



Maine Coastal Program



The soft clang of a bell buoy bobbing gently on a breezy day; the bow-splashing rhythm of a lobsterboat heading out to haul traps; the scent of salt air and rockweed;

these seacoast scenes are synonymous with Maine. The state's rugged shoreline, stretching 5,300 miles from Quoddy Head to Kittery, is Maine's signature feature.

This coast needs our attention and care if we're to maintain its environmental and economic health. The Maine Coastal Program works with various partners toward the shared goal of a healthy coast and vibrant coastal communities. With a core staff based at the Maine State Planning Office, the Coastal Program also includes various state agencies, coastal municipalities, regional planning commissions and many nongovernmental partner organizations.



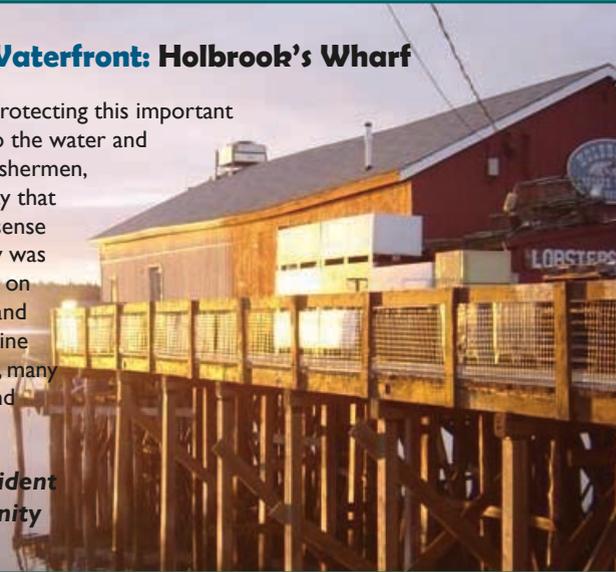
Why Was the Coastal Program Created?

In 1972 Congress responded to the rapid deterioration of coastal areas throughout the nation by passing the Coastal Zone Management Act. Administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the law authorized funding for state coastal programs around the country to improve the environmental and economic health of America's coastal areas. The Maine Coastal Program was established in 1978 and is administered by the State Planning Office.

Preserving Working Waterfront: Holbrook's Wharf

"We've achieved our vision of protecting this important property to preserve access to the water and fishing infrastructure for our fishermen, and we've protected a property that in very large part defines our sense of community. The opportunity was only made possible by drawing on the strengths of many people and organizations, including the Maine Coastal Program. It took many, many people to make this happen, and we're grateful to them all."

~Bill Mangum, President
Holbrook Community
Foundation

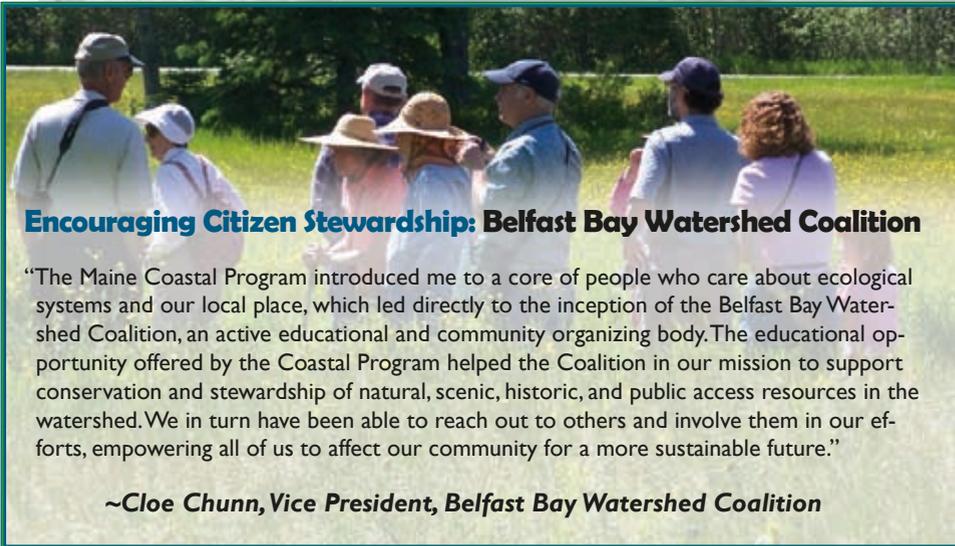


Elsa Martz

Encouraging Citizen Stewardship: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

"The Maine Coastal Program introduced me to a core of people who care about ecological systems and our local place, which led directly to the inception of the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, an active educational and community organizing body. The educational opportunity offered by the Coastal Program helped the Coalition in our mission to support conservation and stewardship of natural, scenic, historic, and public access resources in the watershed. We in turn have been able to reach out to others and involve them in our efforts, empowering all of us to affect our community for a more sustainable future."

~Cloe Chunn, Vice President, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition



BBWC

Maine Coastal Program MISSION

To sustain coastal resources and enhance the maritime economy by...

- ~ Building vibrant, healthy communities and maintaining coastal character
- ~ Retaining and improving access for water-dependent businesses
- ~ Helping citizens and municipal officials reduce nonpoint source pollution
- ~ Encouraging Maine citizens to become active coastal stewards
- ~ Conserving ecologically valuable coastal lands
- ~ Managing marine resources in ways that are biologically and socially sound
- ~ Restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats
- ~ Preserving Maine's sand beaches for storm protection, habitat conservation, and public recreation
- ~ Building and strengthening local officials' capacity to administer and enforce regulations

Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution: Maine Clean Boatyards Marinas Program

"The Clean Marinas program has been great for our business—our employees bring a renewed awareness of environmental stewardship in our daily practices at the yard. And from a marketing standpoint, flying the clean boatyards flag shows our professionalism and commitment to the boating community."

~Sandy McGaw, General Manager
Wayfarer Marine



Headwaters

What Does the Coastal Program Do?

The Maine Coastal Program distributes over two million dollars in Federal funds annually—matched by state and local sources—to enable on-the-ground projects that benefit Maine's coastal communities. Whether remediating coastal pollution, fostering clean coastal industries, promoting smarter municipal planning, or encouraging citizens to become caring stewards of their coastal resources, the Coastal Program constantly seeks ways to improve the quality of life on Maine's coast.

Conserving Ecologically-Valuable Coastal Lands: Maquoit Bay

"Thanks to the cooperation of many committed individuals and organizations, including the Maine Coastal Program, we conserved 167 acres of prime undeveloped land in Brunswick—including over a mile of undeveloped shoreline. From an ecological standpoint, this has protected important salt-water marsh habitat critical to the health and regeneration of many species. And from a recreational standpoint, we nearly doubled the town's public access to water."

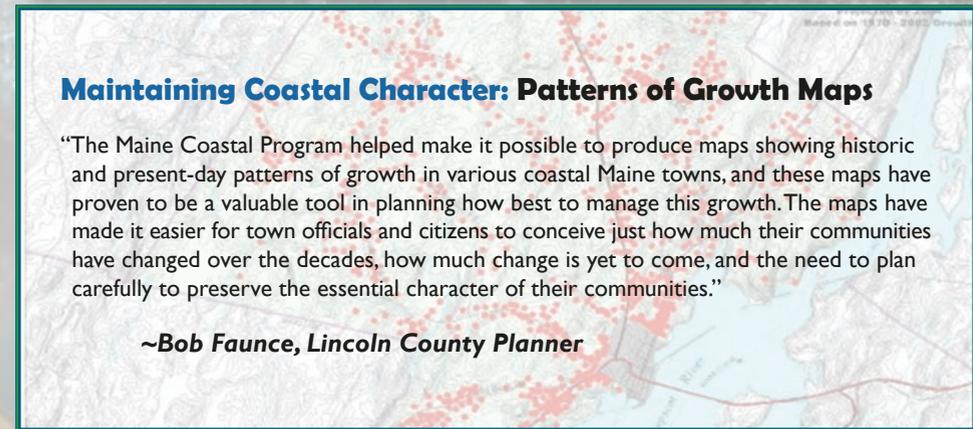
~Vanessa Levesque, Conservation Planner, Town of Brunswick



Maintaining Coastal Character: Patterns of Growth Maps

"The Maine Coastal Program helped make it possible to produce maps showing historic and present-day patterns of growth in various coastal Maine towns, and these maps have proven to be a valuable tool in planning how best to manage this growth. The maps have made it easier for town officials and citizens to conceive just how much their communities have changed over the decades, how much change is yet to come, and the need to plan carefully to preserve the essential character of their communities."

~Bob Faunce, Lincoln County Planner





Headwaters

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