

Working Waterfront Access: A Forum on Challenges and Solutions

December 17, 2003
University of Maine Darling Marine Center

Hosted by the Gulf of Maine Foundation

With support from Maine Sea Grant/Cooperative Extension, Maine Coastal Program and Island Institute

Goal of the forum:

Maine's waterfront communities face rapid changes in shoreline ownership, development, and coastal access. "Working Waterfront Access" will highlight information and experiences, across industries and communities, and the tools available to shape the future of Maine's working waterfront. The goal of the forum is to emphasize the value of a diverse waterfront in Maine, and to identify challenges and solutions for waterfront-dependent communities and businesses.

Ted Hoskins of the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society will moderate the day's events

Morning

8:30 – 9am

Registration

9 – 9:15am

Introductions/Welcome Gulf of Maine Foundation, Maine Sea Grant, Maine Coastal Program, Island Institute

9:15 – 9:45 am

Keynote: Governor John Baldacci with Senator Dennis Damon

9:45 – 10:30am

What are the threats? What are communities doing about them?

A presentation of the CEI/Sunrise County reports that have yielded results on the current status of working waterfront access in Maine.

Speaker: Chris Spruce, Sunrise Economic Council

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12noon

Panel discussion

The goal of this discussion is to bring together a broad group of stakeholders (including harbormasters, fishermen, marine trades, tourism sector, freight and passenger, local planners and private dock owners) and, with help from the audience, identify challenges to coastal access for industry and waterfront dependent communities. The format will be 10 min/speaker to provide answers to the questions and then 20 minutes for discussion.

Speakers: Susan Swanton, Maine Marine Trades Association; Katherine Messier, State Harbor Masters Association; Paul Travis, Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors; Mr. Malcolm 'Laddie' Whidden, of Harpswell, Fishing Community Representative; Terry Sortwell, LandVest, Inc.; Jim Barstow, Monhegan Boat Line

Discussion Question I: What is a Working Waterfront?

What are the diverse components of a working waterfront? How do we achieve a balanced waterfront, manage conflicts, apply planning and regulations, protect and enhance access sites and facilities to shape the future of working waterfronts?

Discussion Question II: What are the Challenges to Access Today and in the Future?

What are the challenges to access for various stakeholders and how are the challenges evolving?

12 – 1pm

Lunch Provided by Maine Sea Grant

12:30 – 2pm (starts once people are settled during lunch)

Local Experiences: an overview of recent examples that have addressed challenges to access

12:30-12:45 Introduction

12:45-1:45 Local Examples – business response, cooperative response, government response, community response, and non-profit response.

1:45-2:00 Summary

Speakers: Jim Connors, Maine Coastal Program; Dana Rice, Fishermen and Dealer; Dana Faulkingham, North End Fishermen's Cooperative; Bill Needelman, Portland City Planner; Joey Donnelly, *York Harbor Board*; Dave Schmanska, *St. George Harbormaster*

2:00-4pm

Break out sessions:

The break out sessions are intended to get into much more depth about the options for solutions that were outlined above in "Local Experiences." A resource person, someone who may manage funds or state programs or other tools, will lead each session. The leader will give an overview of the models, methods, and tools under consideration. The hope is that municipalities, businesses or any individuals who have used some of these tools will be on hand to talk about their cases. Participants will be encouraged to bring their community's issue to the table for the group to brainstorm solutions.

Break-out session topics include:

- **A Business Response:** How does the private sector attain working access to the water? How has a new fishing enterprise gone about arranging access to and from the water? And aquaculture or kayak or cruise boat company?
Resource person – Hugh Cowperthwaite, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- **A Cooperative Response:** How can fishermen ensure their access to the waterfront, the formation of a coop and purchase of a water front facility.
Resource person – Ralph Lombardi, Realtor
- **A Local Government Response:** Public acquisition and management of sites and facilities; planning and regulations.
Resource person – Kevin Rousseau, DOT Small Harbor Improvement Program
- **A Non-profit Response:** The Land Trust option
Resource person – Betsy Ham, Project Manager MCHT

WRAP UP

4 - 4:45pm

Open discussion of the days information sharing

4:45-5pm

Concluding Remarks