

Downeast Forum on Coastal Access

Thursday, January 19th, 2006
Carter Conference Center of the Machias Motor Inn.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Recent, widespread shifts in coastal land ownership and uses are bringing about change in the traditional patterns of coastal access in Maine. These changes have important impacts on water-dependant industries as well as recreational and private property users.

WORKSHOP PURPOSE: To bring together people with diverse coastal access interests to encourage: sharing of perceived problems; finding common ground; sharing resources and tools; developing cooperative, collaborative, and mutually-beneficial solutions in Downeast Maine.

8:30AM – 9:00AM Coffee and Registration

9:00 AM: Welcome, Introductions, and Goals for the Day

Ted Hoskins, Maine Sea Coast Mission

9:15 AM: Opening Address

Senator Dennis Damon, District 28, Trenton, Maine

Introduction by Jim Connors, Maine State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program

9:30 –10:00: Data Sharing and Mapping Overview

Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other inventories for mapping and managing coastal access resources.

Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Will Hopkins, Cobscook Bay Resource Center

Shey Veditz, Island Institute

10:00-10:15: Break

Refreshments and social time

10:15 – 12:00 Panel Discussion

Identifying issues and sharing perspectives related to coastal access.

Tess Ftorek, Cobscook Hikes and Paddles, Robinston, Maine

Kristan Porter, Commercial Fisherman, Cutler, Maine

Sebastian Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association, Hallowell, Maine

Skip Rogers, Federal Marine Terminals, Eastport, Maine

Brian Beal, University of Maine at Machias, Machias, Maine

Oscar Look, Municipal Official, Addison, Maine

Julie Farris, Jonesport Realty, Jonesport, Maine

12:00-12:45: Lunch

Lunch is provided to registered participants

12:45-2:00: Panel Discussion

Solutions: Different ways that Maine people have addressed coastal access issues.

Judy East, Washington County Council of Governments, Calais, Maine

Robin Alden, Penobscot East Resource Center, Stonington, Maine

Kathy Messier, Harbor Master, Belfast, Maine

Cindy Smith, Department of Marine Resources

Lee Hudson, Taunton Bay- Bay Management Study Pilot Project, Hancock, Maine
Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Wiscasset, Maine
Alan Brooks, Quoddy Regional Land Trust, Whiting, Maine

2:00-2:15: Charge to the Breakout Groups - Ted Hoskins

2:15- 2:30 Break

Refreshments and social time

2:30-3:30 Breakout Groups

Four topic areas from the previous panel discussion will focus on broadening opportunities for success with coastal access initiatives. These sessions are intended to be discussion-oriented and the people listed here have agreed to help lead the discussion.

Acquisition: Ways to acquire coastal access including topics such Right of Way Discovery grants, purchase, working with land trusts, Land for Maine's Future, Maine Coast Protection Initiative, etc.

Alan Brooks, Quoddy Regional Land Trust
Pat Watson, Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Cindy Smith, Department of Marine Resources

Facilities: Improving the access facilities that you have with external funding opportunities.

Mike Bush, Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Kevin Rousseau, Maine Department of Transportation
Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Bridging of cultures: Conflict resolution initiatives and solutions that look at diverse waterfront users.

Ted Hoskins, Maine Sea Coast Mission
Judy East, Washington County Council of Governments
Robin Alden, Penobscot East Resource Center

Planning: Ways to address harbor management planning, including introductions to supporting organizations and discussion of the current use taxation of commercial waterfront properties

Jim Connors, Maine State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program
Kathy Messier, Harbor Master
Lee Hudson, Taunton Bay- Bay Management Study Pilot Project

3:30 -4:00 Forum Wrap-up - Ted Hoskins

Take-home lessons from the forum and next steps

Please fill out the evaluation waiting for you in your email inbox when you get home!

This forum is organized by a planning committee representing several organizations including: University of Maine Sea Grant/Cooperative Extension, University of Maine at Machias, Island Institute, Sunrise County Economic Council, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Sea Coast Mission, Washington County Council of Governments, and Coastal Enterprises Inc.,