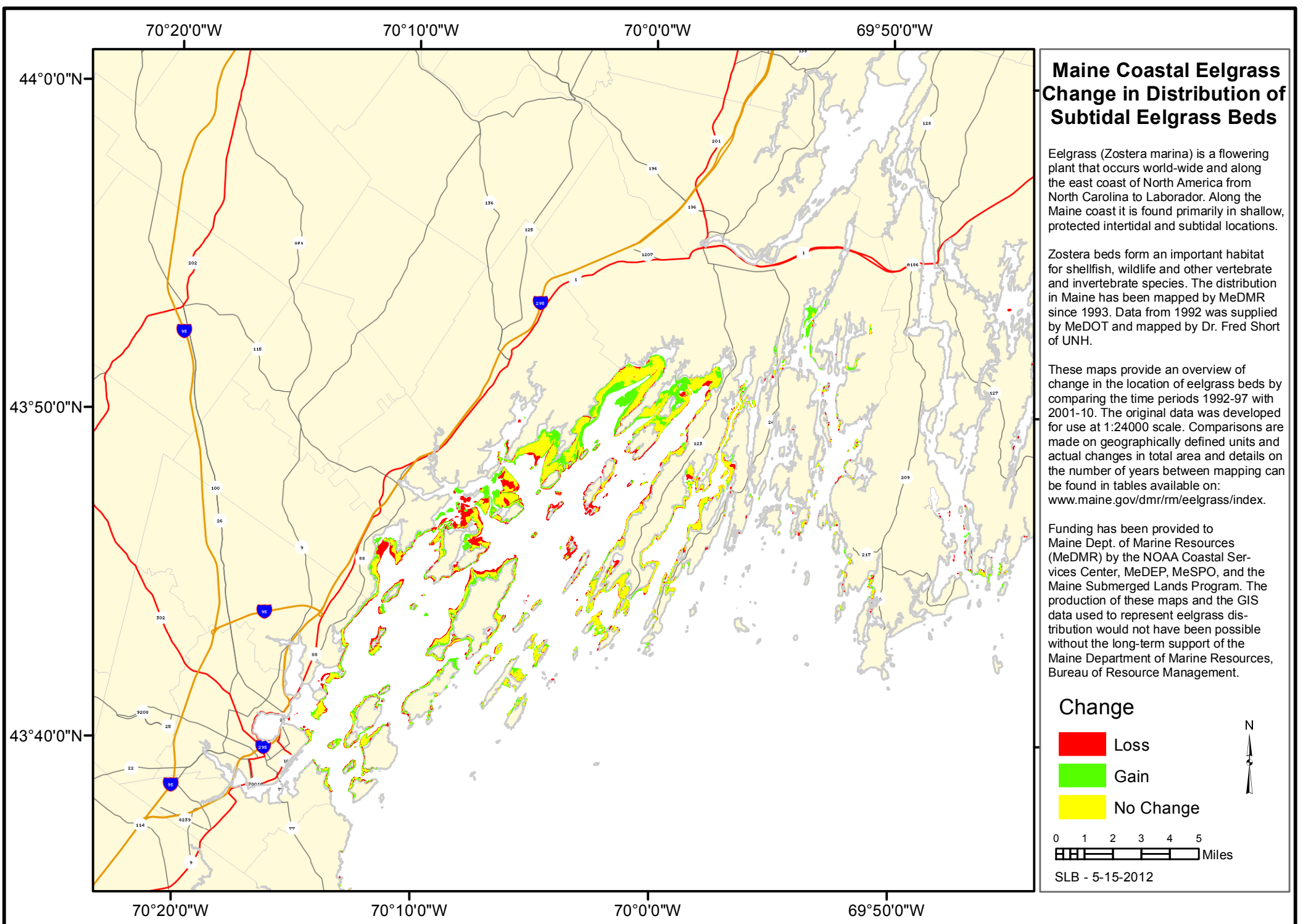

Maine Coastal Eelgrass Change in Distribution of Subtidal Eelgrass Beds

Eelgrass (Zostera marina) is a flowering plant that occurs world-wide and along the east coast of North America from North Carolina to Laborador. Along the Maine coast it is found primarily in shallow, protected intertidal and subtidal locations.

Zostera beds form an important habitat for shellfish, wildlife and other vertebrate and invertebrate species. The distribution in Maine has been mapped by MeDMR since 1993. Data from 1992 was supplied by MeDOT and mapped by Dr. Fred Short of UNH.

These maps provide an overview of change in the location of eelgrass beds by comparing the time periods 1992-97 with 2001-10. The original data was developed for use at 1:24000 scale. Comparisons are made on geographically defined units and actual changes in total area and details on the number of years between mapping can be found in tables available on: www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/eelgrass/index.

Funding has been provided to Maine Dept. of Marine Resources (MeDMR) by the NOAA Coastal Services Center, MeDEP, MeSPO, and the Maine Submerged Lands Program. The production of these maps and the GIS data used to represent eelgrass distribution would not have been possible without the long-term support of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Resource Management.

Change

- Loss
- Gain
- No Change

N

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

SLB - 5-15-2012

Cape Elizabeth to Small Point (Map 3 of 11)

Eelgrass distribution GIS data can be obtained from the Maine Office of GIS (MeGIS). For information on maps produced for this project please contact the Maine Department of Marine Resources, (207) 633-9500.