

## Maine Beaches Conference 12 July 2013 Concurrent Session Notes: Maine's Ever-Changing Beaches

### Joe Kelley

Examples of what to look for in the development and erosion of beaches. Sand Beach in Acadia is made up of sea shells. The beach and storms washed it in to place about 4-5000 years ago. The beach has changed over the years, a berm crest forming and eroding. A storm eroded the beach in 2007 and it has since recovered. Sand can come and go (examples from Popham, Old Orchard, Seawall, Ferry, Lubec, Jasper beaches). Beaches are different depending on the sand that exists in the area.

*Q. What is theory about leaving seaweed on beach or move it back?* Does not matter. There is not much sand in the seaweed, not enough to affect beach behavior, but put it in dunes if you move it.

*Q. Drakes Island when was it salt marsh?* It was a freshwater marsh maybe 4-5000 years ago based on carbon dating of trees.

*Q. Camp Ellis proposed spur jetty, what will it do?* I don't know.

### Rob Sanford

Beaches represent a gathering point and a sending point based on traditional corridors that Native Americans used. Very few sites get excavated; 520 sites in Casco bay area have been excavated. VibraCore studies have been done to find plant species to determine environmental change. Beach sites are the most vulnerable and exposed and thus are important to provide information for archeological sites. Sites have been benchmarked in order to determine changes of the erosion and beach change. Sea level rise will inundate these sites. What happened in the past does not tell us anything about the future.

Ready site in Casco Bay found a number of spear points. Geoarchaeology of the site was important due to rapid changes to the beaches from sea level rise storms etc.

Session participants filled out a questionnaire about values of beach archaeology and research.