

Maine Midden Minders: Citizen Scientists Documenting Change & Protecting Coastal Cultural Heritage

Alice R. Kelley

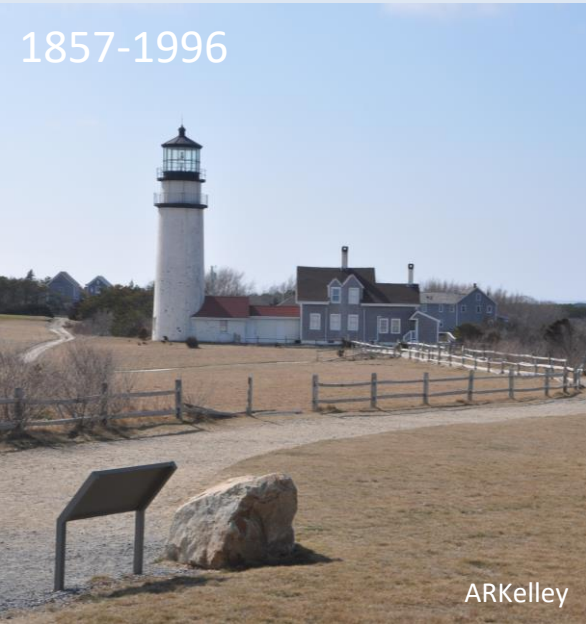
School of Earth and Climate Sciences & Climate Change Institute, University of
Maine, Orono, ME,

Beaches Conference

June 14, 2019



Lighthouses get all the love.....



**Highland Light,
Cape Cod, MA
\$1.5 Million**

**Southeast Light,
Block Island, RI
≈ \$2 Million**

**Hatteras Light
Cape Hatteras, NC
\$11.8 Million**

Meanwhile... 1,000's of years of info are lost



Clam shell
Middens



Oyster shell
Middens



Coastal Shell Middens/Heaps/Mounds: Human-Generated Accumulations of Shells



CLAM



OYSTER

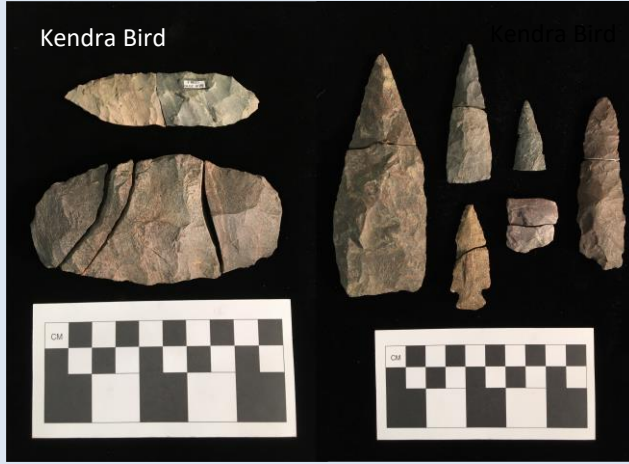
- Layered
- Associated with organic-rich layers
- Contain artifacts, faunal, floral remains



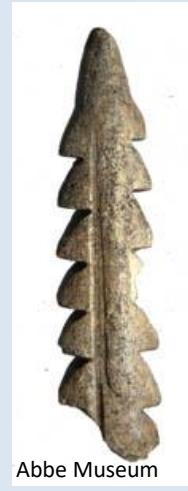
Up to 4,000 Years of Cultural Record



Ceramics



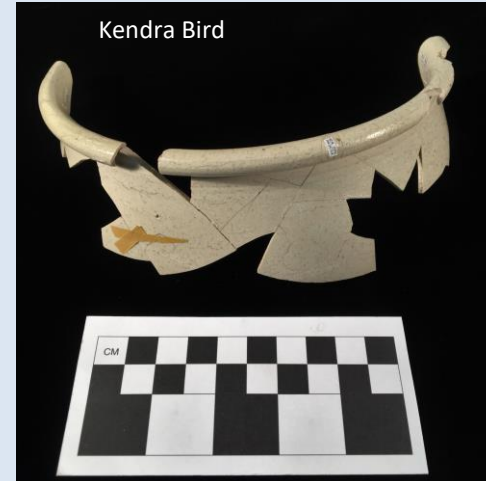
Lithics



Bone Artifacts



17th Century French



18th Century English

4,000 Years of Paleoenvironmental Info



Western Gulf of Maine Species

- Unique Preservation
- Species Presence/Absence
- Seasonality
- Changing Population Dynamics

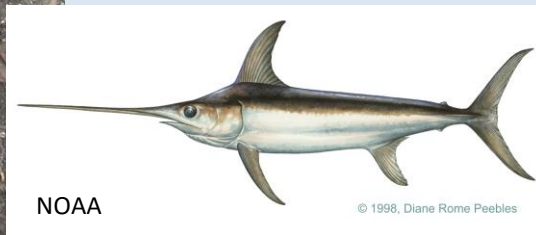


<http://www.extinctanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Sea-Mink-Images.jpg>

SEA MINK



GREAT AUK



SWORDFISH



Indigenous Lifeways

Wabanaki: People of the Dawnland

4 Federally Recognized Tribes

Maliseet

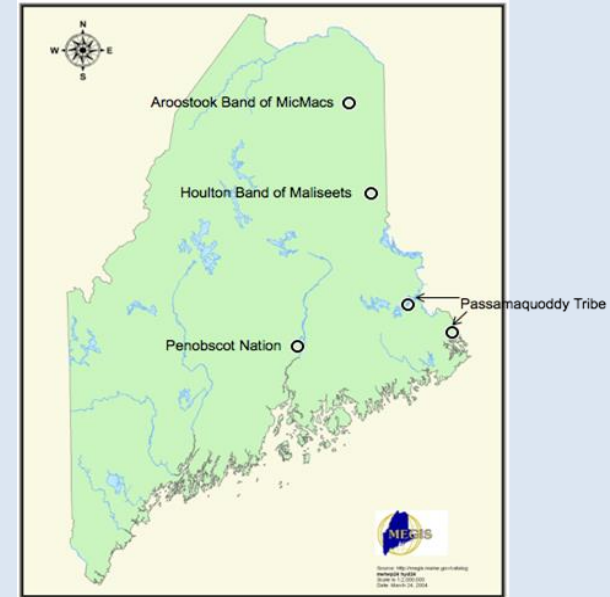
MicMac

Passamaquoddy

Penobscot



Source: Penobscot Cultural and Historic Preservation Department



Source: Penobscot Cultural and Historic Preservation Department



Source: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2017/nrs_2017_carr_001.pdf

But there's a problem...



Maine Midden Minders Network: Citizen Scientists Monitoring Maine's Middens

Website: umaine.edu/middenminders

- Shell Midden Information
- Midden Minder Opportunities
 - Annual Surveys
 - Monthly Midden Minding
 - Storm Chaser
- Registration Information
- Monitoring Protocols
- Database and entry instructions

Email: middenminders@umaine.edu

