

**Taking Action Across the Coast
The Beaches Conference Friday
June 14, 2019**

Moderator: Emily Greene, Wells Reserve and UNE

Note Taker: Emily Greene, Wells Reserve and UNE

Adaptation Planning

Speaker: Andrew Dorr Vinalhaven

- Motivations for change.
- Understanding and assessing the problem
- Maine Flood Resilience Checklist
 - What is the MFRC?
 - Self-assessment tool for Maine communities
 - Helps towns prepare for respond to and recover from flooding events

 - Checklists help communities incorporate coastal flooding considerations into ordinances, comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, and other town plans.
- How does it work?
 - Series of yes or no questions that assess:
 - Risk and vulnerability
 - Critical infrastructure and facilities
 - Community planning
 - Social and economic vulnerability
 - Natural environment
- Opportunities to learn more about the MFRC
 - Saturday, October 20th, 2019 9am-4pm
 - To discuss local flood vulnerability
 - How well existing plans, policies and actions address flood hazards
 - Ways to enhance resilience
- Building community resilience
 - Checklist actions: build resilience into planning, develop hazard mitigation plan, formalize EM plans, join FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS).
 - Community engagement: outreach and education, inform and consult, citizen

science engagement, strengthen and build partnerships.

- o Funding: seek funding opportunities, grants and loans, community grant/low-interest, loan program for adaptation implementation.
- Vinalhaven's vision
 - o Assess economic impact and feasibility of options: economic impact study, cost benefit analysis of options.
 - o Planning and implementation: adaptation? Relocation?

Rising Seas: Keeping our History Above Water Strawberry Banke

Speaker: Rodney Rowland

- Houses were built in the 1600's
- There is a lot of Native American history at Strawberry Banke that is currently being washed away by sea level rise.
- They receive 100,000 visitors every year.
- Most prominent problems are fresh and salt water infiltration in houses/basements, infrastructure problems
- It takes an incredible amount of money to fix and maintain these houses and the only way that they can do it is through adaptation and collaborative partnerships.

Reducing Plastic Consumption

Speaker: Keith Tharp

- Helped 28 restaurants and businesses eliminate single use plastics
- No plastic waste result
- Removed more than 100,000 straws from restaurants

Speaker: Sarah Perez Seacoast Science Center, Marine Mammal Rescue Team

- There are 4 full time staff, 3 part-time
- 1 consulting veterinarian
- 42 volunteer field responders
- Their location of operation is all of NH including Great Bay, Little Bay, Hampton-Seabrook, Isles of Shoals (star, Lunging, White), and MA (Salisbury to Essex)/
- What do they see most often during the year: grey seals, harbor seals, harp seals, hooded seals.

- Goals
 - Minimize health and safety threats to both humans and animals
 - Educate the public about the animals they see on the beaches
 - Lessen the pain and suffering of animals
 - Collect scientific data
 - Comply with legal agreements with government agencies
- Monitoring live animals
 - Post signs, establish perimeter
 - Keep public at a safe distance
 - Keep a field responder stationed there when possible
 - Monitor animal's health progression/regression
 - Relocate and flipper tag if needed
- Assessment of sick/injured/abandoned seals
 - Monitor
 - Seek rehabilitation space
 - Collect animal/triage and transport
 - Rehab/release
- You can help by remembering 3 things:
 - Keep back
 - Call 997-9449
 - Contribute to the Marine Mammal Rescue Team

Creating and Marketing a Green Crab Fishery

Speaker: Gabriela Bradt

- Utilizing an underserved commodity
- Soft shelled green crabs can make great bait but can also be eaten and fried
- Green crabs eat and destroy eelgrass, shellfish beds, can consume up to 40 clams a day, contribute to erosion problems along salt marshes, etc.
- One solution: Chefs and scientists urge people to eat more green crabs. Green crabs are economically cheaper, but can be prepared as well as native soft-shelled species that are consumed.
- By focusing on creating a “fishery” and market for green crabs, fishermen can continue to make their living off of marine resources while having a positive ecosystem effect (reducing the numbers of green crabs).

- o Consumers can enjoy homegrown delicacies while having a positive economic effect for NH Fisheries.

UMass Boston Back to the Beach with the Maine Law Court

Speaker: John Duff

- Who owns the seaweed? Ownership of rock weed across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Up until January 2014, the issue of “ownership of intertidal seaweed remains unresolved.”
- Based on Justinian principles, “Things common to mankind by the law of nature, are the air, running water, consequently the shores of the sea.” – Justinian, the Institutes of Justinian 2.1.1 (Thomas Cooper trans. & ed., 1841)
- In ME and MA, the Public Trust Doctrine states that homeowners can own up to the low water line, the States continue to hold the *jus publicum* (trust) even though the *jus privatum* (proprietary) title is privately held.
- Beach law has been a point of contention as well as puzzling for 1,500 years.
- On March 28, 2019, Maine’s top court ruled that rockweed belongs to the landowner if it is within the low tide line.
- There are three zones of tidal ownership:
 - o Below low tide: coastal waters and out to 3 nautical miles, the low tide and submerged lands included. Ownership is protected by the State of Maine and is held in public trust.
 - o Intertidal zone: includes high tide, and typically is private with public rights to “fish”, “fowl” and “navigate”.
 - o Upland: Typically private with public rights as granted by gift, easement, etc.