

Maine Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan



Maine State Planning Office
Maine Coastal Program

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Maine Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan

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Introduction

Background

The Department of Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-77, Codified as 16 U.S.C. 1456d), directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas. The Program's emphasis is on lands that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. Further priority is placed on lands which can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value. The law directed the Secretary to issue guidelines for this program delineating the criteria for grant awards including demonstrated need and ability to successfully leverage funds and to consider the distribution of funds in consultation with representatives of each state, as designated by the state's coastal zone manager or Governor.

In 2009 Congress amended the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) authorizing the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) (Public Law 111-11, Codified as 16 U.S.C. 1451-1 as section 307A of the CZMA) and placing its management under the National Ocean Service (NOS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). This law refined and added program requirements, project criteria and program considerations – most importantly reserving 15 percent of CELCP funds for projects benefiting the National Estuarine Research Reserves, clarifying match requirements (exemption for under-served communities), requiring that funded projects complement working waterfront needs, adding guidance on limitations and protections of private property rights (willing sellers, limiting liability, and clarifying rights for public use) and separating any acquisitions from land use regulation authority. This law also authorized the program at a level of \$60 million each year through 2013. Actual funding is subject to annual appropriations.

The CELCP is run as a competitive grant program under the authority cited above. Prior to the FY07 round of projects, Maine conservation efforts benefited from congressional special appropriations for CELCP projects. After 2007, Maine projects successfully competed for the available national funding. Table 1 in Appendix E presents a summary of the projects funded in Maine throughout 2009.

Each year, since 2007, Maine has nominated three (the maximum allowed) strong projects for federal funding from the program. In the fiscal years 2010 and 2011 competitions, Maine projects scored well, but the number of qualified projects exceeded the amount of funding appropriated to the program.

A state CELCP plan is required for participation in the national competitive funding program and qualifies coastal states to submit conservation projects for national program funding. In 2005, the state submitted its initial program plan which was accepted on a draft basis sufficient to qualify the state to participate in the program. This version of the plan incorporates program experience, statutory changes, and the evolution of program policies.

Land conservation, especially in coastal areas, is a high priority for the state of Maine and its citizens. At the state level, the 1997 Governor's Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee identified the state's coastal area as a priority conservation focus area for funding from the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program. In addition to LMF funding, coastal conservation efforts over the past decade have been greatly aided by the work of national, regional, and local land trusts and conservation organizations. The work of these critical partners helps protect critical coastal resources and secures public access, while assuring long-term management and responsible use of protected lands.

Purpose of Plan

In order to qualify to receive funds under the national competitive program, a coastal state must develop and submit to NOAA, for approval, a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan that provides an assessment of priority conservation needs and establishes clear guidance for selecting and nominating land conservation projects from within the state. According to NOAA guidance, state plans must be developed and submitted by the state lead agency, in conjunction with the state coastal management program (if different from the lead agency) plus any National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) in that state or any other state or federal agencies involved in coastal land acquisition, conservation, or management within the state; as well as, other interested parties.

The Maine CELCP is a program management plan and not an acquisition plan. As a program plan, it is crafted to guide state actions necessary to review and nominate coastal conservation projects for federal funding under the CELCP program. It is not a master plan or preference list for state land acquisitions. It does express priorities for land conservation through reference to existing resource management and protection plans, other resource evaluations, and ongoing conservation programs. The Plan sets up a process to review and evaluate projects, which in turn, supports the selection and nomination of projects to NOAA in response to competitive funding opportunities.

The state CELCP guides the activities of the Maine Coastal Program in providing support for CELCP-qualified projects for funding either by Congressional appropriation or competitive funding under a national program for coastal conservation. In addition, this Plan can help guide decisions when a letter of support from the State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program is requested for a land conservation project in the coastal area.

The Planning Process

The original State Program Plan was prepared in conjunction with the development of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative (MCPI), a collaborative effort of the Land Trust Alliance, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Maine State Planning Office, and a coalition of coastal land trusts and conservation organizations who work together to increase the pace and quality of coastal land conservation. The overlap in the purposes of the two efforts and the opportunity to engage crucial stakeholders in the planning process created an ideal setting for the planning process. Representatives of over forty federal and state agencies, municipalities, conservation organizations, and land trusts participated in discussions contributing to the preparation of the initial CELCP Plan. These stakeholders developed a common agreement of conservation priorities along the coast, accepted a definition of the geographic extent of the program, and identified data gaps and supported further assessments of conservation priorities.

This version of the state's CELCP program plan incorporates existing statutory requirements, evolving NOAA program policies, and state program experience. The plan may be revised to address emerging issues or future program policy changes. Revisions, additions, etc. are guided by the advice of the State CELCP Committee and stakeholders representing municipal, state, federal, conservation organizations and land trusts operating in the coastal zone. (See also the "public review" section of this document.)

Geographic Extent of Maine's CELCP Program

NOAA guidance defines "coastal and estuarine areas" as those areas in a coastal state that are within the state's coastal zone, as designated in the state's federally approved coastal management program under the CZMA or within the state's coastal watershed boundary as described in NOAA's Coastal Zone Boundary Review (October 1992).

NOAA guidance for establishing the geographic extent of the state's CELCP area includes the option of using the state's declared coastal zone or the option of using a coastal watershed boundary delineation.

The extent of the Maine coastal zone, accepted by NOAA, is established in Maine statute as all coastal municipalities and unorganized townships on tidal waters and all coastal islands. The inland boundary of the coastal area is the town line of coastal towns and the seaward boundary is the outer limit of the United States territorial sea. [1985, c. 794, Pt. A, § 11 (new).]

Maine recognizes, however, that certain land conservation projects in coastal watersheds beyond the state's defined coastal zone could have beneficial impacts on marine and estuarine resources. For example, certain sea-run fish species that migrate inland for spawning would benefit from land conservation projects in coastal watersheds, or projects that protect water quality would have positive benefits to estuarine areas.

In an effort to capitalize on these benefits, Maine has designated the coastal watershed as the eligible CELCP area, however, priority will be given to projects that fall within the coastal zone (See Map 1). Projects that fall outside the coastal zone (but within the watershed) will be considered only if they can demonstrate a direct, positive impact to the CELCP priorities for protection.

Maine’s Priorities for Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection

Maine statute defines “coastal resources” as the “coastal waters of the State and adjacent shore lands, their natural resources and related marine and wildlife habitat that together form an integrated terrestrial, estuarine and marine ecosystem”. [1985, c. 794, Pt. A, § 11 (new).] The purpose of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program is to protect important coastal and estuarine areas, in addition to areas within the coastal watershed that may have a direct impact on CELCP protection priorities that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values with consideration given to the degree of threat of loss, ecological significance, and potential for effective management.

Assessment of Conservation Priorities and Needs

NOAA guidance prescribes that the assessment of conservation needs and priorities include (1) a description of the types of lands or resource values to be protected through the program, (2) an identification of areas to be protected based on national and state criteria, and (3) a description of any existing plans that may be incorporated in the program.

Types of lands or values to be protected through the CELCP

Maine’s resource acquisition and protection priorities fall into four categories:

1. Habitat protection for lands that help maintain healthy populations of plants and animals indigenous to the coast, including lands containing rare and endangered species, as well as relatively large blocks of undeveloped lands that support naturally-functioning populations of plant and wildlife species.
2. Coastal access for recreational and resource management purposes, including lands that provide “working” access to coastal and marine resources. These types of lands and sites can provide significant recreational value, while providing compatible access for resource management and harvesting activities.
3. Scenic and cultural features and areas that protect the scenic qualities of the coast, and help preserve special and unique historical resources and cultural features.

These types of areas, features, and sites contain significant historic and aesthetic values that often epitomize the nature and character of the Maine Coast.

4. Expansion of existing protected areas

Maine's Assessment Method

Maine's assessment of conservation priorities and needs was informed by 1) a review of existing plans and priority statements of land conservation organizations; and 2) by an analysis of data gaps and an effort to address these gaps in order to more fully assess priorities.

To assess land conservation needs and priorities along the Maine coast, the plans and projects of relevant federal, state, coast wide, and regional conservation entities were reviewed. The details of this review are presented in Appendix A. In addition, a data availability analysis was conducted to identify data gaps and any additional inventory, evaluation, and prioritization efforts that were needed. This work is presented in Appendix B.

Conservation organizations and state and federal resource management agencies have identified the following objectives, high priority resources and conservation needs along the Maine coast:

- Creation of eco-reserves, protection of marine diversity, and assurance of ecosystem integrity and health
- Watershed management and protection of water quality
- Protection of plant and animal habitats, including rare, threatened and endangered species, and natural communities necessary to sustain endemic breeding populations
- Augmenting National Wildlife Refuges and state Wildlife Management Areas
- Protecting lands and resources in Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas
- Protection of the integrity and functions of wetlands
- Enhancing National Parks, State Parks and protecting Historic Sites
- Providing public access to the coast
- Providing boating access sites and facilities
- Protecting maritime activities and resources, such as clam flats/shellfish beds
- Securing and enhancing working lands for farming, forestry, and fisheries
- Protecting coastal islands with established recreational access
- Providing rural and urban open space and community parks

Protecting wildlife habitats and maintaining open, undeveloped lands that also provide recreational opportunities and protect scenic qualities is a top priority for most Maine organizations and agencies. Stakeholders commented that land conservation efforts are often targeted to conserving open space and protecting wildlife habitats, with the knowledge that associated features and resource such as shore lands, wetlands, islands, public access, and water quality add value to the project.

In summary, Maine’s coastal conservation priorities are resource-based, and focus on protection of lands and resources that maintain both the natural character of the coast and help preserve ecologic functions. Maine’s CELCP priorities are intended to be inclusive of those of existing public and private conservation efforts along the coast consistent with the purposes of the CELCP program in order to provide flexibility in considering a wide range of project opportunities.

Identification of “project areas” that represent the state’s priority areas for conservation

NOAA guidance calls for the identification of “project areas” that represent the state’s priority areas for conservation based on national and state criteria, and taking into account areas threatened by land use conversion. The guidance document goes on to explain that project areas may consist, for example, of geographic areas or habitat types identified by a state coastal management plan as areas of concern; significant areas within other coastal, estuarine, or watershed management plans that may be priority areas for conservation; or areas that provide linkages or corridors among conservation areas within a geographic area.

As stated above, Maine’s coastal conservation priority areas are determined by the location or occurrence of coastal resources, wildlife habitats, and other lands containing resource values identified in the conservation plans of federal, state, and municipal agencies, conservation organizations and land trusts that also reflect Maine’s priority types of lands and values (as identified in the previous section). The Maine CELCP program aims to support and/or enhance the following conservation efforts and priorities.

- Locations of conserved lands in Maine, including state, federal, and privately held conservation land – See Map 2
- Locations of scenic resources in the Maine – See Map 3
- Locations of locations on the national historic registry – See Map 4
- Locations of coastal water access sites – See Map 5

Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas of Statewide Significance

As a subset of the priorities, Beginning with Habitat (BwH) Focus Areas are natural areas of statewide ecological significance that contain unusually rich concentrations of at-risk species and habitats. These areas, identified by biologists from the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Maine Audubon, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), support rare plants, animals, and natural communities, high quality common natural communities; significant wildlife habitats; and their intersections with large blocks of undeveloped habitat. BwH Focus Area boundaries are drawn based on the species and natural communities that occur within them and the supporting landscape conditions that contribute to the long-term viability of the species, habitats, and community types.

The following table lists the significant focus areas located in the Maine coastal zone including areas with upland, wetland, and marine environments and habitats. The location and general extent of each is depicted on a chart entitled Working Together to Protect Coastal Maine, which is available from the Maine Coastal Program. Geographic locations for these specific areas can be found on the BwH website (http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/groups_programs/comprehensive_strategy/pdfs/state_wide_focus_area_map.pdf).

Coastal Focus Area Name

Acadia East	Maquoit and Middle Bay
Acadia West	Mt. Agamenticus
Bagaduce River	Nash Islands
Belgrade Esker and Kettle Complex	Orange River
Biddeford/Kennebunk Vernal Pool Complex	Penobscot Bay and Islands
Bold Coast	Petit Manan and Bays
Brave Boat Harbor and Gerrish Island	Pleasant Bay
Camden Hills	Ragged Mountain and Bald Mountain
Caribou Bog Wetland Complex	Rockland Bog
Cobscook Bay	Roque Bluffs
Cutler Grasslands	Saco Heath
Englishman Bay	Salt Bay
Gouldsboro Grand Marsh	Scarborough Marsh
Great Cranberry Island Heath	Schoodic Peninsula
Great Heath	Spectacle-Tolman Ponds
	St. Georges River and Associated
Great Sidney Bog	Ponds
Great Wass Archipelago	Taunton Bay
Jonesport Heath	Tunk Lake
Kennebec Estuary	Wells and Ogunquit Marsh
Kennebunk Plains and Wells Barrens	Weskeag Creek
Lower Sheepscot River	Wohoa Bay
Lower St. George River	York River Headwaters
Machias Bay	

A description of existing plans, or elements thereof, that are incorporated into this plan.

Conserving coastal resources is an established priority for the state of Maine. Past and on-going land conservation projects are supported by a variety of inventories, analysis and evaluations, available from various agency and organizations in the form of GIS data layers and published maps and reports. In addition, a variety of resource evaluations and conservation planning reports identify conservation needs and priorities for federal, state, and local conservation organizations

Beginning with Habitat

For the purposes of the CELCP plan, the BwH (<http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/>) coastal conservation focus areas of statewide significance contain the highest priority lands for habitat conservation. The review of data availability (Appendix B) found that some estuarine and marine habitats had not been systematically included in evaluations of conservation priorities along the coast. The state's Beginning with Habitat (BwH) consortium incorporated available marine resources information to identify Coastal Focus Areas of statewide significance. These areas are presented on a coast-wide map and described in the Project Areas section above. Although the Beginning with Habitat Focus areas by definition and design are areas that contain concentrations of multiple resource values, conservationists point out that occurrences of important resources can occur outside of a mapped area, and are also worthy of conservation and protection.

Scenic Assessment Handbook

The Scenic Assessment Handbook is a 'how-to' guide for using the State Planning Office's scenic inventory methodology to identify, evaluate, and document scenic resources and to identify scenic viewpoints of state or national significance for purposes of Title 35-A MRSA Ch. 34-A (Wind Power Law). It is available on-line from the Maine State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program (<http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/publications.html>). In 2009, the scenic resources of coastal Hancock and Washington counties were inventoried using the handbook methodology. The result of this work is also available on the SPO/MCP website. The Washington and Hancock inventory, in addition to inventories completed for the rest of the Maine coast (though in hardbound form, they can be requested or viewed at the Maine State Planning Office) identify areas of state or national significance and land acquisitions adjoining or nearby to these areas would be considered a priority for CELCP. For additional geographic information, please see Map 3.

Saving Working Waterfronts: Mapping the Maine Coast's Economic Future

An inventory of coastal working waterfronts was conducted by the Island Institute in 2004-2005. The result of this mapping and data gathering effort was published by the Island Institute -- *Saving Working Waterfronts: Mapping the Maine Coast's Economic Future*. The inventory maps and data are available through the Island Institute (www.islandinstitute.org/) and will eventually be available through the Maine Coastal Atlas.

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan

A new management plan for the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (Wells NERR) has been reviewed and approved by NOAA. The Wells NERR has a statutorily-defined watershed-based project area and stated land conservation objectives, including acquisition of lands needed to protect estuarine resources and water quality in the Reserve area. In addition, the Wells NERR fills a vital role for research and education needed to support sound coastal conservation and management efforts. The 2009 CELCP amendments reserve 15 percent of CELCP funds for projects that benefit National

Estuarine Research Reserves. Each Reserve established the geographic area within which projects are deemed to benefit the Reserve. The CELCP target watershed for the Wells Reserve is attached as Appendix D.

Maine CZM

The national objectives of the CZMA are incorporated into the Maine Coastal Zone Management Plan. National goals include assuring public access to the coast, protection and sound management of coastal systems and resources, protection of coastal water quality and the life that depends on it, and well-balanced uses of the nation's coastal areas and resources. Please visit:

http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/downloads/coastalplans/McPlan_2006.pdf for more information on the Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Coastal Plan.

Maine Climate Change Adaptation Report

The MCP is currently evaluating land acquisition as a response to climate change.

State CELCP Program

The establishment of a regularly-funded CELCP has provided an important source of support for coastal conservation efforts in Maine. Maine's CELCP is designed to be an open, competitive process structured to guide the development of qualified land conservation projects that will include significant coastal and estuarine resources of high priority. The Maine CELCP is modeled on the familiar and successful Land for Maine's Future Program. A project evaluation and scoring mechanism is used to rate projects for nomination to NOAA for CELCP funding.

Lead Agency

NOAA guidance presumes that the lead state level organization managing the CELCP program will be the state's designated coastal program agency, unless otherwise designated by the Governor. In Maine, the CELCP lead agency is the Maine State Planning Office. The State Planning Office (SPO) is an executive branch office that provides policy development and technical assistance to the Governor and other decision makers. In addition to administering the Maine Coastal Program (MCP), the SPO also houses and administers the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program. Coastal program staff time is dedicated to the LMF program for water access and land conservation project management. Rolling the CELCP into this administrative structure assures maximum coordination and leveraging of the state's coastal program objectives and the state's land conservation efforts.

Eligible Entities

NOAA guidelines for the CELCP program identify who may receive funds and hold title to land as part of a CELCP project.

“2.4 NOAA may make financial assistance awards to eligible coastal states, including the state’s lead agency for implementing the CELCP, the state’s coastal management program, or its National Estuarine Research Reserve(s). The recipients may in turn allocate grants or make sub-awards to other state agencies, local governments as defined at 15 CFR 24.3, or entities eligible for assistance under 306A(e) of the CZMA (16 USC 1455a(e)) to carry out approved projects. NOAA may, at its discretion and in consultation with the applicable coastal state, make grants directly to any of these eligible entities in order to expedite completion of an approved project. The recipient, or other appropriate public agency designated by the recipient, will hold title to the land, or interests in land, in perpetuity. NOAA will not make grants under the CELCP to nongovernmental organizations unless otherwise directed by Congress.”

“§ 1455a. Coastal resource improvement program (Section 306A)

(e) Allocation of grants to local governments and other agencies. With the approval of the Secretary, an eligible coastal state may allocate to a local government, an areawide agency designated under section 3334 of title 42, a regional agency, or an interstate agency, a portion of any grant made under this section for the purpose of carrying out this section; except that such an allocation shall not relieve that state of the responsibility for ensuring that any funds so allocated are applied in furtherance of the state's approved management program.

Full text of section 306A is available at

http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czm_act.html#anchor203265.

A complete list of eligible local government entities as well as eligible public entities is available in Appendix C. State Agencies that are able to hold title to land include:

- The Department of Conservation;
- The Department of Agriculture;
- The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;
- The Department of Marine Resources;
- The Department of Environmental Protection;
- The Land Use Regulation Commission;
- The Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission and;
- The St. Croix International Waterway Commission
- The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Although federal standards require that CELCP funds must be awarded to a public entity (state agency or municipality for example), the Committee encourages and accepts project proposals from municipalities or agencies that have been developed in partnership with land trusts and conservation organizations. In these cases, it is recommended that the applicant agency’s authority (i.e. Board of Selectmen; Town Council, Town Administrator, or agency official) include a letter of support for the project with a statement that they are a willing and qualified title holder.

State Nomination Process

Experience with the Land for Maine's Future Program and other competitive funding sources has demonstrated the value of an open solicitation and application process in bringing forth highly qualified projects. Experience has shown that when projects competing for limited funds are screened through a comprehensive application and scoring process high priority projects will naturally rise to the top. The Maine CELCP is structured to be an open, competitive, resource value based program, which will yield good projects that meet CELCP purposes and respond to coastal conservation priorities.

Project Selection and Nomination Committee

The SPO/MCP, as the designated state lead agency for CELCP, has established a standing committee to guide the selection and nomination of projects for CELCP funding. The committee is comprised of representatives of key state agencies, municipal government, the Wells NERR, and non-profit coastal conservation organizations. The group is modeled on the state's Forest Legacy Program steering committee, which acts as a project screening and selection committee at the state level.

The committee assists with project screening, scoring and ranking, and assists in the nomination of projects to NOAA for national competitive funding. The committee meets periodically to review potential projects, acts as a sounding board for project planners and works to make sure projects meet CELCP plan objectives and coastal conservation priorities. After review, scoring and nomination by the project selection committee, the State Planning Office/Maine Coastal Program submits project proposals prepared by the applicants to NOAA as the state's nominated projects.

Committee members actively encourage projects in high priority areas or projects involving high priority resources. This allows for development of high quality projects that meet CELCP project criteria and standards. Members work with agencies, municipalities and local land trusts to identify and promote projects that will compete well for national competitive funding.

Committee Tasks

1. Evaluate, score, and rank projects for CELCP funding.
2. Recommend and support the nomination of projects to NOAA under a national competitive funding program, or to recommend projects for congressional earmark funding.
3. Work with agency and organizational project planners to advise and guide the development of CELCP qualified projects.

Committee Membership

The Maine CELCP selection and nomination committee is comprised of selected representatives of the following types of organizations:

- State agencies, who are qualified land holders, project sponsors, or project progenitors, including Maine's Departments of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Conservation; Marine Resources; State Planning; and the Atlantic Salmon Commission and others.
- Statewide, regional, and national conservation organizations who may be promoting and supporting candidate projects, for example, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy and, The Conservation Fund.
- Municipalities, who are qualified holders and may be seeking funding for a local project.
- Local land trusts who work with municipalities and others to plan, promote and support a conservation project.
- The Wells NERR, a qualified landholder and named participant in CELCP, that works in partnership with local land trusts and others.
- Related conservation organizations and groups, such as watershed groups, salmon restoration groups, etc. that benefit from the ecological and environmental effects of conserved lands.

Operational Procedures and Conflict Safeguards

Under the national competitive funding program, NOAA issues a funding opportunity announcement, indicating the parameters, criteria and application process for grant funding. The SPO/MCP, in turn, issues a solicitation for qualified projects. The selection and nomination committee will review, score, and select projects for nomination to NOAA. Nominations for selected projects will be prepared and submitted by the Maine Coastal Program/State Planning Office.

In addition to meeting minimal or threshold national program criteria for project qualification, State-nominated CELCP projects will be evaluated by a NOAA select committee, which will review project applications and make final project award recommendations to an Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management or their designee.

Members of the Maine CELCP selection and nomination committee may from time to time have a vested interest in, or be working to support, a particular project. In these cases the committee member will make clear their role in a project. They will be permitted to make presentations during a designated time provided by the Committee and then refrain from participating in committee discussions and recuse themselves from further committee proceedings.

Meetings are open to the public but comments are accepted only at the discretion of the Committee chair.

Project Scoring and Nomination Criteria

At a minimum, projects will need to be in the state's coastal watershed, though preference will be given to projects located within the state designated coastal zone. Projects within the watershed but outside the Coastal Zone must show a strong, direct relationship to the protection of important coastal resources, and meet CELCP qualification requirements.

To be eligible for funding under CELCP, NOAA guidance states that a project must:

- Be located in a coastal or estuarine area included within a state's approved coastal and estuarine land conservation (CELCP) plan and meet the national criteria;
- Match federal CELCP funds with non-federal funds at a ratio of 1:1;
- Vest land rights (fee simple or conservation easements) in public ownership (municipal or state) and provide conservation protection in perpetuity;
- Provide for access to the general public or other public benefit, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection; and
- Contribute to meeting state CELCP conservation goals and priorities.

National criteria for CELCP project selection are stated in the NOAA planning guidance as:

1. Protects important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses;
2. Gives priority to lands which can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value;
3. Directly advances the goals, objectives, or implementation of:
 - a. the state's coastal management plan or program,
 - b. NERR management plans approved under the CZMA,
 - c. national objectives of the CZMA,
 - d. or a regional or state watershed protection plan involving coastal states with approved coastal management plans,
4. Is consistent with the state's approved coastal management program.

Discussion of National and State Criteria as Applied to Maine:

Protects important coastal and estuarine areas:

The Maine CELCP Plan is based on existing evaluations of natural resource values and priorities that identify coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values. Resource evaluation projects like the Beginning with Habitat collaborative have developed refined maps of high priority resource focus areas that exist along the Maine coast (and most inland areas as well). Federal agencies such as the USF&WS have, evaluated, ranked, and identified significant habitat values. State and Federal land management agencies have identified conservation and acquisition priority needs in and around existing state and national parks. These and

many other studies, plans, evaluations, and prioritizations that provide the foundation for successful CELCP projects that include important coastal and estuarine areas and resources.

Threat of Conversion:

The threat of conversion of natural lands to residential, commercial, and industrial uses is seen as a general and pervasive condition throughout the coastal zone. Population shifts to coastal areas, sprawling land use patterns, and increasing demand for waterfront property have intensified the competition for limited coastal resources. Rising land values and demand for shorefront residential development is squeezing traditional users off the waterfront and reducing historic points of public access to the shore. Land conservation efforts are in stiff competition with development opportunities, both in land prices and availability. The actual or immediate threat of conversion and loss (due to a listing for sale, subdivision plan, or development proposal) will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis, as the type and degree of threat will vary with location along the coastline. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has conducted an impervious surface change analysis, spatial data which is now available for reference and includes surface change between the years of 2004 and 2007.

Lands which can be effectively managed

This criterion applies to projects in which lands are added to existing parks and wildlife management areas and refuges already under management and long-term stewardship by municipal, state, and federal organizations. In Maine, priority project lands would include in-holdings and adjacent lands, preferably within a designated green line or acquisition boundary. Any land that will be held and managed by a public entity under an existing management plan with adequate resources would score well for selection.

This category could also include projects in which lands are protected through a conservation easement and with arrangements for shared stewardship with a local partner such as a land trust with a demonstrated ability and history of sound stewardship.

Lands with significant ecological value

The consideration of significant ecological value must be based on the documented resources located on the property to be conserved. Lands considered to have high conservation priority or sites and areas containing rare, endangered, or threatened species would qualify. Any areas and resources providing critical, essential, or key habitat elements for public trust species or species of state concern would also be rated as significant.

Advance the Goals of State CZM

The Maine Coastal Program's goals and priorities are established in state statute, Title 38, section 1801 Coastal Management Policies. These policy goals include: improving public access to the coast, protecting water quality and other essential natural resources, promoting sound resource management, and assuring working access to the coast. The Maine Coastal Program works to sustain coastal resources and enhance the maritime economy by acting in partnerships with federal and state agencies, coastal communities, regional planning commissions and councils, and many non-government organizations, businesses, and groups to promote the balanced use of coastal resources to ensure maintenance of ecologic functions and natural values.

The MCP supports public and private land conservation efforts as a strategic tool for securing public access, protecting coastal and marine habitats, protecting water quality, and contributing to healthy ecosystem functions. Coastal Program priorities include, among others, maintaining coastal character, retaining and improving public access, reduction of non-point source water pollution, restoring coastal wetlands and habitats, and conserving ecologically valuable coastal lands.

The Maine Coastal Program is a partner in the Beginning with Habitat initiative, which has identified focus areas for marine and freshwater wetlands conservation and protection. In addition, the Maine Coastal Program hosts the coastal habitat restoration project of the Gulf of Maine Council. This project is guided by a restoration priority plan for the Gulf of Maine. Projects with restoration opportunities are consistent with the purposes and objectives of the CELCP program and state coastal program objectives. Projects funded under this program are required to have a clearly described plan (with budget and timeline) that assures that the restoration is going to be carried out resulting in the anticipated ecosystem improvements.

Working Waterfronts

A goal of the Maine Coastal Program is to support shoreline management that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources. Another program goal is to promote the maintenance, development and revitalization of the State's ports and harbors for fishing, transportation and recreation. Working with a broad coalition of agencies, organizations, and individuals concerned with assuring commercial fishing access along the coast, the Maine Coastal Program has worked to support working access protection programs. The 2009 changes to the CELCP included a provision that requires each participating coastal state to the extent practicable to ensure that the acquisition of property or easements will complement working waterfront needs. This provision is taken as a program requirement (as opposed to a scoring criteria) to be addressed in each CELCP proposal. At this time NOAA is asking for an assurance that proposed projects do not conflict with or impede working waterfronts in each project application, pending further guidance on addressing this requirement. Although not an assessment of need, the Island Institute's inventory of working access points and facilities, coupled with the state's Working Waterfront Access Protection Program

provides a good basis for assuring that proposed CELFP projects are complementary to working waterfront uses.

Climate Change

An emerging issue in coastal management is the impact and effects of global climate change, notably projected levels of accelerated sea level rise, greater tidal and storm effects, and higher levels of stormwater run-off water on coastal ecosystems and sensitive resources. Land conservation can be an effective tool to mitigate the impacts of climate changes and can be an important element of adaptation strategies. The recent Maine Climate Change Adaptation Report calls for several actions involving land conservation efforts, such as developing state policy on conservation and land acquisition in coastal areas that will allow for the movement of natural areas and species, and building climate change considerations into existing criteria and scoring for conservation funding. NOAA is also actively considering how best to incorporate climate change considerations in the CELCP program. Working through the New England Governor's Conference and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Maine is collaborating on a regional coastal conservation strategy that will incorporate climate change considerations. With additional assessment and development of state policies still to be completed, and lacking Congressional direction, it is difficult to predict where these considerations might lead, but the ongoing work of the MCP on the topic of climate change positions the state program to be responsive to any new CELCP program requirements that might arise. In the meantime, projects that can demonstrate a contribution to meeting recommendations in the state's Adaptation Plan will be encouraged.

National objectives of the CZM

The national objectives for CZM are comparable and similar to those of the Maine Coastal Program Plan. National goals include assuring public access to the coast, protection and sound management of coastal systems and resources, protection of coastal water quality and the life that depends on it, and well-balanced uses of the nation's coastal areas and resources.

Regional or State Watershed Protection Plan

Although Maine is not a partner in a multi-state watershed program, it is a signatory to the agreement that created the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, an international consortium concerned with the health of the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. The Gulf of Maine Action Plan includes resource conservation objectives and strategies aimed at protecting critical resource values and ecological functions, again, similar and complementary to the Maine Coastal Program.

CELCP Project Evaluation and Selection Guidelines

NOAA guidance presents statutory criteria and additional considerations that are used to evaluate, score and fund projects under the program. The annual CELCP solicitations in

the form of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcements and official publication in the Federal Register spell out current program requirements including project evaluation, scoring, and selection criteria and considerations. NOAA staff also provides application templates with further explanation of the scoring criteria and project considerations based on program experience and evolving policy.

The following criteria and project considerations are based on NOAA guidance and will be used by the state CELCP committee to evaluate and select projects for nomination for federal funding.

Purpose of the Conservation Project

- Primary purpose (value) of the project – ecological, conservation, recreational, historic or aesthetic. Although applicants are asked to identify a primary purpose for the conservation project, all of the values are addressed and evaluated as part of the project application;
- Ecological values of the project taking into consideration habitat quality, species diversity, linkages with ecological corridor or un-fragmented habitat, habitat for threatened or endangered species, or other ecological functions. Projects that include protection of rare, threatened, or endangered species and habitat areas are considered most ecologically significant;
- Conservation values, including whether the acquisition supports the goals of a conservation plan, even without high ecologic value, or is likely to support ecological values such as conservation corridors, buffers, etc;
- Recreational values, considering its contribution to coast-dependent or nature-based recreation, including priority needs identified in the state CELCP plan, and public accessibility;
- Historic values of the project such as significant historic, cultural, or archaeological features, in a coastal setting. Priority is for sites listed or eligible for national or state registers of historic places;
- Aesthetic values, including sites designated as scenic byways or scenic rivers, or other state or locally designated cultural landscapes and;
- Project's relevance to priorities in the state's CELCP plan or other coastal conservation plan.

Capacity/technical merit

- Capacity to effectively manage the project over time to protect the values listed above;

- Level of threat from conversion from its natural or recreational state to other uses. Lands identified for development, under development (such as a subdivision), or imminently threatened by development are considered the most threatened and;
- Capability to complete the project within the funding grant performance period (18 months to 3yrs).

Qualifications of Applicants

- Applicant’s status as “Qualified Holders” with the legal authority, personnel, and expertise to execute the project. (Note that conservation organizations and land trusts may partner in the project and assist in the development of the project application; however, land must be held by the grant applicant, an eligible public entity) and;
- Applicant’s capability and/or ability to establish partnerships to manage land over the long-term for conservation purposes.

Project Cost

- Is land cost based on an appraisal or estimate of fair market value?
- Are matching funds eligible and likely to be available within the project period?
- Are other direct and indirect project costs reasonable and necessary?

Core Values

With the above values, attributes, and characteristics in mind, the following is a list of key state program considerations to help identify projects that will compete well for CELCP funds. Higher priority projects are those that:

1. Include marine habitats, tidal shorelands and associated intertidal lands, and are shown to contribute to established conservation plans and stated objectives.

2. Include lands in high priority coastal focus areas and/or resources identified by the Beginning with Habitat Program, or other federal and state land acquisition plans.
3. Have multiple project values, or contribute to multiple public policy objectives, such as conservation projects in a watershed setting that contribute to a water quality management plan in a coastal river or bay plan.
4. Protect, buffer or preserve identified scenic resources.
5. Contribute to a pattern of conserved lands and improve connectivity, and ecosystem functions.
6. Have significant ecological value, and contribute to a landscape level of protection in a region, or add significantly to an ongoing project or eco-regional priority.
7. Include a plan for effective management and protection, with identified responsibilities for ongoing stewardship, including financial and staff support, and monitoring of conservation easements.
8. Provide general public access to and use for recreation and resource harvesting/management access purposes or other public benefits, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection.
9. Constitute a “Ready to Go” project that can be completed in a reasonable time frame, with no known major flaws or obstacles, but patient enough for funding process.
10. Represent a willing seller/willing buyer relationship.

New and Emerging Issues with Project Consideration:

1. Does the project benefit the Wells NERR? Are the lands located in the targeted watershed of concern?
2. Does the project contribute to state-identified working waterfront needs?
3. Will the project contribute to the state’s climate change adaptation recommendations by protecting sensitive areas, providing room for marsh migration, and otherwise accommodate ecosystem changes?
4. Will the acquisition contribute to regional (multi-state) ecosystem protection efforts at a landscape level or ecosystem scale?

In addition to these national and state criteria, NOAA is directed when selecting projects for funding, to give priority to lands that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value. In addition, NOAA may consider the demonstrated need for project support and the ability to leverage funds, as well as, include consideration of project readiness, geographic distribution, and availability of support for long-term management and stewardship.

Coordination and Public Involvement

Interagency Coordination

Interagency involvement in the preparation of Maine's CELCP plan was achieved by participation in the Maine Coastal Protection Initiative (MCPI). MCPI brought together representatives of federal and state resource agencies, national and coast-wide conservation organizations, municipal officials, and others involved in coastal conservation and resource use activities, including marine resource harvesting and aquaculture enterprises. Key issues of CELCP's geographic extent, resource conservation priorities, and the program structure were established through this process. There is a high level of interagency and inter-organization cooperation and collaboration already in place supporting land conservation efforts along the Maine coast and around the state. Representatives of the various agencies and organizations have a history of working together on such efforts as the Beginning with Habitat collaboration. These established relationships contributed to an efficient discussion and agreement on the development of the CELCP Plan.

The revision of the state program plan was guided by these same interagency working relationships represented in the form of the state CELCP program committee which consist of representatives the Wells NERR, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and The Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Public Involvement

The CELCP Plan was posted to the Maine Coastal Program website for public review and comment for a 30-day period in February of 2011. A notice of its availability for review was published in a newspaper of statewide circulation and distributed electronically to existing agency lists. Public comments received have been incorporated into the Plan. Comments primarily focused on grammatical changes with minimal substance issues. Coincident with public review, the Plan was reviewed by the state CELCP committee and submitted to NOAA for review and comment.

Certification

The CELCP is a federal assistance activity which is not listed as subject to federal consistency review under Maine's coastal zone management program. While it does not conduct a consistency review of provision of CELCP funds and resulting land acquisition *per se*, Maine would ensure consistency with its enforceable policies through issuance of applicable state permits and licenses, if any alteration were proposed on lands purchased with CELCP funds. Moreover, the State Planning Office, which prepared the plan, designed it to support and advance core conservation objectives in the State's coastal program.

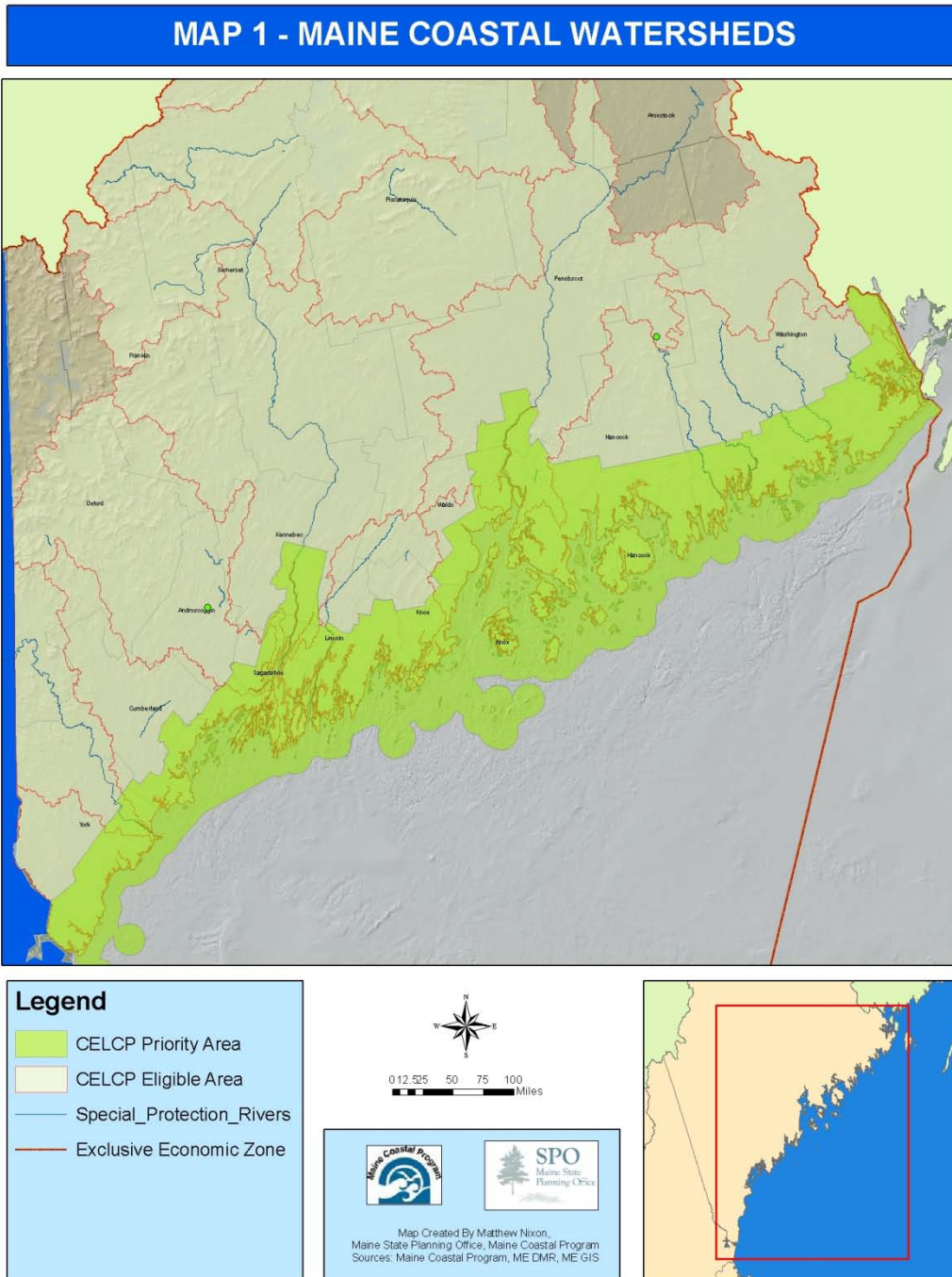
Plan Review and Approval

The Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management or his/her designee, shall be the approving official for plans submitted to NOAA under this program. Upon approval of its plan, a state will be eligible to receive competitive funding under the CELCP.

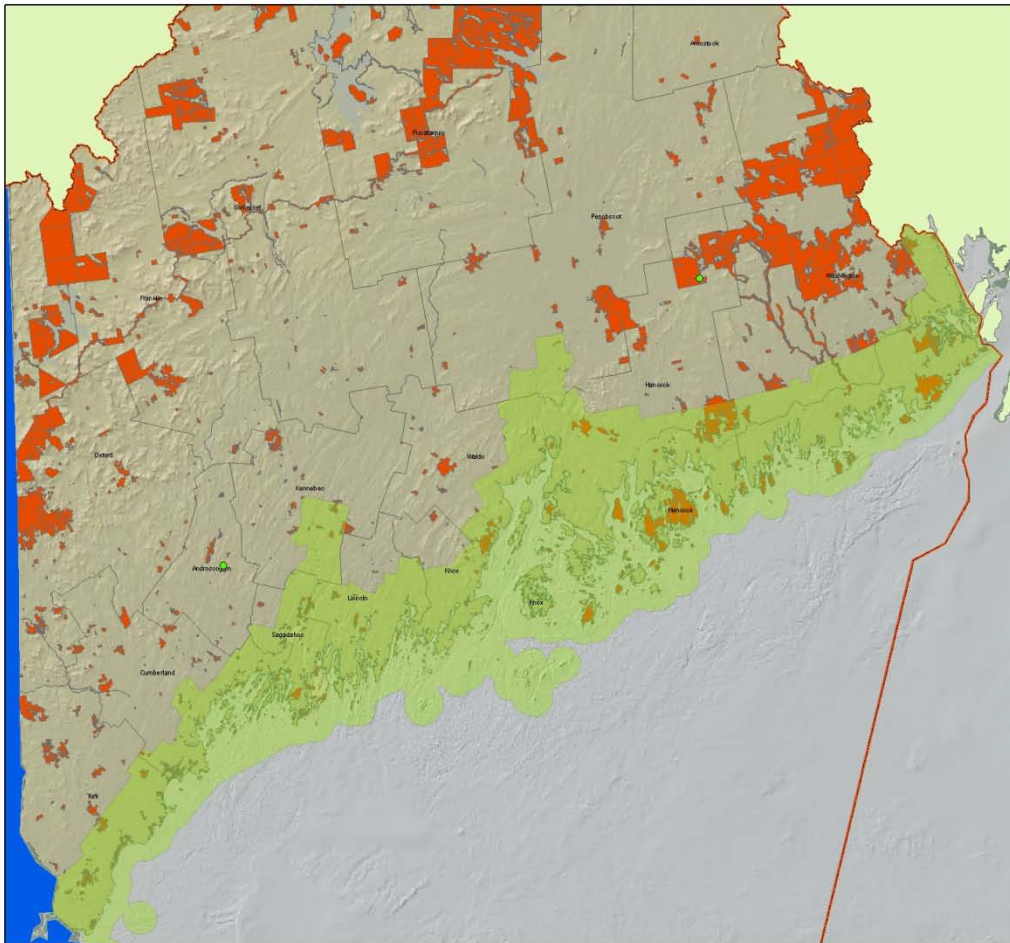
NOAA guidance stipulates that states must update their CELCP plans at least once every five years to reflect changes that have taken place within the state or region and submit the updated plan the Office of Coastal Resource Management. Maine's next plan update will be in 2015.

Kathleen Leyden
Director, Maine Coastal Program

MAPS

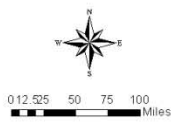




MAP 2 - MAINE CONSERVATION LAND



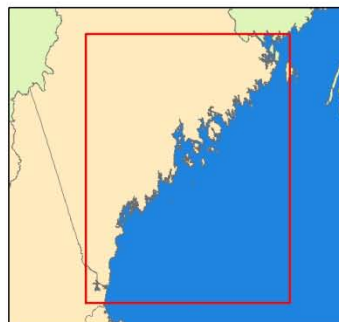
Legend

- CELCP Priority Area
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Conserved Lands

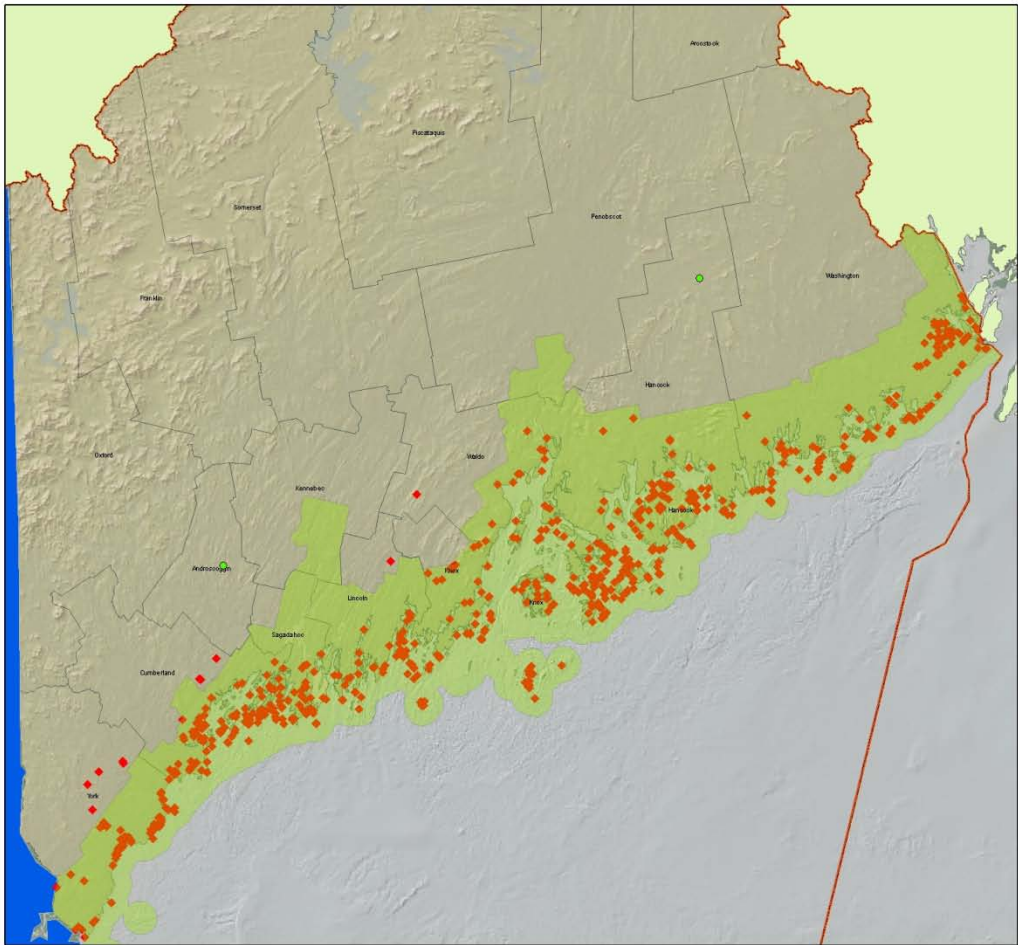


Map Created By Matthew Nixon,
 Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program
 Sources: Maine Coastal Program, ME DMR, ME GIS

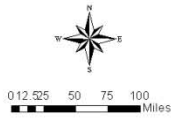


MAP 3 - MAINE SCENIC RESOURCES

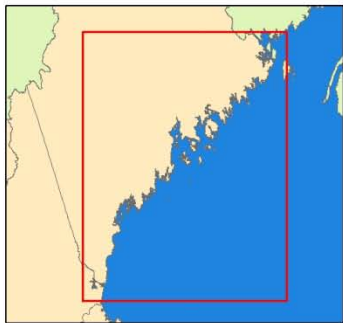


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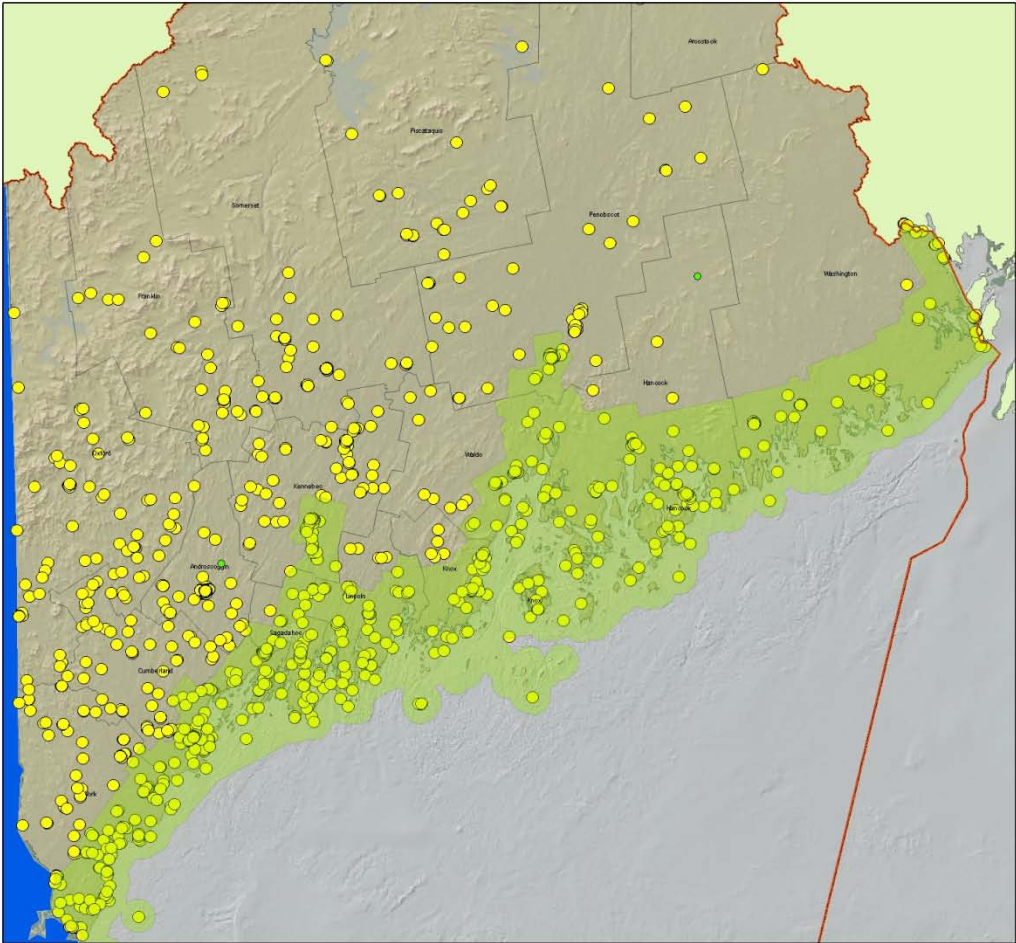
- CELCP Priority Area
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Scenic Resources



Map Created By Matthew Nixon,
Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program
Sources: Maine Coastal Program, ME DMR, ME GIS

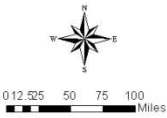


MAP 4 - NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTRY LOCATIONS

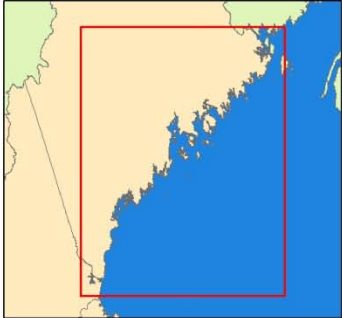


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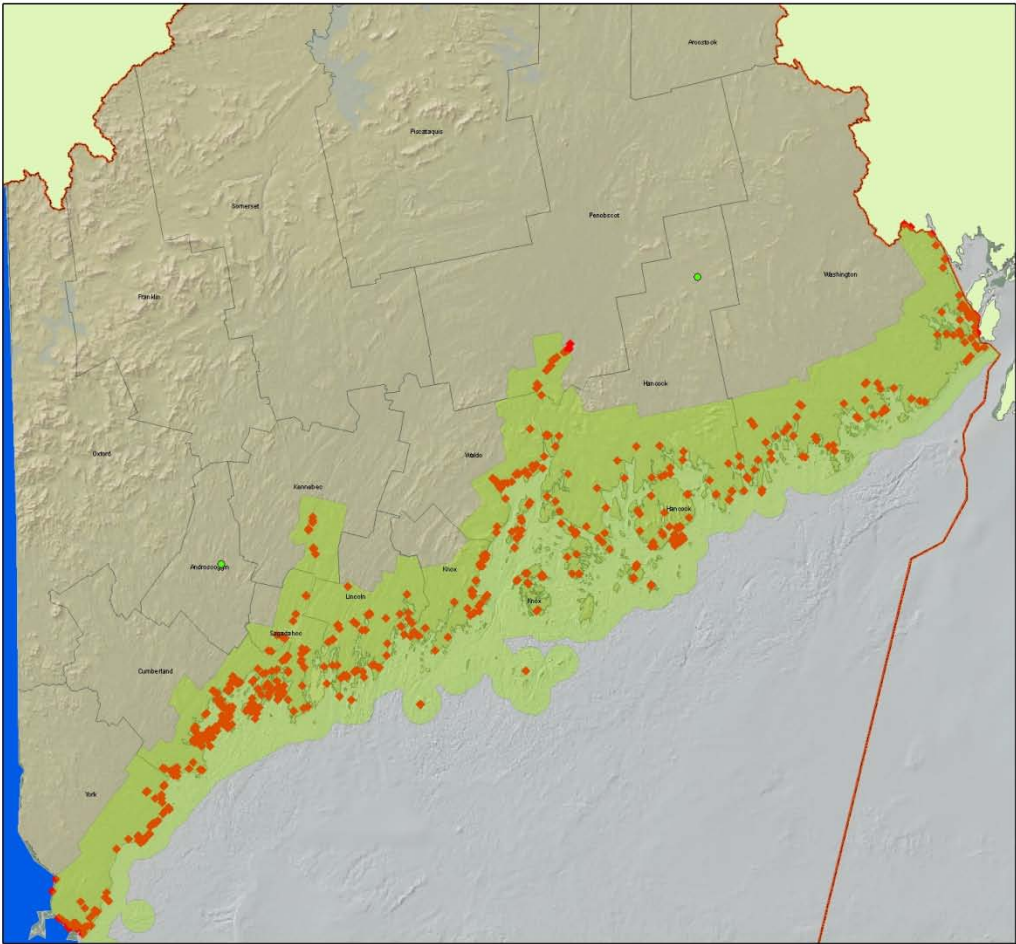
- CELCP Priority Area
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- National Historic Registry



Map Created By Matthew Nixon,
Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program
Sources: Maine Coastal Program, ME DMR, ME GIS

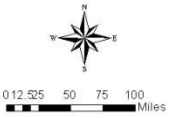


MAP 5 - WATER ACCESS SITES

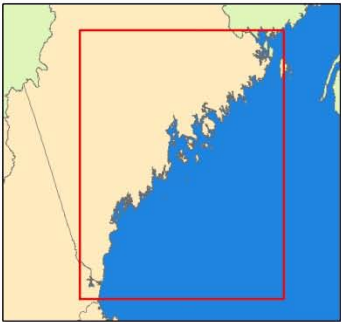


Legend

- CELCP Priority Area
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Water Access Sites



Map Created By Matthew Nixon,
 Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program
 Sources: Maine Coastal Program, ME DMR, ME GIS



Assessment of Conservation Needs

Background

The Maine Coast Protection Initiative (The Initiative) is a coalition consisting of four core members: the Maine State Planning Office, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Land Trust Alliance, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Service's Center, in addition to over 70 involved coastal organizations. The Initiative's goal was to implement a Strategic Conservation Framework to protect Maine's priority coastal and estuarine habitats, recreational and working waterfront access to coastal and marine resources, and significant scenic and cultural features along the Maine coast. The following summation of Needs and Priorities, while somewhat dated, is still highly applicable in helping to identify attributes important for conservation and targeting specific areas for protection on Maine's coast. For further information on the Initiative, please see <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/mcpi>.

Summary

Along the coast of Maine, a wide variety of organizations with a diverse range of goals and priorities are currently working to protect important coastal resources. One of the guiding principles of the Initiative is to build on, rather than duplicate, the work of existing conservation efforts. As such, in Spring 2004, the Initiative analyzed coastal land conservation needs and priorities based on the conservation plans and projects of relevant federal, state, and coast-wide land conservation entities. This analysis identified priority resources and areas along the coast, and highlighted the need for further inventory, evaluation and prioritization of these resources and areas.

Overall Needs and Priorities

This analysis of existing conservation efforts identified three common needs for any future strategic land conservation effort along the Maine coast:

- Protect the ecological integrity of watersheds surrounding coastal wetlands, particularly the natural communities supported within these watersheds;
- Increase the number of sites available for public access to coastal waters for recreational and commercial purposes; and
- Protect the scenic and cultural features that help to characterize the Maine coast and its communities.

The inventory also identifies several common process and programmatic themes for future conservation efforts, including:

Process Themes

- Collaboration and partnership are nearly universally recognized as important; and
 - Public support is consistently acknowledged as critical
-

Program Themes

- Apparent agreement on several geographic areas that are priority for coastal land conservation;
- Stewardship and management of conservation lands for long-term sustainability is commonly mentioned as important;
- Common and broad focus on conserving priority coastal habitat;
- Few documented strategies describe conserving scenic and cultural resources. However, emerging connection between tourism and land conservation is worth further exploration;
- Smart Growth reports and resources provide a context for how coastal land conservation relates to other coastal issues.

Summary of Priorities and Needs

Protect the ecological integrity of watersheds surrounding coastal wetlands, particularly the natural communities supported within these watersheds

Nearly all of the federal and state programs surveyed in this inventory identify a need to maintain and enhance the function and values provided by coastal wetlands. In the last several years, many of these programs have begun to support adoption of watershed-based approaches to ensuring the long-term sustainability of wetland resources. These programs have also often included a significant public outreach effort.

The 2001 Maine State Wetland Conservation Plan identifies six goals for protection of wetlands, and provides specific and extensive recommendations and actions for each of these goals. While the goals are not specific to coastal wetlands, many of the recommendations and actions may be useful for coastal and estuarine land conservation projects.

Beginning with Habitat has identified focus areas of statewide significance which includes lands in coastal watersheds.

Increase the number of sites available for public access to coastal waters for recreational and commercial purposes

Coastal water access has been an important concern for several state agencies for over twenty years. The number of suitable sites for coastal access continues to decrease because of increased development pressure while the existing sites experience additional use that may negatively affect the ecological integrity of the coastal resource. In addition, extremely high acquisition costs further constrain the effects of limited funding sources.

A 2000 report by the Maine State Planning Office and the Maine Department of Marine Resources identified several indicators of increased demand for coastal recreational access, including:

- Strong growth in population and tourism in coastal areas;
 - Increased use of coastal waters for saltwater angling and sea kayaking;
 - Continued high numbers of boat registrations; and
 - Continued importance of commercial fishing to Maine's economy;
-

Several existing programs have included efforts to improve coastal access. For example, the Land for Maine's Future program identifies water access as one of its primary focus areas. Analysis completed for LMF by SPO and DMR identified 20 areas of highest priority. This analysis also notes that the cost of acquiring and developing each coastal access site is \$400,000 to \$1million per site

Two recent reports provide several recommendations for strategies to protect and improve coastal access, both for recreational and commercial purposes.

The SPO/DMR report, focused on recreational access especially for boating and fishing, identified towns and stretches of shoreline popular with boaters and anglers that currently have no State-sponsored or State-assisted boat access facilities, or that have facilities but need added capacity to keep up with demand. Specific recommendations in that report include:

- Create and maintain a database of information on identified first- and second-level priority areas and on existing State access sites;
- Appoint or hire a state staff person, or hire a contractor, to work proactively on public water access sites;
- Identify towns and groups that are interested in creating or improving public access sites;
- Determine the availability of suitable land and the most appropriate type of access (boat launch, carry-in, bank fishing); and
- Seek cooperating agencies or other entities that will hold title and manage public access sites.

Additional recommendations, which may not be directly relevant to the goals of the Initiative include:

- Balance priority with availability by acquiring sites in lower-priority areas and;
- Improve capacity of existing sites (mostly by acquiring land for additional parking).

A report by SPO and Coastal Enterprise, Inc. focused on preservation of commercial fishing access and working waterfronts, and describes several indicators of a community with strong commercial fishing access, including:

- Access is priority;
- There are strong ordinances;
- There is investment in waterfront facilities;
- There is a dedicated fish pier;
- There is less development pressure;
- There is greater than average size of harvester community.

This report also identified several tools that may be relevant to municipal and other local efforts to protect coastal access for commercial fishing, including planning assistance, purchase of access rights, deeded access, planning workshops on waterfront access tools, and transfer of development rights from shoreside to inland properties.

Summary of Threats

The long-term health of Maine's coastal wetlands is threatened both by pollution and development of associated upland areas in the watershed.

Several obstacles to enhanced coastal access for public recreational use include:

- Extensive private ownership of the coast, which restricts the right to travel over private property to reach the shore.
- Rising land costs
- Community member opposition to additional boat or pedestrian access sites in proximity to their property.

Coastal access for commercial fishing is threatened in several additional ways beyond recreational access. The CEI/SPO report identifies six forms of threats, including:

- Access to inter-tidal areas lost through no trespassing signs;
 - New coastal property owner closing off/contesting public access;
 - Commercial fishing access tenuous through lease arrangements;
 - Singular reliance on public facility, which creates competition from other types of users;
 - Limited parking to access existing sites; and
 - Conversion of working wharves to residential/recreational uses.
-

Summary of Existing Priority Places

Initiated by the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's *Beginning With Habitat* program has identified over 140 focus areas throughout the state of Maine with over half of those areas in Maine's Coastal Zone.

Beginning with Habitat (BwH) Focus Areas are natural areas of *statewide* ecological significance that contain unusually rich concentrations of at-risk species and habitats. These areas, identified by biologists from the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Maine Audubon, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), support rare plants, animals, and natural communities, high quality common natural communities; significant wildlife habitats; and their intersections with large blocks of undeveloped habitat. BwH Focus Area boundaries are drawn based on the species and natural communities that occur within them and the supporting landscape conditions that contribute to the long-term viability of the species, habitats, and community types.

One or more of the following must be present before an area is considered a Candidate Focus Area (in most cases, two or more are present):

- Globally rare plant or animal
- 3 or more healthy populations of a rare plant species
- Any healthy population of a rare animal species
- Rare natural community
- Excellent example of a common natural community
- Good example of a common natural community and one or more high value wildlife habitats
- Large undeveloped block and at least one of the following: a good example of a common natural community OR high value wildlife habitat OR two or more healthy populations of a rare plant species

For more information on the *Beginning With Habitat* Focus Areas list, please go to <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap/focusarea/index.htm>.

Summary of Existing Plans and Programs

Relevant Coastal Programs

The purpose and policies of several state and federal programs provide guidance and direction for a coastal initiative that focuses on land conservation.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was established in 2002 “for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.” The program places priority on protection of lands that can be effectively managed and have significant ecological value.

Acquisition projects supported by CELCP funds must have the following characteristics:

- Involvement of a willing seller;
- Protection in perpetuity, through either title of property or interests in property;
- Access for the general public, with allowed limitations for resource management or public safety; and
- Strategy for long-term stewardship of the property that protects the values originally identified as important for that property. This strategy should identify the entities that will be responsible for the long-term monitoring and management of the property.

In addition to the conservation purposes described above, the state CELC plan must also describe how specific projects and project areas meet the national program criteria to:

- Be consistent with the state's approved coastal management program and directly advance the goals, objectives or implementation of this program;
- Advance goals, objectives or implementation of NERR management plans approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA); and
- Advance national objectives of the CZMA.

Coastal Zone Management Program

The following policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) relate directly to coastal and estuarine land conservation.

Ecological and Conservation Values

The CZMA declares it national policy to:

- Protect fish and wildlife and their habitat in the coastal zone;
- Protect estuaries to provide opportunities for long-term research, education, interpretation, and stewardship; and to
- Manage development to maintain and improve coastal water quality to protect and enhance natural resources and existing uses of those waters;

Recreational, Historical, and Aesthetic Values

The CZMA declares it national policy to:

- Maintain and enhance environmentally sound public access to the coasts for recreational purposes;
- Protect barrier islands within the coastal zone to provide protection against storm surge, wave damage and flooding, and maintain sand supplies and protect important recreational areas;
- Give priority consideration for coast dependent uses, including recreation; and
- Assist in the sensitive preservation and restoration of historic, cultural, and aesthetic coastal features.

State Coastal Program

As the state entity responsible for implementing both CZMA and CELCP, six of the nine program policies of Maine's Coastal Program are directly relevant to CELCP. These policies are to:

- Support shoreline management that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources;
 - Discourage growth and new development in coastal areas where, because of coastal storms, flooding, landslides or sea-level rise, it is hazardous to human health and safety;
-

- Encourage and support cooperative state and municipal management of coastal resources;
- Protect and manage critical habitat and natural areas of state and national significance and maintain the scenic beauty and character of the coast even in areas where development occurs;
- Expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation and to encourage appropriate coastal tourist activities and development; and o
- Restore and maintain the quality of our fresh, marine and estuarine waters to allow for the broadest possible diversity of public and private uses.

The state coastal plan, approved by NOAA in April 2001 identifies several high-priority management issues that are also directly relevant to Maine's coastal and estuarine land protection program. These issues include:

- Protection of coastal wetland resources, with a particular focus on protecting wetland functions and values through a watershed approach to wetland conservation;
- Attainment of additional public access to the coast for both recreation and commercial uses; and
- Management of development impacts on coastal resources. Maine's Coastal Program allocates significant resources towards working with coastal municipalities to encourage appropriate patterns of growth.

Two high-priority issues identified in the coastal plan, ocean management, aquaculture, and coastal erosion hazards do not seem directly related to coastal and estuarine land conservation.

Summary of Existing Efforts

Reports or plans from the following organizations and programs were reviewed as part of a survey of existing conservation efforts along the coast of Maine. All of these organizations have a statewide, coastwide, or program-specific focus on issues related to coastal land conservation. A brief description of each program is also included, with emphasis on the program activities or planning recommendations that intersect with the goals of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative.

Federal Organizations and Programs

- US Environmental Protection Agency
 - Casco Bay Estuary Project
 - New England Environmental Finance Center
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Gulf of Maine Program
 - Refuge Complexes
- Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
- National Park Service, Acadia National Park

State Organizations and Programs

- Maine Department of Conservation
 - Bureau of Parks and Lands
 - Natural Areas Program
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Maine State Planning Office
 - Land for Maine's Future
 - Maine Coastal Program
- Beginning with Habitat

Private Organizations and Programs

- Coastal Enterprise, Inc.
 - Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
 - Northeast Regional Ocean Council
 - Coastal Conservation Initiative
 - Island Institute
 - Maine Audubon Society
 - Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 - Maine Island Trail Association
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Trust for Public Land
-

Summary of Federal Conservation Efforts

Gulf of Maine Council

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was established in 1989 by the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf watershed. Its mission is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustained resource use by existing and future generations. The Council's Public Education and Participation Committee publishes *The Gulf of Maine Times*, which emphasizes articles to highlight or promote cooperation "to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine." A five-year action plan for 2001-2006 identifies three goals:

- Protect and restore coastal and marine habitats, so that coastal and marine habitats throughout the Gulf of Maine are healthy and support the Gulf's diversity of plant and animal species
- Protect human health and ecosystem integrity, so that contaminants in the Gulf of Maine are at sufficiently low levels to ensure human health and ecosystem integrity
- Encourage sustainable maritime activities, so that in 2025 marine research and nature-based tourism provide unique and significant economic opportunities for the region. The Council will create strategies to achieve these new objectives by 2006.

US Environmental Protection Agency – Casco Bay Estuary Project

The Casco Bay Estuary Project seeks to preserve the Bay's diverse values, collaborating with partner groups to ensure sound environmental stewardship through public involvement and cooperative management. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated Casco Bay "an estuary of national significance" and provided substantial support to help plan for the Bay's future. Area citizens worked closely with representatives of federal, state and local government, business and industry, and research institutions to develop a plan for managing the Casco Bay watershed. Since the *Casco Bay Plan* was adopted in 1996, area residents and groups have taken measures to:

- protect wildlife habitat;
- improve water quality;
- reduce pollution from stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows;
- reduce toxic pollution; and
- protect and restore clamflats and swimming areas.

US Environmental Protection Agency – New England Environmental Finance Center

The purpose of the NE/EFC is to further the joint goals of the U.S. EPA and the Muskie School of Public Policy to research, publish, and extend creative approaches to environmental protection and management, especially respecting the associated "how-to-pay" questions. In particular, the Center works to advance the understanding and practice of "smart growth" throughout New England; to

build local capacity to deal with related issues; and to develop and apply techniques that go "beyond compliance" with government regulations. Projects relevant to the Initiative include:

- The Next Communities Initiative which will train community leaders in the skills necessary to make constructive change happen in their towns. By 2005, the Initiative plans to deliver this curriculum with the help of partners to a group of stakeholders in New England;
- Training for local government officials about links between smart growth and water supply, stormwater financing, water security, and other water-related topics;
- GIS Initiative to develop and deploy distributed data collection software (a website with conservation data and interactive mark-up capabilities) as a pilot activity. Results of this initiative will be presented at the New England GIS conference in fall 2004; and
- A web-based course in conservation finance, which will provide a background on conservation finance, including the fundamental concept of the "funding quilt" (i.e, the combination of federal, state, local and private funding sources that are combined in many conservation projects), as well as descriptions and examples of the primary funding options used by federal, state, local and private sectors.

US Fish and Wildlife Service – Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Gulf of Maine Coastal Program was established in 1991 as part of a nationwide network of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program offices, focuses on protecting economically, recreationally, and ecologically important coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Using existing scientific data along with biological expertise and state-of-the-art computer mapping and database management capabilities, Gulf of Maine Program biologists analyze data, identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat, and recommend and implement habitat protection and restoration measures.

Working in voluntary non-regulatory partnerships, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has played a key role in:

- permanently protecting more than 69,000 acres of high value fish and wildlife habitat through fee and easement acquisition -- including 44 nesting islands, 100 coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer areas, and 42 areas with habitat adjacent to searun fish rivers,
- protecting fish and wildlife habitat on the largest forest land easement in the United States -- a 762,202 acre no-development easement,
- restoring more than 4,500 acres of habitat for migratory birds -- including 65 coastal wetlands, 4 grasslands, and 13 nesting islands,
- completing 56 river restoration projects to benefit searun fish -- including the removal of 10 dams on rivers and the installation or repair of 12 fish passage facilities at existing dams.

As well, USFWS worked in 15 towns in Casco Bay watershed, USFWS mapped current land use, mapped priority habitat, mapped conservation lands, provided data to land trusts, town planners, conservation commissions. USFWS also completed preliminary build-out analysis of region (although this has not been verified on town-by-town basis).

The Gulf of Maine Program also developed habitat models for important habitats within the Gulf of Maine. Maps, models, and metadata were developed for 64 Fish and Wildlife 'trust' species, and for an additional 27 priority species identified by Partners in Flight, the International Shorebird Survey, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and USFWS Region 5 Migratory Bird Management Office.

US Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wildlife Refuge Program

Maine Coastal Islands Wildlife Refuge Complex

The Refuge Complex includes holdings all along the Maine coast and includes approximately 7,961 acres of diverse coastal Maine habitats including forested and non-forested offshore islands, coastal salt marsh, open field, and upland mature spruce-fir forest. Most of the holdings were established because of the value for implementing the national bird migratory program.

The Wildlife Refuge Complex has established seven goals for long-term operations, including:

- Perpetuate the biological diversity and integrity of upland communities on the Refuge Complex's mainland properties to sustain high quality habitat for migratory birds.
- Maintain high quality wetland communities on the Refuge Complex's mainland properties, primarily to benefit migratory birds of high conservation priority, while also supporting other native, wetland-dependent species of concern.
- Perpetuate the biological diversity and integrity of upland communities on the Refuge Complex's islands to sustain high quality habitat for nesting bald eagles and migratory songbirds and raptors, and to protect rare plant sites.
- Protect the high quality wetland communities on the Refuge Complex's islands to benefit nesting and migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.
- Protect and restore nesting seabird populations on the Refuge Complex's islands to contribute to regional and international seabird conservation goals.
- Promote enjoyment and stewardship of coastal Maine wildlife and their habitats by providing priority, wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities.
- Protect the integrity of coastal Maine wildlife and habitats through an active land acquisition and protection program.
- Communicate and collaborate with local communities, Federal, State, local, and Tribal representatives, and other organizations throughout coastal Maine to further the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

A draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) was publicly released in May 2004 which presents four alternative for the management of this wildlife refuge complex during the next 15 years. The recommended alternative is to expand the refuge by 2,467 acres and notably expand management and recreation. Most of this expansion would occur on 87 nationally significant seabird, wading bird, or bald eagle coastal nesting islands, as well as in coastal wetlands. While increasing the protecting of birds of high conservation priority, the CCP would also increase opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

In the creation of this CCP, several significant issues were raised which are relevant to the Maine Coast Protection Initiative:

- How to protect coastal nesting islands, given the finite number of islands suitable for seabird, wading bird, and eagle nesting;
 - How to manage increased recreational and commercial uses promoted by others on or near coastal nesting islands;
 - How will management activities affect public access to coastal nesting islands;
 - How to manage habitats to protect threatened or endangered species, or other species of management concern;
 - How to manage activities not compatible with refuge lands
 - How to improve communications, raise visibility of the Service and Refuge System, and build working relationships with local communities;
-

- What funding, staffing, and infrastructure is needed to manage a refuge that spans the coast of Maine and includes coastal islands;

Several significant issues raised during the CCP process do not seem to be directly relevant to the Initiative, including:

- How to control impacts of predators on species of management concern, how to manage sheep grazing, how to manage non-native, invasive species on refuge lands;
- How to effectively monitor and inventory wildlife populations and habitat on refuge lands;
- How to provide and maintain high-quality programs for hunting, fishing, environmental education and interpretation, wildlife observation, and photography, and how to manage traditional uses

U.S.F.W.S. Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1966 in cooperation with the State of Maine to protect valuable salt marshes and estuaries for migratory birds. Scattered along 50 miles of coastline in York and Cumberland counties, the refuge consists of eleven divisions between Kittery and Cape Elizabeth. It will contain approximately 9,125 acres when land acquisition is complete.

Keys for conservation of this particular geography include unique and important habitat located at the nexus between deciduous and boreal forests, which provide for a distinctive array of wildlife and plant life not found elsewhere in the state of Maine.

The Refuge operates on a Land Acquisition and Cooperative Land Protection Program, which contains approximately 14,383 targeted areas for conservation and inclusion in the Refuge system. The Refuge works with many land conservation partners to support the collective acquisition of conservation land as identified by the Plan.

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve is part of a network of 26 NOAA-designated protected areas established to improve the health of the nation's coastal and estuarine ecosystems. It accomplishes its mission through integrated programs of research and environmental monitoring, education and outreach, and natural resource stewardship.

Wells NERR's stewardship goals relating to land conservation include the following: 1) permanently conserve lands necessary to protect Reserve resources, to ensure a stable environment for research and education, and to broaden the Reserve's representation of coastal ecosystems beyond the salt marshes and immediately adjacent uplands to include coastal watershed areas; and to 2) assist conservation partners in their efforts to conserve land in south coastal Maine, in particular in the Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative focus area, the rivers that flow into Wells Bay, and the Piscataqua River area.

Specific objectives described in the draft management plan for the Reserve are to:

1. Identify and prioritize parcels of land within the Webhannet River, Little River, and Ogunquit River watersheds that best meet the Reserve's acquisition evaluation criteria.

2. Work with partners including Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Wells, KK&W Water District, Great Works Regional Land Trust, Kennebunk Land Trust, and Laudholm Trust to develop conservation strategies and funding.
3. Work with residents, landowners, and developers to minimize the negative impacts of growth on resources important to the Reserve.
4. Conserve ecologically important parcels of lands within Reserve boundaries.
5. Work with the Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Initiative to help achieve conservation goals by following the "Conservation Plan" adopted in January 2005.
6. Assist other conservation partners in south coastal Maine to conserve land that meets the Wells NERR objectives for coastal watershed protection and restoration, in particular areas along the rivers that flow into Wells Bay (Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers) and the Piscataqua River watershed.
7. Collaborate with Great Bay NERR to study the creation of a bi-state watershed protection and land conservation plan for the Piscataqua River watershed.
8. Help increase the effectiveness and capacity of land conservation organizations and municipalities in southern Maine by providing opportunities for networking, information, training and technical support.
9. Take an active role in coastwide planning, conservation, and stewardship efforts where actions protect coastal and estuarine resources.

US Department of Interior, National Park Service, Acadia National Park

Located on the rugged coast of Maine, Acadia National Park encompasses over 47,000 acres of granite-domed mountains, woodlands, lakes and ponds, and ocean shoreline. Such diverse habitats create striking scenery and make the park a haven for wildlife and plants.

The stated intent of those who have donated tens of thousands of acres for the creation of the park over the past 75 years and the intent of the secretary of the interior and the Congress in accepting those donations has been to preserve the area's outstanding scenic, natural, scientific, and historic values. These intents have withstood the test of time and changing social attitudes and public needs. The mission of the Park continues to be one of conserving the land for its habitat values, outdoor recreational uses, scenic qualities, and historic importance.

Acquisition boundaries and priorities for the Park are spelled out in a Land Protection Plan. The acquisition boundary for the park was established by Congress in 1986 and gave the NPS authority to acquire lands, but only within the designated boundary of the Park. At that time it identified approximately 175 tracks for possible acquisition and 24 others for deletion. This legislation also outlined conditions for acquiring conservation easements outside the designated boundary. Over the years the NPS has worked closely with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and others to protect and conserve islands in the Mt Desert archipelago surround core park lands.

Summary of State Conservation Efforts

Maine Department of Conservation – Bureau of Parks and Lands

The Bureau of Parks and Lands manages 30 state parks, as well as public reserved lands, historic sites, boating facilities, and submerged lands. The BPL is an partner with the Land for Maine's Future partner. It is a state-designated agency for local and municipal land trust projects and holds the project agreement. Programs relevant to the Initiative include:

- SCORP – State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Forest Legacy Program

The Bureau manages 481,000 acres of Public Reserved Lands, 92,000 acres of state park and historic site lands, 4,200 acres of Non-reserved Lands, 35,000 acres of conservation easements, 2,300,000 acres of the State's marine and freshwater Submerged Lands, and 1,325 public coastal islands containing approximately 1,109 acres.

The Bureau is responsible for the following:

1. Acquiring and managing state parks, historic sites, certain snowmobile and ATV trails, boat launching sites, and public reserved lands and non-reserved lands;
2. Acquiring other interests in lands (e.g., conservation and recreation easements), and receiving gifts, to be managed as state parks, historic sites, public reserved lands and non-reserved lands, boat launching sites, and certain trails;
3. Managing some former institutional (non-reserved) lands, such as Pineland, Mackworth Island and Hebron, submerged lands beneath Great Ponds and the coastal waters, and more than 1,300 coastal islands;
4. Managing the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and lands within the Penobscot River Corridor Easement;
5. Coordinating management of the privately and publicly owned sections of the Appalachian Trail in Maine (in cooperation with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club); and
6. Acting as Designated State Agency to monitor management of lands acquired with LMF funds by Cooperating Entities.

Maine Department of Conservation – Natural Areas Program

The Program inventories lands that support rare and endangered plants and animals, rare natural communities, and outstanding examples of representative natural communities. The Program maintains a cross-referenced data management system that consists of automated and manual maps as well as information regarding natural features. These resources are regularly updated through field surveys, literature searches, review of museum and herbarium collections and communication with other scientific and natural resource organizations. Within Maine, the Program exchanges information on animals and their habitat needs with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW). MNAP and MDIFW use standard methodology in the management of information, and cooperate on a variety of conservation efforts. Programs relevant to the Initiative include:

- Beginning with Habitat
 - Land Trust Outreach for focus areas identified through Beginning with Habitat
 - Landowner Notification and Incentive Programs
 - Natural resource assessment for ecoregions in Maine
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Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife

The mission of MDIFW is to ensure that all species of wildlife and aquatic resources in Maine are maintained and perpetuated for their intrinsic and ecological values, for their economic contribution, and for their recreational, scientific, and educational use by the people of Maine. With regards to the coastal environment, this agency owns, holds conservation easements, or manages through agreements with the Bureau of Public Lands, 301 islands and ledges. DIFW works with researchers on issues of management concern and conducts recovery work for the State's threatened and endangered species. They advise private landowners interested in wildlife and habitat protection, and administer the State's hunting, fishing and trapping programs. The Department also designates, creates, and maintains maps of Significant Wildlife Habitat. DIFW is a state-designated agency for local and municipal land trust projects and holds the project agreement. Programs relevant to the Initiative include:

- A water access program, that includes coastal sites
- A wetlands acquisition program
- Wildlife management areas and species Management Plans – may include ##s for habitat protection.
- Beginning with Habitat
- State Rare and Endangered Species

Maine Department of Marine Resources

The Department of Marine Resources is responsible for the conservation and development of marine and estuarine resources. DMR sponsors and conducts scientific research; promotes and develops Maine coastal fishing industries; coordinates with local, state, and federal officials concerning activities in coastal waters; administers and enforces laws and regulations related to these tasks, including marine fisheries laws, boating registration and safety laws. Programs relevant to the Initiative include:

- Shellfish management program, which includes mapping and resource data, and municipal shellfish plans and;
- The Maine Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program which includes the acquisition of endangered working wharfs and other properties for subsequent protection from private landowners who would otherwise restrict access for fishermen and other coastal and marine stakeholders.

Maine State Planning Office – Maine Coastal Program

Administered by the Maine State Planning Office, the Coastal Program is a partnership among local, regional, and state agencies. It also collaborates with many private organizations, such as local land trusts and economic development groups. The Coastal Program undertakes or supports projects that promote sustainable economic development, encourage environmental stewardship and education, conserve and manage marine fisheries, reduce coastal hazards, and improve public access. Many of the programs coordinated by SPO are directly relevant to the initiative, including:

- The Coastal Priority Watershed Protection program, which focuses on the 17 identified priority estuaries;
-

- The Casco Bay Wetlands pilot project which translated results of a wetlands functional classification project into tools useful to local officials in several Casco Bay municipalities. Towns are using new information in comprehensive planning, design of regulatory approaches, and development of land acquisition strategies;
- A Right-of-Way Discovery Grant Program which each year awards small grants of approximately \$1,000 to municipalities or local land trusts to research forgotten or overlooked public rights-of-way. Discovery grants are intended to help communities find and assert public rights-of-way to the shore which may be lost by the passing of generations and changing land ownership patterns.
- Program support for Land For Maine's Future;
- Coordination of recreational access programs for coastal waters, in partnership with Department of Marine Resources
- Technical assistance grants
- Bay Management Planning Pilot Project
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Data collection

Summary of Private Conservation Efforts with Coastwide Focus

Coastal Enterprise, Inc.

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) is a private, nonprofit community development corporation. The CEI Fisheries Project develops strategies to address specific needs of the fisheries industries, and related working waterfront activities. CEI also actively makes loans to support sustainable fishing.

Island Institute

The Island Institute is a non-profit organization that serves as a voice for the balanced future of the islands and waters of the Gulf of Maine. They are guided by an island ethic that recognizes the strength and fragility of Maine's island communities and the finite nature of the Gulf of Maine ecosystems. Along the Maine coast, the Island Institute seeks to support the islands' year-round communities; conserve Maine's island and marine biodiversity for future generations; develop model solutions that balance the needs of the coast's cultural and natural communities; provide opportunities for discussion over responsible use of finite resources, and provide information to assist competing interests in arriving at constructive solutions.

Maine Audubon Society

The Maine Audubon Society promotes wise use of Maine's environment through research, education, and advocacy. Its current programs include protection and information to support threatened and endangered shorebirds, shorebird habitat restoration, loon restoration, and the "loon count." This organization also offers field trips on natural history and ecology of coastal waters, and maintains a staff of wildlife biologists who support active field work, education, and a limited advocacy program.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

The mission of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is to conserve coastal and other lands that define Maine's distinct landscape, protect its environment, sustain its outdoor traditions, and promote the well-being of its people. MCHT has helped landowners, communities, government agencies, and local land trusts for more than 30 years to conserve more than 112,000 acres, including vital wetlands, valuable farm and forest land, hundreds of miles of shoreline, and over 260 entire islands. It now owns only 48 properties outright, and holds conservation easements on 95 others.

Maine Island Trail Association

The Maine Island Trail Association's (MITA) mission is to "...establish a model of thoughtful use and volunteer stewardship for the Maine islands that will assure their conservation in a natural state while providing an exceptional recreational asset that is maintained and cared for by the people who use it." MITA encourages a philosophy of low-impact use and active stewardship among its members. It also strives to educate island visitors about natural history, and the ecological sensitivity of the islands. Member-volunteers are encouraged to participate in their island monitoring and Adopt An-Island programs. Members receive a very popular guidebook to the Maine Islands Trail, along with their *Island Trail* newsletter, and educational information regarding low-impact camping.

The Nature Conservancy

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to "preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive." In Maine, TNC has helped to protect more than 870,000 acres of natural lands, including priority projects in coastal areas such as Mount Agamenticus, the Kennebec Estuary, and Cobscook Bay, as well as protection projects in areas surrounding Maine rivers critical to Atlantic salmon recovery. TNC works closely with private and public partners in its conservation efforts by cultivating effective partnerships, good science and active outreach to the local community.

Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land conserves land to create livable communities and a healthy environment. Projects have ranged from forests, farms and wilderness to playgrounds, parks and community gardens in urban areas. TPL has protected nearly 50,000 acres across Maine, including several partnership projects in southern coastal Maine. In addition, TPL has worked with Maine's congressional delegation to secure appropriations from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) for projects along Maine's coast. TPL brings together land trusts, community groups, businesses, landowners, public officials, and funders to envision and pursue conservation goals. TPL also identifies existing and potential sources of public and private funds for land conservation, and helps communities tap them. The organization also works with local municipalities to craft ballot measures that can provide dollars needed to protect the special places communities cherish.

Private Conservation Efforts with Local or Regional Focus

In addition to the private organizations with a coastwide focus, many private land conservation organizations have a local or regional focus within Maine's coastal area. These land trusts protect lands, large and small, based on conservation objectives and priorities that meet the needs of their local communities. The existing conservation efforts of these organizations were not included in this inventory.

Private Organizations with Local or Regional Focus

- Bangor Land Trust
 - Biddeford Pool Land Trust
 - Blue Hill Heritage Trust
 - Boothbay Region Land Trust
 - Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust
 - Cape Elizabeth Land Trust
 - Coastal Mountains Land Trust
 - Conservation Trust of Brookville, Castine & Penobscot
 - Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust
 - Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association
 - Damariscotta River Association
 - Downeast Rivers
 - Falmouth Conservation Trust
 - Freeport Conservation Trust
 - Frenchman Bay Conservancy
 - Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
 - Friends of Royal River
 - Georges River Land Trust
 - Great Auk Land Trust
 - Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust
 - Great Works Regional Land Trust
 - Harpswell Heritage Land Trust
 - Island Heritage Trust
 - Islesboro Islands Trust
 - Kennebec Land Trust
 - Kennebunk Land Trust
 - Kennebunkport Conservation Trust
 - Kittery Land Trust
 - Laudholm Trust
 - Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust
 - Medomak Valley Land Trust
 - Monhegan Associates
 - North Haven Conservation Partners
 - Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay
 - Oyster River Bog Association
 - Peaks Island Land Preserve
 - Pemaquid Watershed Association
 - Phippsburg Land Trust
 - Portland Trails
 - Quoddy Regional Land Trust
 - Saco Valley Land Trust
 - Scarborough Land Conservation Trust
 - Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association
 - South Portland Land Trust
 - Vinalhaven Land Trust
 - Yarmouth Land Trust
 - York Land Trust, Inc.
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Available Datasets and Maps

Datasets Collected

Through state initiatives such as the Bay Management Project (<http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/projects/archive.html>) and the Ocean Energy Demonstration Siting Project, significant data priorities were identified and data layers collected. Currently, the Maine Coastal Program is developing an online mapping portal and data dissemination site called the Maine Coastal Atlas for public viewing of these data sets and to serve as a repository for additional access, conservation, and habitat data that is developed in the future. Currently, data is available either by request from the relevant state agency or from by direct download from the State's GIS website www.maine.gov/megis.

Habitat

There are a significant number of maps and data available about habitat and natural resources, and specific agencies and/or organizations have responsibility for updating the data on a regular basis. In addition to the datasets, there are several web-based Internet Mapping Servers that provide users with the ability to access wide breadth and depth of habitat data. Some of these data sets include:

- Shellfish beds;
- Terrestrial Wading Bird Habitat;
- Inland Wading Bird Habitat;
- Seabird Nesting Islands;
- Eagles Nests;
- Seabird Forage Estimates;
- Limited fish and marine organism habitat and;
- Rare/Threatened/Endangered Species Habitat

Access

Both the Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have worked hard to develop digital data layers of access sites that are managed by their respective agencies throughout the state of Maine. In addition, the Maine Coastal Program funded the creation of a coastal access data layer including sites managed by state agencies and other sites of either historic access that may not be state or federally owned. This data will be available in an abridged form on the Maine Coastal Atlas, an online data portal and mapviewer that is in development by the Maine Coastal Program. Additionally, to facilitate access to these sites, the Maine Coastal Program has received funding for the development of a hardbound Coastal Access Guide, featuring descriptions, pictures and availability of facilities at each access site for distribution to municipalities and through the Maine Office of

Tourism. The State Planning Office has also finished the creation of a conserved lands data layer that features federal, state, and private conserved lands in Maine.

Scenic/Cultural

Through efforts by the Maine State Planning Office and the Department of Environmental Protection, there are several scenic area data layers and records that exist in Maine. The Department of Environmental Protection has created a preliminary data layer displaying many scenic areas along the Maine coast. The Maine Coastal Program has funded the creation of a scenic area identification methodology and subsequently the creation of scenic inventories for the Maine coast, having completed the last of the coastline (Washington and Hancock Counties) this past summer (2010). These inventories identify not just scenic areas, but areas of state and national significance. The final two counties are available as a data layer, though the remainder of the coastline, from Kittery to Stonington is available in hardbound report form. The Coastal Program plans to create similar data layers for the rest of the coast as was done in Washington and Hancock counties.

Base Information

The following bibliography identifies key spatial data layers that currently exist within the state.

Compilation of Existing Spatial Data	
<u>Database Inventory Categorization</u>	-
Data Type	-
I. Geophysical Conditions and Habitat	-
II. Fauna	-
III. Human Uses/Obstructions	-
IV. Viewshed	-
V. Political Boundaries	-
VI. Ocean Energy	-
<u>Acronym List</u>	
DOE - U.S. Department of Energy	
NREL - National Renewable Energy Laboratory	
USGS - United States Geological Survey	
USFW - United States Fish and Wildlife Service	
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
MEGIS - Maine Geographic Information Systems	

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
I.	File: conpagsg.shp	Compilation of sediment types by USGS in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. Contributing sources include WHOI/USGS.	1989	USGS	NO
	App: Surficial Sediment				
I.	File: Bathymetry Contours GOM	Bathymetric contours for the Gulf of Maine from USGS. These data were created from a DEM which was based on numerous input layers.	2003	USGS	NO
	App: GoM Bathymetry				
I.	File: Bathymetry Contours of the GoM	Additional bathymetric contours of the Gulf of Maine, created by USGS, made available by MEGIS	NA	USGS, MEGIS	NO
	App: Bathy_Contours				
I.	File: **_Fathom_Line (Group)	Selections made from GoM Bathymetry delineating fathom depths of 10 - 200.	2009	USGS, SPO (MCP)	NO
	App: **_Fathom_Line.shp (Group)				
I.	File: rare_threat_endanger_species.shp	Contains rare/threatened/or endangered species observations with a .25 mile buffer around each indicating a "consultation zone".	2008	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: rare_threat_endanger_species				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
I.	File: gomlc7	Provides land cover data from five interpretations of Landsat data and wetland cover. Photo-	1992	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Gulf_of_Maine_Landcover_USFWS_1992				

		interpretations were combined to yield a 31-class raster (grid) digital dataset, "GOMLC7", for the Gulf of Maine watershed.			
I.	File: MEDMR.Eelgrass	Flight photography and ground-truthed digitization of eelgrass beds along Maine's coast.	2005	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Eelgrass				
I.	File: saline91	Value estimates of habitat by species managed by USFW Service	1991	USFW	NO
	App: High Value Habitat (USFW)				
II.	File: worm	WORM provides a generalized representation at 1:24,000 scale of commercially harvested marine worm habitat in Maine, based on Maine Department of Marine Resources data from 1970's.	1980	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Marine_Worm_Habitat				
II.	File: saltmarsh_tiger_beetle	Saltmarsh Tiger Beetle Locations in Maine	2009	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: saltmarsh_tiger_beetle				
II.	File: Blue_Mussels.shp	Blue_mussels is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for blue mussels (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Blue_mussels				
II.	File: seed	SEED shows point locations of Maine mussel seed conservation areas at 1:24,000 scale	1995	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Mussel_Seed_Areas				
II.	File: european_oysters.shp	European_oysters is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for european oysters (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: european_oysters				
II.	File: american_oysters	American_oysters is a REGIONS	2009	Maine	NO

	App: american_oysters	dataset and contains distribution information for american oysters (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>) for the coast of Maine .		Marine Resources	
II.	File: atlantic_surf_clams	Atlantic_surf_clams is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for atlantic surf clams (<i>Spisula solidissima</i>) for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: atlantic_surf_clams				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
II.	File: hard_clams	Hard_clams is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for hard clams (<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>), also called "quahogs", for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: hard_clams				
II.	File: razor_clams	Razor_clams is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for razor clam (<i>Ensis directus</i>) for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: razor_clams				
II.	File: softshell_clams	Softshell_clams is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for softshell clams (<i>Mya arenaria</i>) for the coast of Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: softshell_clams				
II.	File: sea_scallops	Sea_scallops is a REGIONS dataset and contains distribution information for sea scallop (<i>Placopectin magellanicus</i>) for the	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: sea_scallops				

		coast of Maine			
II.	File: DMR_Scallops	Scalping per unit effort in Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Scallops				
II.	File: haulouts	Point locations of known seal haulouts in Maine	2009	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Seal_Haulouts				
II.	File: MEDMR.Whale_History	Historic, opportunistic whale sightings in the gulf of Maine.	2000	Right Whale Consortium	Specific User Agreement Required for Data
	App: MEDMR.Whale_History				
II.	File: MEDMR.SIGHTINGS	Opportunistic Sightings by species and condition in the Gulf of Maine.	2000	Right Whale Consortium	Specific User Agreement Required for Data
	App: MEDMR.SIGHTINGS				
II.	File: ME_SPUE_1978-2008	Opportunistic and survey track sightings of right whales in the Gulf of Maine.	2008	Right Whale Consortium	Specific User Agreement Required for Data
	App: Right_Whale_Sightings_PUE				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
II.	File: AQUACULT_POLY	AQUACULT_POLY contains the geographic locations of active aquaculture lease sites along the coast of Maine.	2006	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Aquaculture				
II.	File: DMRshrimptows	Displays areas of shrimp sampling in the Gulf of Maine	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Shrimp_Tows				

II.	File: GIS_VTR_GF4 Events	Vessel Trip reporting data relevant to groundfishing in the Gulf of Maine.	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Groundfish				
II.	File: GIS_HAL_clp2 Events	Vessel Trip reporting data relevant to halibut fishing in the Gulf of Maine.	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Halibut				
II.	File: GIS_Herr2 Events	Vessel Trip reporting data relevant to Herring fishing in the Gulf of Maine.	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Herring				
II.	File: GIS_Shrimp4 Events	Vessel Trip reporting data relevant to Shrimp fishing in the Gulf of Maine.	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Shrimp				
II.	File: GIS_LSS_2 Events	Lobster samples taken in the Gulf of Maine by DMR.	2008	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: DMR_Lobster_Sampling				
II.	File: SNI	SNI contains POLYGONS that represent NRPA (Natural Resource Protection Act) regulated coastal seabird nesting islands or portions thereof along the coast of Maine.	2004	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Seabird_Nesting_Islands				
II.	File: ehrtern	EHRTERN Roseate Tern nesting areas identified and mapped as Essential Habitat by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW).	2003	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Roseate_Tern_EH				
II.	File: twwh	TWWH contains Tidal Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH) polygons rated as HIGH or MODERATE value. Polygons were mapped by MDIFW regional staff using statewide digital NWI data.	2006	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Tidal_Waterfowl_Wader_Habitat				
II.	File: eaglenests2009	Maine Bald Eagle Nest locations	2009	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: eaglesnests2009				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
II.	File: shorebirds	Layer depicting shorebird feeding and roosting areas with 100 and 250 foot disturbance protection zones.	2006	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: shorebirds				
II.	File: barrowsgoldeneye	Barrow's Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala islandica</i>), wintering area	2009	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: barrowsgoldeneye				
II.	File: sharptailedsparrow_habitat	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow habitat	2009	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: sharptailedsparrow_habitat				
II.	File: greatblueheron_colonies	This data is a subset of a layer that includes all known historical wading bird colony locations in Maine.	2009	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: greatblueheron_colonies				
II.	File: EhplvtrnPoly	EHPLVTRN contains Piping Plover and Least Tern nesting, feeding, and brood-rearing areas identified and mapped as Essential Habitat.	2003	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Piping_Plover_Least_Tern_EH				
II.	File: harlequinduck_winteringareas	Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>) wintering areas	2008	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: harlequinduck_winteringareas				
II.	File: IWWH	Inland waterfowl wader habitat	2006	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Inland_Waterfowl_Wader_Habitat				
II.	File: Shorebird_Habitat	Shorebird roosting and feeding areas in Maine.	2006	Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	NO
	App: Shorebird_Habitat				

II.	File: Goodale_Projections	Layer depicting migratory bird flyways and island buffers as generated by Wing Goodale of the Biodiversity Research Institute.	2009	Biodiversity Research Institute	NO
	App: Goodale_Projections				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
III.	File: boatlnch	State-managed and state-assisted boat launches in Maine.	2009	Maine Department of Conservation	NO
	App: Boat_Launches				
III.	File: ME_WJA_Range	Estimated range of the Maine Windjammer Association fleet as determined by interviews.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: ME_WJA_Range				
III.	File: Charter_Fishing	Depicts estimated locations of commercial charter operation in the state of Maine.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Charter_Fishing				
III.	File: GOMOOS_Buoys	Depicts locations of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observation System Buoys.	2009	Gulf of Maine Research Institute	NO
	App: GOMOOS_Buoys				
IV.	File: Scenic_Resource_Sites	Scenic_Resource_Sites contains the locations of scenic resource sites as defined by the state of Maine's Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA).	2003	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: SPO_Viewshed_Points				
IV.	File: Maine_NHR	Point locations of sites on the National Historic Registry in Maine.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Maine_NHR				
IV.	File: Maine's_Finest_Lakes	Depicts selected Maine lakes identified in the Maine Wind Power	2009	Maine State Planning	NO
	App: Maine's_Finest_Lakes				

		Act as being a scenic assessment criteria		Office	
IV.	File: Special_Protection_Rivers	Depicts selected Maine Rivers identified in the Maine Wind Power Act as being scenic assessment criteria.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Special_Protection_Rivers				
IV.	File: Wildlands_Lakes_Assessment	Depicts selected Maine lakes identified in the Maine Wind Power Act as being a scenic assessment criteria	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Wildlands_Lakes_Assessment				
IV.	File: State_Parks	Depicts State Parks in Maine.	2009	Maine Department of Conservation	NO
	App: State_Parks				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
V.	File: NOAA_3nm	Depicts the Federal/State seaward boundary.	2004	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: 3NM_Limit				
V.	File: NE_Poly	This layer represents the New England States without Maine.	2003	MassGIS	NO
	App: NE_Poly				
V.	File: canada	This layer represents the country of Canada.	?	MEGIS	NO
	App: canada				
V.	File: line8g	Depicts the 8g Zone in Federal Waters in the Gulf of Maine.	2009	MEGIS	NO
	App: 8g_Zone				
V.	File: terrsea_maine	Depicts the territorial sea line in Federal waters in the Gulf of Maine.	2009	MEGIS	NO
	App: Maine_Territorial_Sea				
V.	File: contzone_maine	Depicts the contiguous zone line in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine.	2009	MEGIS	NO
	App: Maine_Contiguous_Zone				

V.	File: NOAA_EEZ	Depicts the international marine boundary between the U.S. and Canada and the extent of U.S jurisdiction in the ocean.	2004	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Exclusive_Economic_Zone				
V.	File: blk_clip	Depicts MMS Lease blocks in the gulf of Maine.	2005	U.S. Minerals Management Service	NO
	App: MMS_Lease_Blocks				
V.	File: fishing_raster	Depicts fishing activity as gathered from participatory mapping exercises within each OED planning area	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Planning Area-Fishing_Activity				
V.	File: Lobster_Mgmt_Area1	Depicts Maine's Lobster Zones, A-G.	?	Maine Marine Resources	NO
	App: Lobster_Zones				
V.	File: senate03	SENATE03 contains Maine State Senate Districts established by apportionment July 2, 2003	2003	MEGIS	NO
	App: State_Senate_Districts				
V.	File: house03	HOUSE03 contains Maine House of Representative Districts established by the Maine Legislature. Legislation	2003	MEGIS	NO
	App: State_House_Districts				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
V.	File: ParkBoundary_Poly_CARTO_200803	Park Boundary polygons for Acadia National Park , Maine.	2008	U.S. National Park Service	NO
	App: Acadia_National_Park				
V.	File: Federal_Conservation_Land	Depicts conservation lands in	2009	Maine State	NO

	App: Federal_Conservation_Land	Maine owned and managed by the Federal Government.		Planning Office	
V.	File: State_Conservation_Land	Depicts conservation lands in Maine owned and managed by the state government	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: State_Conservation-Land				
V.	File: Private_Conservation_Land	Depcist conservation lands in Maine that are privatley owned.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Private_Conservation_Land				
V.	File: CmgesPoly	Depicts CMGE's in Maine	1976	Maine Geological Survey	NO
	App: CmgesPoly				
V.	File: Maine_Counties	Depicts counties in the state of Maine.	?	MEGIS	NO
	App: Maine_Counties				
V.	File: EastCoastPoly	Depicts the eastern portion of the United States, West of the Mississippi.	?	NOAA	NO
	App: EastCoastPoly				
V.	File: LURC_Islands	Islands in Maine under the jurisdiction of the Land Use Regulation Commission	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: LURC_Islands				
V.	File: LURC_Coastal_Towns	Coastal townships in Maine under the jurisdiction of the Land Use Regulation Commission.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: LURC_Coastal_Towns				
V.	File: metwp24	METWP24 depicts political boundaries, common town names, and geocodes for Maine at 1:24,000 scale.	2007	MEGIS	NO
	App: Maine_Towns				
V.	File: LURC	Islands and terrestrial areas from metwp24 that are under the jurisdiction of the Land Use Regulation Commission.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: LURC				

CRITERIA	DATA FILE NAME/TYPE	DATA FILE DESCRIPTION	YEAR	DATA SOURCE OR STEWARD	PROPRIETARY
V.	File: State_Boundary_polys	Polygon depicting the political boundaries of Maine.	?	MEGIS	NO
	App: Maine				
VI.	File: Monhegan_OED_Site	Ocean Energy Demonstration Site as identified by Maine DOC and SPO.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Monhegan_OED_Site				
VI.	File: Damariscove_OED_Site	Ocean Energy Demonstration Site as identified by Maine DOC and SPO.	2009	Maine State Planning Office	NO
	App: Damariscove_OED_Site				

Other Sources of Information

During the process of identifying datasets and reviewing existing conservation efforts, several other data sources were identified. Although these are not included in this electronic dataset of GIS files, they are useful to include in this reference and may be helpful in the planning process. There are three categories of other files not included in this dataset:

- Not Available for Download, because of data processing fees or confidentiality issues
 - Not Available in GIS Format, but may be relevant to the project
 - Not Downloaded, because direct connection to project is not clear
-

Not Available for Download

The following GIS data sources have been identified but were not included in this data set, either because a data-processing fee is charged, or data is only for internal use at the organization.

- MNAP – Habitat Consultation Areas Mapping Project
- MCHT – Conservation Lands in Casco Bay
- USFWS – Gulf of Maine Habitat Models

MNAP - Habitat Consultation Areas Mapping Project

The Habitat Consultation Areas Mapping Project (HCAMP) is a cooperative effort between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) in the Department of Conservation to develop maps that identify areas with important habitats and natural features. The maps can be used as a screening tool to facilitate landowner preparation for permit application. The maps use "consultation areas" to represent areas in which the MNAP or MDIFW have concerns.

Consultation areas are grid cells approximately 0.24 mi² (about 154 acres) in size that represent areas containing known important animal or plant habitat and natural features. A grid cell is highlighted when one or more habitats or natural features are documented to occur anywhere within it. The information represented includes the most up-to-date and accurate information available from the MNAP and the MDIFW at the time of map production. Consultation areas represent locations of the following:

- Endangered, Threatened, and special concern animals and plants;
- Essential habitats for Endangered and Threatened animals (also see Essential Habitat atlas for regulated areas);
- Deer wintering areas;
- Waterfowl and wading bird habitats;
- Shorebird feeding and roosting areas;
- Seabird nesting islands; and,
- Unique natural communities.

<http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/mnap/infoservices/infoservices.html>

MCHT – Conservation Lands in Lower Casco Bay

Staff from USFWS Gulf of Maine Program, Casco Bay Project led an effort to collect and compile existing data on the conservation status of all lands in the 15-town study region. The database is maintained at Maine Coast Heritage Trust for future updating.

This project also identified and mapped important habitat for 9 groups of species and results are being used to catalyze voluntary habitat protection efforts in the region. The habitat maps are included in this dataset, but because they are specific to a small geographic area, and are subsets of coastwide data, they have not been reviewed.

<http://gulfofmaine.fws.gov/cascobay.html>

USFWS – Gulf of Maine Habitat Maps

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has completed a project which identifies important habitats within the U.S. portion of the Gulf of Maine watershed. Maps, models, and metadata were developed for 64 Fish and Wildlife 'trust' species, and for an additional 27 priority species identified by Partners in Flight, the International Shorebird Survey, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and USFWS Region 5 Migratory Bird Management Office.

This information was not requested for this dataset because an internet map viewer is available which allows users to:

- View important habitat by habitat type or for all 91 species combined
 - View the top 25% or top 50% of the most valuable habitat
 - View important habitat for each of the 91 species separately
 - View environmental themes including land cover and bathymetry
 - Draw a polygon of interest (usually a parcel) on the screen to create a table of habitat values that includes results for all 91 species
 - Create and print a map of the area of interest
-

Information Not in GIS Format

The following information is available in tabular format, but no GIS maps appear to exist. It may be useful to create maps for some of this information.

Access

Description	Source
List of state-owned and assisted boat facilities (own, name, type, fee, funding source) - appendix 2 includes acquired land, but undeveloped	MDoC Strategic Plan for Access
List of rivers in need of guaranteed or additional access (<i>would need to identify which are coastal</i>)	MDoC Strategic Plan for Access
List of boating facility priorities for coastal communities - from 1989 DECD study by Sasaki Associates - updated in 1994?	MDoC Strategic Plan for Access
Table showing state-sponsored boating sites by county	
Table showing tidal miles and tile sites per tidal mile for coastal counties	
Port and Harbor Facilities on the Maine Coast (9 types of access with number of access points per town) identified 86 coastal towns with facilities - this was done by Southern Maine EcoDev District and Eastern ME Dev Corp in 1998, under contract by DMR	DMR – Contribution of Working Waterfronts
Statistics about working waterfronts for 25 towns in 5 areas: coastal description, boat access, facilities, development pressure, waterfront issues	CEI – Preserving Commercial Fishing Access
MITA identified recreation management strategies for its' islands, including voluntary guidelines, site management, and visitor education.	BPL – Recreation Management Plan for MITA islands

Habitat

Description	Source
Detailed data about the important, scarce, and vulnerable wetlands in Maine	MDoC SCORP

Files Not Downloaded

The following data files are available for download but are not included in this dataset. They can be downloaded in the future, if they are relevant.

Name	Description	Geographic Area
drgclips	Collarless digital raster graphics - .tiff format images of USGS 7.5 minute series	24K Tile
medem30s	Digital terrain elevation models in grid format, based on USGS 7.5 minute	24K Tile
medoq	MrSid format	24K Tile
ortho_hf	High resolution 24-bit color ortho-rectified digital images	24K Tile
contours	Contains contour lines for Maine from USGS at 1:24,000 scale quadrangles	24K Tile
nwi	USFW national wetland inventory polygon data at 1:24,000 scale	24K Tile
wetchar	Contains National Wetland Inventory polygons for towns characterized on six different wetland functions and values at scale of 1:24,000.	
hydro	Lakes, ponds, rivers, perennial and intermittent streams, and coastline at 1:1000,000 scale.	
ponds	Ponds and lake features from USGS 1:24,000 scale quadrangles.	24K Tile
rivers	Double line river features from USGS 1:24,000 scale quadrangles.	24K Tile
roads	Roads and trails from USGS 1:24,000 scale quadrangles.	24K Tile
streams	Single line streams from USGS 1:24,000 scale quadrangles.	24K Tile
gnis-h	Names and point locations of most hydrologic features in Maine, as shown on USGS 1:24,000 quadrangles.	
gnis-l	Names and point locations of landform features (such as summits, islands, capes, bars, and ridges), as shown on USGS 1:24,000 quadrangles.	
gnis-p	Names and point locations of most place-name features in Maine, as shown on USGS 1:24,000 quadrangles.	
	Data from the 2000 U.S. census – <i>this may be relevant if it's important to map trends in population or identify rapidly growing areas – some of this may have already been done by Regional Planning Commissions and/or Smart Growth organizations.</i>	

Entities Eligible to Hold Title

In Maine, three types of entities are eligible to hold title to land under the current NOAA guidelines for CELCP funding. Each of these entities is described below.

Local Governments

There are 150 local government entities within Maine's coastal zone. They are listed below in geographic order from south to north.

York County

- Kittery
- Eliot
- York
- South Berwick
- Ogunquit
- Wells
- Kennebunk
- Arundel
- Kennebunkport
- Biddeford
- Saco
- Old Orchard Beach

Cumberland County

- Scarborough
- Cape Elizabeth
- South Portland
- Portland
- Long Island
- Falmouth
- Cumberland
- Yarmouth
- Freeport
- Brunswick
- Harpswell

Sagadahoc County

- Arrowsic
- Bath
- Bowdoinham
- Georgetown
- Phippsburg
- Richmond
- Topsham
- West Bath
- Woolwich

Kennebec County

- Gardiner
- Farmingdale
- Hallowell
- Augusta
- Chelsea
- Randolph
- Pittston
- Alna

Lincoln County

- Boothbay
- Boothbay Harbor
- Bremen
- Bristol
- Damariscotta
- Dresden
- Edgecomb
- Monhegan Island Plantation
- Newcastle
- Nobleboro
- South Bristol
- Southport
- Waldoboro
- Westport
- Wiscasset

Knox County

- Camden
- Cushing
- Friendship
- Matinicus Isle Plantation
- North Haven
- Owls Head
- Rockland
- Rockport
- St. George
- South Thomaston
- Thomaston
- Vinalhaven
- Warren

Waldo County

- Lincolnville
- Northport
- Belfast
- Searsport
- Isleboro
- Stockton Springs
- Prospect
- Frankfort
- Winterport

Penobscot County

- Hampden
- Bangor
- Veazie
- Eddington
- Brewer
- Orrington

Hancock County

- Bucksport
- Verona
- Orland
- Penobscot
- Castine
- Brooksville
- Sedgwick
- Brooklin
- Deer Isle
- Stonington
- Isle au Haut
- Swans Island
- Frenchboro
- Cranberry Isles
- Southwest Harbor
- Tremont
- Mount Desert
- Bar Harbor
- Blue Hill
- Surry
- Ellsworth
- Hancock
- Trenton
- Lamoine
- Franklin
- Sullivan
- Sorrento
- Gouldsboro
- Winter Harbor

Washington County

- Steuben
- Cherryfield
- Milbridge
- Harrington
- Columbia
- Columbia Falls
- Addison
- Beals
- Jonesport
- Jonesboro
- Centerville
- Whitneyville
- Roque Bluffs
- Machias
- Machiasport
- Marshfield
- East Machias
- Whiting
- Cutler
- Lubec
- Dennysville
- Pembroke
- Perry
- Robbinston
- Calais
- Eastport

This list does not include local governments that are outside the state's coastal zone but within a coastal watershed. Because these projects need to show a direct connection to coastal and estuarine resources, their eligibility would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

State Agencies

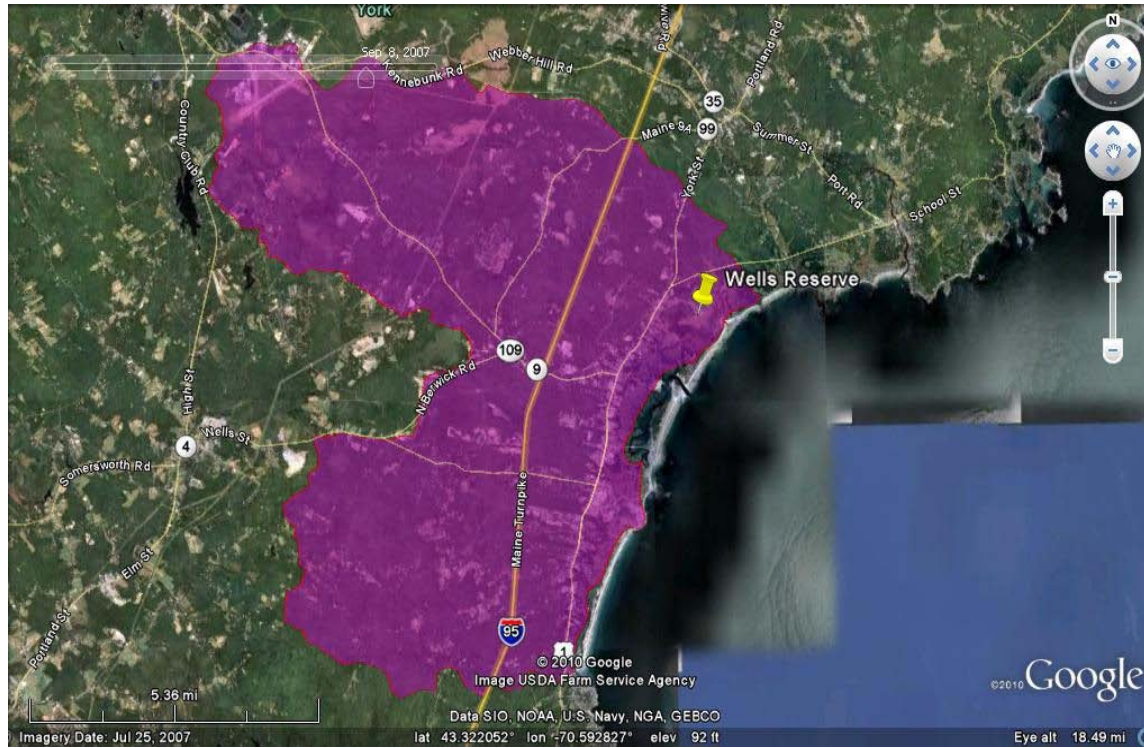
There are eight state agencies who could receive CELCP funding for land acquisition:

- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality
- Land Use Regulation Commission (holding title for land in unorganized territories)
- Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission
- St. Croix International Waterway Commission
- Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
- The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Description of Other Entities

In addition to the local and state agencies described above, Maine includes a strong network of non-governmental organizations who currently own and/or maintain a large network of protected lands along the coast. Although these entities are not eligible to receive CELCP funds, they may, under certain circumstances, hold title or lands or interest in lands used as in-kind match. They also have an important role to play in any coastal land conservation effort in Maine.

CELCP Target Watershed for the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve



Funded CELCP Projects in Maine: 2004-2011

Fiscal Year	Project name, location, and holder	CELCP Funds	Results
FY 04, earmark	Royal River, Yarmouth, Town of Yarmouth	\$1.8M	Resulted in the creation of Bayview Community Park
FY 05, earmark	Mt A 2C, York Co.	\$1M	Acquired three parcels as part of a regional effort.
FY 06, earmark	Maquoit Bay, Brunswick	\$0.45M	Provided partial funding for the project.
FY 07, first competitive award, two projects	Maquoit Bay, Brunswick	\$1.45M	Completed funding for the project
	Stockton Harbor, Stockton Springs	\$0.41M	Used \$50,000 of the total grant award.
FY 09	Merrymeeting Bay Project. Held by IF&W	\$0.345M	Additions to an existing Wildlife Management Area
FY11	Merriland River Corridor Project, Held by WNERR	\$0.287M	Additions the WNERR

Table 1