



NOAA

on America's Coasts



Maine's economy is inextricably linked to its coast. Recent estimates indicate that 60% of Maine's GDP can be traced to marine-related businesses including tourism, fisheries, and shipbuilding. The majority of Maine's population resides in coastal counties, and coastal growth is projected to continue, bringing opportunities as well as challenges. In addition to addressing persistent pollution, continued depletion of fisheries, and habitat loss, Maine's coastal communities are confronting ocean energy development in nearshore waters and climate change.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration partners with states to meet these challenges. NOAA's coastal and marine programs in Maine—the University of Maine Sea Grant College Program, Maine Coastal Program, and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve—work collaboratively to meet goals for conservation, management, and development of coastal resources. Each program works in unique, yet complementary ways, adding value to each other's efforts and maximizing return on both state and federal investments.



■ The Maine Coastal Program (MCP), housed in the State Planning Office, has supported state and local management and stewardship of coastal natural resources since 1978. MCP supports coastal community planning; forges innovation in state policy and management approaches; and provides grants to revitalize coastal towns, eliminate coastal pollution, and protect working waterfronts and public access.

www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/



▲ The Maine Sea Grant College Program was founded at the University of Maine in 1980. Sea Grant sponsors relevant, applicable research at Maine's higher education and research institutions, provides scientific support to decision makers, and engages communities in collaborative problem solving through extension, outreach, and education.

www.seagrant.umaine.edu



◆ Located on 2,250 acres of Maine's southern coast, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (WNERR) provides a living research laboratory for increasing our understanding of coastal and estuarine ecosystems that applies to other regions of Maine and the nation, while also conserving natural resources and delivering state-of-the-art public engagement and education programs.

www.wellsnerr.org

Through effective local engagement, Maine's programs define and address problems at the community scale, where change and conflict are both most acute and most likely to be solved.

▲ Sea Grant is conducting social science research to understand community perspectives and information needs related to climate change, while scientists at WNERR monitor the effects of warming temperatures and sea level rise on coastal ecosystems. Findings from these projects are shared with ▲ Sea Grant, Cooperative Extension, and ◆ WNERR educators, who provide science-based information to decision makers. ■ MCP is mapping coastal flood vulnerability and working with state and local officials on adaptation policies.



◆ WNERR works with towns and the Sea Grant-supported Maine Healthy Beaches Program to identify and clean up pollution sources in coastal watersheds. ▲ Sea Grant has tested novel methods for tracking pollution sources, while ■ MCP helps develop policies to improve **water quality** in Maine's rivers and coastal waters.

■ MCP created a pilot project for communities to experiment with innovative ways to manage fisheries, eelgrass, and land use in the unique Taunton Bay ecosystem, a process facilitated by ▲ Sea Grant. Meanwhile, ◆ WNERR offers statewide training for managers on the practice of **ecosystem-based management**.



▲ Sea Grant-funded research has aided the development of Maine's aquaculture industry, and improved stock assessment of lobster and other commercially important **seafood** species. ■ MCP has worked to improve regulatory approaches to lobster, scallops, and urchins through stakeholder input. ◆ WNERR provides a living laboratory for studying the role of estuaries in providing critical nursery habitat for fish and shellfish.

All of NOAA's coastal programs are working together to preserve and enhance Maine's working waterfronts, balancing competing demands for **water access**. ■ MCP manages the Working Waterfront Access Protection Program; ▲ Sea Grant conducts legal research and facilitates community dialogue.

