machias in 2010 to revisit the existing sites (see appendix 3) and explore potential new sites and themes for Washington County. In addition to identifying a few new sites, participants emphasized that the trail should highlight activities for visitors and school aged children.

- 1) Campobello. One of the reasons this place exists is because of the sailing history on Passamaquoddy Bay, highlight of cottage era. They already have nature trails and interpretive information. If Campobello is to be a site - participants discussed issues presented by the border crossing to Campobello. Designate as a new stop on the trail. Link to the new Roosevelt Trail (hiking and biking). There is a Fundy Culture group
- 2) There is no Native American site on the trail. Perhaps we should reach out to someone at the Waponahki Museum & Resource Center, which has been closed but may be reopening in a new location.
- 3) Gleason Cove could use an interpretive sign about the weirs and aquaculture
- 4) Lubec area:
 - a) McCurdy's smoke house is now a museum about sardine canning and herring processing
 - b) Fishermen's memorial in Lubec
 - c) Maine's historic Bold Coast
- 5) Shackford Head: needs a sign about leases and aquaculture
- 6) Jonesport-Beals-Moosabec region
 - a) Can do and see working waterfront.
 - b) Considering its important fishing tradition and the fact that there is a good deal of oral history already collected and just waiting to be interpreted, it seems like a potentially great addition to the trail.
 - c) Could we put a sign at the waterfront?
 - d) New Maine Coast Sardine History Museum in Jonesport 34 Mason Bay Rd. 497-3003 Ronnie and Mary Peabody have done a real nice job on little dough. A must. (Sardine Museum has actual machines, equipment, material and 100s of photos.)
 - e) Jonesport Heritage Center at Peabody Memorial Library at 162 Maine St. Jonesport 497-3003 (has digitally archived over 6000 photos, 6500 pages of text, 14 hours of video clips. It also has a genealogy database containing information on more than 68,000 people, and a cemeteries database with information and photos of all 4300 graves in Jonesport and Beals.

- f) Beals has a new Heritage Center on Beals Island near Town Office (expected completion date Fall 2010). Beals Historical Society
 - g) NOAA oral history project could be a great resource for this project. They collected over 60 oral histories from folks in Jonesport – many are fisheries related stories. (connected to work of Jonesport Historical Society)
 - h) Underwood Canning Factory (site now of the CG station in Jonesport) was considered the most modern sardine factory
 - i) Past aspects of Jonesport-Beals are shipping industry, customs house, sardine fishing with weirs, lobster fishing, fish processing factories that canned fish and clams.
 - j) Present aspects in Jonesport-Beals are fishing for lobsters, clams, mussels, urchins, and periwinkles. Boat building, lobster boat racing, lobster crate races, over 2 miles of working waterfront.
 - k) The legend of Tall Barney Beal
 - l) Clam factories in Jonesport.
 - m) Milbridge
 - i) used to have a herring canery
 - ii) Also used to have weirs
 - n) Cherryfield
 - i) Grew up on Salmon, downtown had fly tie stores etc
 - ii) Salmon pool park
- 7) Eastport region
- a) Eastport was once the busiest port on the east coast, and much of that was due to its fisheries exports. the maritime industry (fishing, lobstering, "wrinkling," aquaculture, tidal power generation, whale watching, etc.) is still vital to the health of the area.
 - b) Aquaculture sites off southern end of Moose Island.
 - c) Quoddy Dam model in Quoddy Crafts gift shop; the tides are a great marine resource just as much as fish species are.
 - d) When completed, the renovated building at 15 Sea Street will itself be an important stop on the Downeast Fisheries Trail. Built in 1908, for years it produced the cans used by the sardine packing plants in town. Later, sea urchin roe was packed at 15 Sea Street for export to Japan. The finished building will have displays of the history of commercial fishing in Eastport.
 - e) Raye's Mustard Mill began in 1903 to produce plain mustard for the sardine packers. When the sardine industry declined, they shifted over to gourmet mustards, using the same historic French grinding stones, only now their mustard seeds come not from Alberta but from Aroostook County, where they are grown as an alternate crop by potato farmers.
 - f) The Ocean Renewable Power Company harnesses the immense tides to produce electricity reliably and without pollution.
 - g) Eastport's historians, Wayne Wilcox and Holly Matthews, as well as the Eastport Historical Society and the Tides Institute. Salt magazine might also contribute some great material. Don Dunbar has done several series of "Then and Now" photos comparing historic views of Eastport with their modern counterparts.
- 8) Used to have 35 boat builders in WC, now have only 7 or so, include at least one historical boat building site.
- 9) Pleasant River Historical Society in Addison, (Kathy Fonda is contact),
- 10) Machiasport Museum and Historical Society
- 11) Machias Historical Society (Katherine Cassidy could be a good contact),
- 12) Eastport Historical Society, Francis (?)
- 13) Robbinston Historical Society (shipbuilding history),
- 14) Cherryfield Historical Society (they recently acquired a new building for a museum; salmon fishing history).

- 15) Burhnham Tavern
- 16) Culturepass.net – This is a program run by the Tides Institute. This is a subscription-based email newscast about cultural events going on in Washington County.

Hancock County

Three meetings (Stonington and Deer Isle region, Bar Harbor and MDI region, Winter Harbor and Schoodic region) held in Hancock County to explore potential new themes and sites for the Downeast Fisheries Trail as well as explore other ideas for highlighting fisheries heritage in the region.

Stonington and Deer Isle region

Meeting hosted by Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington www.penobscoteast.org/.

Participants explored the potential structure of DFT at local level, the role of Deer Isle/Stonington Historical Society, Penobscot East Resource Center, and other existing entities. They outlined important fisheries sites both locally and nearby, explored themes for interpretation, identified sites that should not be on the trail, and identified local people with particular interest in this issue.

- 1) Potential structure of DFT at local level
 - a) Cooperation w/ historical society- have it start at PERC- tie all these branches together in a variety of ways
 - b) Three central DFT sites: PERC, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce and people funnel out from there to local sites
 - c) Deer Isle/Stonington map- sites could be printed on town maps produced by Chamber
 - d) Island specific brochure to tour the island. Brochure with numbers pointing out sites and what used to be there.
 - e) Put brochures as Caterpillar Hill, can also put at bridge or other spots where people stop often
- 2) Deer Isle/Stonington Historical Society
 - a) Historical Society project “Touring through time” last week in July, advertise together, focuses on all historical society- way of talking to smaller organizations- contact Tinker to connect\
 - b) Historical Society - Building a barn with a new fisheries exhibit using a large collection of fishing gear, fish finder. Also have some oral histories, films of fish factories, equipment.
 - c) Historical Society for what used to be, a lot are on private property. A lot are gone. Clam factory in Oceanville gone. Are some of these foundations still there? Historical society can promote with what used to be.
 - d) Historical society is trying to put old items into a database, and have it available for us, just let them know
 - e) Historical society can tie all these things in- Fisherman’s travels, they went to French Islands and bought “interesting things for ladies” that men brought back from other ports (silks, laces, etc.) 50 years old- collection based on sea faring, cosmopolitan existence
 - f) Sunset Road- sunset displays
- 3) Penobscot East Resource Center
 - a) PERC is constantly interpreting what is going on w/ fisherman right now- need for people to know what fisherman are seeing, there are lots of misrepresented or misunderstood ideas about lobster populations etc.
 - b) PERC public info space in new Atlantic ave building, with binos, telescope etc, hope to create display of what you are seeing,
 - c) New space as possible site for DFT inter info and activities
- 4) Important sites and themes
 - a) SE Harbor Salt/mackerel fleet
 - b) Marine overlook toward Mark Island Light

- c) Stonington Sardine Factory
- d) Tons of old weirs... Frasers Island.... nonexistent except for a few way Downeast.
- e) Friendship sloops
- f) Tide Mill- interesting project 5 years ago Bud Warren got to Deer Isle because there were a lot of them here. Study project for children
- g) Associated attractions for tourism- granite museum- basic material is rocks, granite, basalt, sculpture trail, Schoodic International sculpture symposium competition- Scott's Landing- sculpture that people raise money to produce- concept is that you can start in Bar Harbor, Winterport, etc.- You can have related materials for tourism.
- h) South Deer Isle
 - i) Fish factory
 - ii) Custom house and salt sheds (busiest on coast, schooners in all the time, now not deep enough)
 - iii) walking across water on schooners
- i) Deer isle harbor
- j) Clam factory at Fifield Point, Oceanville (same?)
- k) Fish shack near here too, Carl Dunham
- l) Causeway and Eggemoggin Reach
 - i) Causeway Beach-clamming
 - ii) indication of local clam, clam restoration and management area
 - iii) Bar at the causeway, Indian weirs,
 - iv) source of name Eggemoggin, oysters there too, scallops
 - v) Eggemoggin Reach fish factories, Wade Dow
 - vi) Cod and Haddock in Eggemoggin reach
- m) Mackerel- 1800's- most people ever lost in one storm?
- n) Caldwell Bros first lobster pounds in Hancock co. 1800s; in Sunshine (was first in Hancock and now here)
- o) Three big themes: customs, salt sheds, schooners
- p) Stonington- fish cannery during war- small and midsized draggers- eastern GOM up into BoF, tub trawling, otter trawling after 1940's
- q) Sloops and schooners in stonington area
- r) Lily pond by Ames pond- originally just a brook in meadow, but closed off to make ice to ship (big fortunes in Maine made from ice) lots of places didn't have electricity until after WWII. Tories Pond.
- s) Where nets were tarred and where tar is still on rocks
- t) 58 west main street stonington- Tim- Shop on Main street- Net twine, tar, sails (Article in Fishermans Voice-recent issue On history of rope), types of fiber etc. rope walks that existed in seaport towns- old navy yard in Boston (but he has one in shop that is fully functional), nice themed gifts as well. History of knowts, how to use fids and splicing...
- u) "You get a feel how fisheries change by ecology" (Robin, referring to river- salmon weirs towards ocean...
- v) The Look-out in front of Pat and Ron Gross's house- Saddleback Island 100 sails/Ted's Grandfather, ask him for personal quotes of how many sails see
- w) Advent of ice and rail service into Rockland- fisheries unraveled larger boats shifted to Portland. It made fishery decline because they couldn't arrange fresh fish market
- x) Steamboats (Boston-stonington)
- y) Egging industry
- z) Eagle Island
- aa) Johny Wood boats and Lime Kiln
- bb) Smelt industry

- cc) Eels
 - dd) Worm or clam flats
 - ee) Ted's historical spawning grounds maps
 - ff) Walking tours of downtown Stonington
 - gg) point out flower planters at overlook at causeway for Robert McClosky
 - hh) Sand beach
 - ii) Scott's landing
 - jj) Fish Flakes
 - kk) Barred Island Salt Shed Foundation
 - ll) SE Harbor customs house
 - mm) View from Penobscot Narrows Bridge
 - nn) Fish Shack- Cal Danham
 - oo) DI Town Hall- 1st clam ordinance 1789
 - pp) Fish factory, South Deer Isle Customs House site, Different Harbors, DI Harbor, Stonington Harbor Clam Factory, Stonington Lobster Co-op (first lobster co-op 1948), Lobster Pounds by Billings Diesel, Fish Shack- Cal Dunhams
 - qq) Marlinspike chandlery, Stonington- see Tim Whitten
- 5) Current Fisheries themes for interpretation
- a) explanation of Stonington waterfront
 - b) Fish Pier in Stonington
 - c) PERC new building/interpretive center
 - d) Promote oyster gardening.
 - e) Lobster pounds
 - f) Billings diesel and marine
 - g) Stonington lobster coop first in Maine
 - h) Clams at causeway
 - i) Kids got into researching America's cup. Research island schools. Great resource.
 - j) Bagaduce Oyster Co.
 - k) Alternative fisheries- sea vegetables in Franklin, etc. But earn income for lots of people
 - i) Hatcheries, irish moss plant (was at site of Stonington lobster coop)
 - ii) Pearl essence plant in Eastport
 - l) Oceanville Charters takes out tours for lobster boats
 - m) Walt Reed- camera over side of boat, takes tours out
 - n) Isle au Haut mail boat
 - o) Long term goal: a small scale aquarium, perhaps at PERC, representation of sea floor, opportunity to see critters, digging clams, Project Oceanology type program (<http://www.oceanology.org>), maybe at hatchery or something w/ basic structure of hatchery
- 6) Places that shouldn't be on trail: (symbol on map for not interrupting work)
- a) harbor master won't want you where people are hauling
 - b) fish piers are town owned but no parking or driving
 - c) parking in Stonington is a problem
- 7) People
- a) Elmer Gross-owned 2 or 3 draggers- fished in war years. Ted Ames father took one of these for fishing. Ted interviewed him.
 - b) Bert Brown, Edi Brown, Percy Brown's father- Sheephead island
 - c) Ed Johnson (someone's great grandfather)
 - d) Elmer Gross interviews (by Ted A) on tapes- one of first to introduce otter trawling to area
 - e) Bill Baker, Old Quarry Ocean Adventures
 - f) Peter Buxton
 - g) Burt Dow's grave, Deer Isle King Row

- 8) Areas nearby
 - h) Bagaduce launch- northern most place for horseshoe crabs
 - i) Sullivan Falls- less known areas, harder to sort out, How do we reach them? upper Frenchman bay working group to reach out to these areas, direct communications w/ little towns
 - j) Penobscot, town has website- what is going on and when in town. Everything is free to promote town so we can advertise there, other towns may have this too
 - k) Need capture things from Upper Bay-
 - i) enclosed estuaries
 - ii) Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Cape Rosier- small scale fisheries
 - iii) Vinylhaven- 7 million pounds of fish by one company, 1916
 - b) MERI ecotours- traps for education
 - c) Vinalhaven- public tours- handouts, do it yourself tours
 - d) See Poetry trail website for downloadable effort- area artists, poets, musicians are good ambassadors for fisheries heritage
- 9) Love the Sea Grant Intertidal “creative” handbook, would love them to be able to ID fish

Bar Harbor and MDI region

Meeting hosted by Bar Harbor Whale Museum www.barharborwhalemuseum.org/.

Participants discussed existing projects (such as the Somesville fish passage project), identified active and historical fisheries in the region, and the historical significance of Frenchman and Penobscot Bay for Cod, identified potential partners and educational venues, discussed signage and interpretation approaches, and identified people with a particular interest in this topic.

- 1) Existing projects and fisheries
 - a) Somesville fish passage project
 - i) brochure project, signage Somesville has parking lot near old selectman’s building- path along fishway...problem is it is on private property (Original intention is to have sign at library- board member didn’t want grass getting trampled so sign was moved, nice to have it publicly accessible)
 - ii) Working with Gulf of Maine Research Institute partnership with Jason Stockwell
 - iii) alewife stock assessment along entire GoM coast and Alewife restoration
 - iv) The project tin Somesville: “Brings community together, has historical legacy and future outlook” It is about next steps, looking forward. Most exciting is students getting involved. Tap into the teachers as a resources
 - b) Seal Cove- new fish ladder project
 - c) Denning brook into echo late (lee patterson)
 - d) St. Saviour Church Fundraiser for lobsterman insurance, May 2010
 - e) Downeast Salmon Federation is a great model- Colombia Falls
 - f) Bring back the Cod:
 - i) Use this project to increase efforts to bring back Cod fish
 - ii) Eel grass restoration is very important for juvenile cod fish
 - g) We tend to think coastal- Gulf is an ecosystem- people don’t connect ocean with inland watershed areas, connected in a huge way to inland, Penobscot River, Veazy – people don’t connect ocean with Veazy... (Talk with Cheryl Daigle... should have interpretive sign at Damn removal site)
 - h) whale museum is trying to extend interpretation to wider marine issues than just whales, possible site for DFT interpretation
 - i) Working lobster wharfs from MDI and further downeast
 - j) Clamming areas
 - k) Crab picking businesses

- l) Smoked fish businesses such as the ones in Sullivan and Lubec
- m) Fresh fish outlets - stores (ie. Pectic Seafood in Trenton) and trucks selling by side of road
- 2) Historical fisheries in area
 - a) Sardine Canneries: Prospect Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Bass Harbo
 - b) Lobster packing - Frenchboro once had a small business exporting gourmet products
 - c) History of canneries: Prospect Harbor cannery built 1906 by E.T. Russell; also purchased the Addison Packing Co. Southwest Harbor. Future ownership by Stinson and development of a can shop with a ring making machine.
 - d) The lobster industry and how Friendship sloops were the working boat of the day.
 - e) The schooner trade and ice plants such as the one in Bass Harbor that provided ice for packing.
 - f) The Bass Harbor Country Store would be a good source of information
 - g) Ted Ame's grandfather in SW harbor or Manset, Stanley Fish House
 - h) 18 top ports Norfolk to Canada- 5 were in Maine, over 10 million pounds of landings (when?)
 - i) Get the childhood memories of some of these men, fisherman, where they tell stories of walking on backs of fish there were so many
 - j) Historical fisheries of diadromous fish,
 - i) Fish are economic engine- anadromous fish are important bait fish, lots of them, fisherman come from long distance
 - ii) elver nets,
 - iii) haverseting glass eels
 - iv) Used to line up for bait in Ellsworth
 - v) Alewives as a bait source for lobstermen
 - vi) Alewife is one species that connects outward to all the other approaches. Kids should be studying this stuff but it is not presented in schools, but festivals are an option
 - k) Salmon stock studies in Long Pond noted big jump in size since there was more food with more alewives
 - l) Southwest Harbor- old codfish drying station- UNH working on 1850's historical data on cod, great stuff specific to MDI (subsidies on salt to dry cod, kept detailed record) good pictures of the salt station
 - m) MDI had biggest cod population in state of Maine, and also huge hake fishery
 - i) There were HUGE cod by Egg Rock in Frenchman Bay
 - ii) Howdy has talked with Jason Clark whose grandfather fished in harbor in Sorrento and got huge cod- 75 years ago, bay steaming w/ fish in early 50's, fluctuated over time
 - iii) 100-120 boats in Frenchman bay fishing, but not lobster! Ground fish
 - iv) Scale and phenomenon of historical fishery is important!! Why? For the purpose of knowing what could be, it won't be like the 1880's again but could be better than now.
 - v) Codfish drying station in SW harbor
 - n) Only really been down for 30 years (which fishery?)
 - o) Stave Island- herring weirs, load up on bait here
 - p) SW harbor- flat fish salting, lines hanging up to salt fish
 - q) 1930's salmon and herring in Denning brook
 - r) Reach out to islands, like Isle au Haut, - draw people into island communities, dove tail pieces together
 - s) Cranberries
 - t) Abbe Museum as a partner
 - u) Bass Harbor- Howdy knew people w/ stories, Arthur Corbit, sold groundfishing permit 10years ago
 - v) Fish drying racks all along coast and porcupines, drying racks until 1920s (?)
 - w) Lamoine shore was laced with drying racks until 1900's
 - x) 1880 Atlas Hancock county- see the stations on maps

- y) Surry- fish oil
- z) Bucksport and Castine- Maine Sea Fisheries book is amazing resource
 - i) fisherman shares were based on amount of fish, and bounty share, tied to salt tax
- aa) NEW ANP/Abbe historic walking tours downtown BH
- bb) 1850s Bucksport was leading port
- cc) History of Whaling- cranberry and schoodic
- 3) Acadia National Park on signage and interpretation
 - a) uses waysides carefully- Schoodic is working on this heavily- where to put signs? Help people understand what they are experiencing
 - b) Audio tours, brochures, rangers, combo of media
 - c) Depends on location
 - d) Interpretive waysides work well for something that doesn't exist anymore anymore
 - e) Oral histories
 - f) Combo is good for getting through to more people
 - g) Need to know the tools
- 4) New Local educational venues:
 - a) New learning center above Northwoods giftshop- on main street in village green- handmade wood toys
 - b) Natalie's husband's shop The Natural History Center on Village Green
- 5) Possible DFT hubs:
 - a) Somesville Historical Society where the sign is.
 - b) State Ferry in Southwest Harbor near old Sardine factory which is now condos
 - c) Whale Museum
- 6) Other people who might be involved
 - a) Maine Sea Coast Mission has archivist, Maryann, who has tons of info
 - b) Dorr Museum
 - c) Diver Ed Dive in Theater, bottom cameras while diving
 - d) Abbe Museum
 - e) Oceanarium
 - f) Great Harbor Maritime Museum in Northeast Harbor
 - g) Maine Aquaculture Association
 - h) Restaurant owners who focus on fresh local seafood

Winter Harbor and Schoodic region

Meeting held at Hammond Hall, Schoodic Arts for All www.schoodicarts.org/.

Participants explored the ramifications of the Stinson's sardine plant closure on this project and on the region as a whole, as well as the opportunity it presents for heritage education; they suggested sites and themes for the trail, discussed existing related projects, and explored ideas for implementing the project in this area, such as boat tours.

- 1) Stinson's closure
 - a) Stinson's is closing and it should be documented. (Penobscot Marine Museum is doing some of that) The factory has a bunch of info on site.
 - b) Large fisherman in front of Stinsons needs to stay. Dana Rice is working on that. That fisherman used to stand in Kittery (*when did it come here?)
 - c) Whoever buys Stinsons should do a history of how they canned and even tours of the new work being done, windows etc
 - d)
- 2) Suggested sites and themes
 - a) Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro Libraries

- b) Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro Hist Societies
 - c) Prospect Harbor town harbor
 - d) Light House
 - e) Gouldsboro town Hall area
 - f) Winter Harbor town harbor
 - g) Downtown areas of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor
 - h) Bell from Queen Victoria boat that has connection to Canada and PEI. It is now located in the school.
 - i) Franklin Aquaculture Center
 - j) Smoked salmon places in Winter Harbor and Hancock
 - k) Corea Harbor
 - l) If CCAR comes into Corea, they should have a description
 - m) Birch Harbor
 - n) Stinson's Man
 - o) Prospect Harbor, at the harbor, the lighthouse is private.
 - p) Women's club in Prospect harbor (perhaps it could someday be a museum)
 - q) The smoked salmon places
 - i) Grindstone Neck of Maine (you can watch them make it)
 - ii) There is one on route 1 too
 - r) Gouldsboro has 6 harbors and Winter Harbor has 1 harbor. People come to see lobster harvesting, and the small unique harbors.
 - s) People want to get out onto the water. We need a lobster tour boat/guide service.
 - t) Create a head of the bay trail in Winter Harbor
 - u) Use the film "Lobster Town" to promote region. The film is mostly about Corea, took place during WW2. Both Ben Fuller and Dana Rice said they have a copy of it. Circa 1947.
 - v) Gouldsboro is developing trail connecting Gouldsboro town office and library and Women's Club Bldg which has Scenic Byway interp signs and new statue (from sculpture project)
 - w) Trail should include Scenic Byways interp signs at Dunbars, Long Cove (clams) , Sullivan-Hancock Bridge, and Gouldsboro town office.
 - x) We want to be careful not to send too many tourists down to wharf/fishermen. We don't want to pester workers. We need to have a balance.
 - y) ANP is putting up new signs that provide more interpretation especially at Fraser Point where there was a historic (1700s) salt operation (salt works) and had very early settlers. But park and other community members are concerned about too many signs.
 - z) Need general information about lobster boats, etlvers etc...
 - aa) Herring industry was backbone and they need to make a museum. We need to save the Lubec Herring museum (Rier's? Ryer? There is McUrduy's but not clear that was it). They have so much stuff, we need to find a place for it, to bring it all together, all the artifacts in one central place. There is a small museum in Jonesboro but we need a fisheries museum in the area.
 - bb) Winter Harbor caught whales
 - cc) Salmon weirs in Hancock
- 3) Ideas for implementing the project in this area
- a) Bucksport has a great walking trail that could be used as a model
 - b) Two years ago, Schoodic Arts for All had fisheries as a theme.
 - c) Do a poster map, with a loop for information. A place like Youngs Store would be a good place to post it.
 - d) Harbor needs a "pull out" with interpretation.
 - e) People come to our area to do "coastal exploring." They come to Downeat rather than Bar Harbor in order to explore. We need more "Fisheries Guides" to go clamming, lobstering, etc. "People want to experience clamming, people will pay good money to do this!" We (Inn) send

people to Cutler and JB. We need both web and paper brochure and map. We need a trail for our area. If we could have something we could hand over to people and say: here is the history of Culter...

- f) We need interpretive signs at all these sites, Birch Harbor etc
- g) People are looking for a good story. It would be nice to have a CD with conversations from real fishermen.
- h) Historic Societies need to be involved, they should be a stop on the map but there is the issue of their limited hours (often just 1 day a week)
- i) Island Explorer needs interpretative signs and possibly an interpreter on the bus - like a tour bus. Good summer intern position.
- j) Oral histories should be developed and made available. Lobster Institute did many. Collecting these would make good intern project.
- k) UM Folklife center is a resource. Also, people at the Bubblebee plant
- l) At a recent Fishermen's Forum, Ben put up a bunch of photos and invited people to visit and swap stories. Great event.
- m) This whole idea needs to be sold to the people of the peninsula!
- n) Hancock Grocery does maps
- o) Offer info on how people can be involved in fishing, how fisherman can take people out fishing

Downeast Fisheries Trail Methods and Ideas

Collected here are ideas from all the outreach for how to share the region's fisheries heritage. These are not geography or fisheries-specific; rather these are participants' thoughts on HOW to implement the topics.

Signage

Participants felt that there should be unified signage that interprets fisheries heritage in the region in a graphically connected way, but they felt that the project should highlight locations that already have interpretive signage (rather than re-invent the wheel). They talked about focusing new signage in areas where you might not be able to see what was once there, and areas where what IS there could use some explaining.

- Other than the 4 sites with interpretive signs is there anything on the ground to indicate a fisheries trail site? The answer is no, at least not yet.
- Something should exist on the ground too – maybe this doesn't need to be a full-fledged interpretive panel for every site but could instead be a poster or small sign directing folks to a website.
- Should all sites be marked with a DFT logo somehow? It would help identify sites.
- Challenge for site managers to balance participation in multiple thematic trails. Ice Age Trail, Birding Trail, Sculpture Trail, Historic Bold Coast Trail, etc.
- Think multiple purpose on these signs, possibly with DFT teaser signs for bulletin boards rather than full interp signs.
- Develop similar signage so whole trail feels linked
- Focus signage where there is not staff, but have it send people to where they can meet someone
- What are we going to do about stewardship of signage?

- “Nice site except nothing there”- but if you put a nice sign, it would work well for what used to be there. Makes it a destination, like boulders at Caterpillar Hill.
- People enter into trail system in some way. Captured by sign but then translate into capturing more broadly. Send them to people for interaction. Then will know to go to website, send them to people, like Whale Museum, Abbe Museum etc.
- Participant shared the signage rule of 3-30-3 (30 words, 3 minutes and?)
- Also need deeper info to hand out
- Q posed: when are there too many signs?
- “You can find signs anywhere from Labrador to here, but what makes it unique is finding someone to talk to.”
- DFT posters for distribution

Web, digital, and electronic options

Participants were unanimous that this project needs an active website and needs it early in the development of the project, perhaps as a larger priority than developing a brochure (even though the funding is not currently in place to do a website). They identified models from other regions, and also discussed the potential for webcams, iPhone applications, oral interpretation, Geo-caching and Google Earth. Participants emphasized that we live in a digital age and this project’s success is dependent on having a digital presence, though many also felt a need for print material to distribute to visitors on site. Participants acknowledged the limited internet access in the region.

- Perhaps there are commercial interests to help support this website. If the trail is serving to link activities that are constantly changing, the website becomes an essential tool.
- DFT geographic sites need to have activity, not just a sign, but also activity on the ground and an active website
- Virtual poetry tour in DC download for Ipad or Iphone- move toward a digital age...local painters, musicians, etc. which will work for a digital project
- How wired is the coast? Not very... where does 3G stop? Here. ☺
- Iphone aps would be good but people also research trips ahead of time, or find things and visit later. Connectivity will improve.
- Do a scavenger or letter hunt with GPS, hunt that will take you to other sites, and then out to the islands as well.
- Kids look up new letterbox sites. Collect items like baseball cards. Take the GPS and drive all over looking for sites. The fisheries trail could have letterbox sites.
- GPS-pilot project at Penobscot museum with school system- high school students given historical photographs, working with GIS, walk and find spot, take camera for picture. “Then and Now” exhibit. Manual about how to go to this- distributed around to schools to promote interest in GIS
- ID- locations w/ Google map print out. Put on flip side of picture so you can have directions to sites
- How to get things listed on Google earth- this could be very easy! You could click on site for picture.
- We live in a digital age- next generation is. Electronic brochure. Website might be a really good idea. Webcams. Connect through Acadia website
- Fish trail application for iPhone
- Don't put money into brochure but rather focus money on website. Geocaching

Activities on the Trail

Participants felt strongly that this project could be so much more than just another website, or more signage or a simple brochure. They felt that there is a lot of potential in hosting complimentary activities including: things to do at a site, getting people on the water, lobster boat tours, meeting fishermen, eating seafood, purchasing seafood, fisheries related festivals and events, lobster boat races etc.

- One way to think about the visitor experience is by developing static interpretive information for each site. But perhaps it would be exciting to think about creating an activity at each site. (Digging clams at Cobscook, or buying fish directly from fisherman, or hire charter boat).
- Site can be an activity or festival, run student group, etc. We are not limited to just signs once geographic location identified
- If a site has scheduled tours, it is a sign of success.
- Storytellers, storytelling at weekly sites like the one at Campobello, can be travelling thing
- People involvement, not just signage. Need an interpretive component, more than just reading, but meeting people.
- Activities should be a huge part of the trail.
- Commerical operations can be listed for a fee, such as lobster boat tours.
- Include: where can you get fresh fish? For example: lobster in Cutler, where?
- What about seafood- people would get hungry on trail...can we add local seafood places to be highlighted?
- Good example: Vermont cheese trail. People who visit seek this stuff out.
- Focus on historical sites vs. functioning of working waterfront-
- there are “life of fisherman” tours...not a site.
- Is there a plan for future funding or educational programs that get people on water to see # of buoys, 1st timers might not realize importance of lobster fishery in area, volume of fishery
- Signs are a magnet, but send them to lobster boat tours. Reach out to people doing commercial tourism
- Senior projects: Having a group of seniors spend a year working toward a specific goal, talking with community people, perhaps documenting on film their discussions, presenting the old day vs. today via video, making a presentation to the entire community about how life used to be and how it is today and where it will be or could be, involving their relatives in the fishing industry, talking about their hopes for the future, and a plan re: the need for a cultural/economic change and educating those who live here as well as those who visit.
- People want to get out onto the water. We need a lobster tour boat/guide service.
- In August fishing is down so a fisherman could make extra money by taking out tourists, but many might not want to deal with this hassle.
- Penobscot Marine Museum has school programs, they could be moved east, such as kids doing photography today that compares to past places and do an exhibit
- Great model is the Damariscotta Alewife Festival, do this here! Path up the fishway Public access in Darmoscotta- it’s an exciting town, alewife runs get attention- a lot of fish, town is engaging people and rebuilding ladders
- Get local fisherman involved- they will do work, steward the project. It’s important to engage them.
- Pictures put into slideshow that can be shown around in different sites

Engaging Students and Teachers

There was great interest in reaching out to schools for fisheries heritage-related service learning, curriculum development, having exhibits travel from school to school, and having local schools adopt portions of the Trail (such as a local sign or exhibit) for maintenance and their own projects.

- It is important to take fisheries into schools and to future generations.
- “It is as important to sell this to my grandkids as it is to sell it to the tourists and even their grandkids.” (Rice)
- Maybe students could use their portfolio requirements in this? Make it a digital portfolio?
- The educational opportunities are exciting. Could we develop a specific curriculum or a means for the trail to travel to schools, etc to deliver the story?
- Education is important piece
- Start with teachers already doing the work
- who will be around to do it (fishing)...education is key because it (fisheries) will disappear. No fish are really running now...so must continually cultivate interest in next generation
- Really tied into education, focus on places making a difference
- Local educators in classroom.
- Kids in 7th grade should be studying this! It shouldn't be just one event, and its is not about a vested interest, has to be presented holistically, not a specific fish or event
- Develop easy ways for teachers to be involved
- Needs to connect to curriculum
- Service learning opportunity, Maine committed to Service learning
- Go to schools
- Service Learning idea: creating a panel group - resource people, fishing/tourist industry people, community member, kids, and teachers/administrator to understand how the current curriculum in all grades can be enhanced through the inclusion of local water quality/natural resource/sustainability issues and how the abundance of resource people and vested interest parties can enhance our children's education while still meeting mandates.
- Mandatory Service idea: giving kids the option to help of a variety of project related to these issue in which they would not only be fulfilling their mandatory service requirements but would be working on truly worthwhile and tangible community projects.
- Tie in to schools. 3rd graders can adopt and restock brochures and take care of sites. Washington County- schools and boy scout troops to maintain

Appendix 1

Participants: meetings, surveys or other conversations as of Mid-May 2010

Matt McGuire, Maine BPL - Cobscook Bay State Park;
Bill Plaskon, Jonesport Historical Society;
Vern McKimmey, Roosevelt Campobello International Park;
Chris Bartlett, Maine Sea Grant, Easport
Downeast Institute and Cobscook Bay Resource Center;
Jeanne Guisinger, Elderhostel Programs; Easport
Cathy Billings, Lobster Institute;
Lee Rose, Jonesport Beals High School and Tales Told;
Misha Mytar, Maine BPL;
Jen Peters, Sunrise County Economic Council, Machias
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant, Bar Harbor
Nancy Asante, Perry
Patricia Tierney, Hinkley Yachts, West Tremont

Marnie Reed Crowell, Natural History Writer
 Tinker Crouch, DI-Stonington Historical Society
 Nancy Gross, DI-Stonington Historical Society, Island Heritage Trust
 Tim Whitten, Marlinespike Chandlery
 Ben Fuller, Penobscot Marine Museum
 Ted Hoskins, Penobscot East Resource Center
 Ted Ames, Penobscot East Resource Center
 Kathleen Billings-Pezaris, Town of Stonington, Town Manager
 Alden Leavenworth, DI- Stonington
 Robin Alden, Penobscot East Resource Center
 Jesse Leach, Oysters- Penobscot, ME
 Catherine Schmitt, Maine Sea Grant, Orono
 Bob Williams, Fisherman
 Jackie Bort, College of the Atlantic Graduate student, Allied Whale
 Dennis Smith, Former fisherman
 Chris Petersen, College of the Atlantic
 Toby Stephenson, Bar Harbor Whale Museum
 Dave Lamon, Somes Maynell Wildlife Sanctuary
 Howdy Houghton, former fisherman
 Jen Litteral, Island Institute
 Ron Greenberg, MDI Paddlers
 Jonathan Appleyard, St. Saviour's Church
 Lynne Dominy, Acadia National Park
 Barbara Arter, Diadromous Species Restoration Research Network
 Dana Rice, Gouldsboro selectperson, lobster coop owner
 Roger Barto:, owns historic fishing properties; was town manager in the past
 Pearl Barto, Schoodic Area Chamber of Commerce
 Linda Elliot: Schoodic Chamber of Commerce
 Jim and Pat Close, Acadia View B&B
 Peter Drinkwater, Winter Harbor 5&10 and Schoodic Byways Committee
 Yvonne Davis, DE Salmon Resource Center and SERC
 Elmer Beal, Restaurant owner
 Approx 50 Participants at Maine Fishermen Forum Session on « Fisheries to Tourism » March 2010

Appendix 2

Resources

Resources recommended by participants (consider including this on the brochure or in other materials)

- A Maritime History of Maine by Roger Duncan
- Working the Sea by Wendell Seavey
- Children's book: Burt Dow-"Deep Water Man"
- Booklet about 1st woman lighthouse keeper- Marc Island (Stonington region)
- NE Historical Films
- 1947 film about Schoodic "Lobster Town"
- 1884 Goode: Fisheries Synopsis
- 1880 Atlas
- McClain's island books
- Maine Sea Fisheries
- "The Peninsula" by Louise Dickerson Rich
- My Island Lighthouse

- Winter Harbor
- A Summering Place
- Wind off the Water
- A Maine Hamlet
- Acheson's books
-

Heritage tourism statistics (participants asked for links to the stats that were mentioned in the introductory presentation at some of the focus meetings)

- US Culture and Heritage Tourism Marketing Council's recent major study in partnership with U.S. Department of Commerce and National Trust for Historic Preservation, can be found at http://www.uscht.com/media_uscht.html (look for Oct. 21, 2009 media release)
- For general culture and heritage tourism stats: http://www.experiencewa.com/industry/IndustryPage_pid-108400.html

Appendix 3

Existing sites in Washington County (as described by Jen Peters from SCEC at Machias meeting)

Destination sites, waterfront sites, and parks.

- 1) Milbridge Historical Society
- 2) Milbridge. There is an interpretive panel at the marina. Local boy scouts have helped stewarding this site in the past.
- 3) Wild Salmon Resource Center. They have a hatchery and give tours. They are building a new facility in East Machias.
- 4) The Downeast Institute. Location has changed - they are now on Great Wass Island. They are expanding the facility to include an education center – construction is planned for this summer. This new facility will be a great site for summer visitation. The trail fits in really well with the organization's mission. They are already giving a lot of tours and planning new events, including an annual field day. DEI wants to stay connected, stay on the trail and participate through the new facility.
- 5) Jonesport Waterfront. This is a working harbor. There's currently no interpretive information but all you have to do is stand there for 10 minutes and you get your education. Perhaps the sardine museum should be a stop on the trail – this is a new museum, maybe 2 years old. The library could also be a stop – it has a digital heritage center that is in large part fisheries related. Beals Island Historical Society is opening up a heritage museum that will have lots of fisheries related information.
- 6) Bad Little Falls, Machias. This is a park with an interpretive sign
- 7) Cutler Harbor. This is a working harbor
- 8) Quoddy Head State Park
- 9) Lubec. Used to have sign, but it fell and was picked up by town who had no notion of project until Jen happened to see it at town offices. McCurdy's was recommended as a site. DFT should connect with the Fisherman's Memorial project – The Department of Conservation has deeded some land near the boat launch for a memorial site.
- 10) Cobscook Bay State Park. The Boat launch is an active working waterfront – 7-9 draggers operate out of this location, launching in Edmunds. The campground has year round staff and interacts with a lot of visitors. Campers can legally dig a peck of clams per person per day. Park could distribute brochures, show a window sign, they have a year round presence.
- 11) Gleason Cove. There is a boat launch here plus a view of old weirs
- 12) Cobscook Bay, near Eastport. The sign is currently located at the old Cobscook Bay Resource Center site at Carrying Place Cove (focus clams and tides). No one is maintaining it anymore but it is anymore.

- 13) Eastport. Cobscook Bay Resource Center has a new location overlooking the breakwater pier. Will Hopkins and Heidi Leighton are contacts but asked Chris Bartlett to attend the meeting in their stead. They are interested in staying involved and can help maintaining signs. Their office or the Breakwater pier itself would be good locations for a stop on the trail.
- 14) Shackford Head State Park. Has a great view of Estes Head and aquaculture sites. Visitors have lost of questions about the lease sites. Work is planned on trails this summer.