

Maine

Participation in the Gulf of Maine Council - Talking Points

Why do we participate?

- Between 2007 and 2011 Maine received approximately \$800,000 through the Council's habitat restoration program that generated nearly \$1,000,000 in match for twenty-one projects.
- We can access a regional network (e.g., New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) of professionals that are working on watershed and coastal issues that are important to Maine. As a result we can perform our work in Maine more quickly and efficiently.
- By working through the Council we can address issues that require an inter-state response. Examples of these issues include the restoration of migratory fish stocks that are affected by river barriers; collection and assessment of data on the effects of contaminants on people, marine water quality and shellfish resources; and the impact of human activities on the seafloor.
- State agencies, higher education and non-profit organizations participate in its committees. Most of their work is performed electronically (e.g., email, conference calls and webinars). Their ongoing, voluntary participation allows them to share their expertise and learn creative approaches from their colleagues that can be applied in Maine.
- Council products and services that Maine places a priority on include: distribution of the *Gulf of Maine Times* to Maine people involved in industry, education, conservation, science, recreation, and health; habitat restoration grants; environmental monitoring data; publications on salt marshes and American eels; and stream barrier removal guidelines.

What is our "return on our investment"?

- Maine's annual dues are \$18,000. It has three gubernatorial appointments on the Council (e.g., Marine Resources, State Planning Office, and a non-profit representative) that represent Maine's positions in two meetings a year.
- Participation in the Council's activities allows it to access human and financial resources throughout the region. Thus Maine can save time and money.
- The Council funds a contract position at the State Planning Office that supports the Council's habitat restoration program and works on Maine restoration projects. (Fourteen salt marsh and river restoration projects have been completed along the coast and seven are underway.)
- Municipalities and non-profit organizations can receive grant funds related to habitat restoration and community resiliency.

How does the Council's 2012-2017 Action Plan support state agency priorities?

- The three goals in the Action Plan align directly with the legislative mandates of the State Planning Office and Departments of Environmental Protection, Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Conservation.
- Action Plan activities of particular interest include improve and protect water quality (DEP/DMR), habitat restoration (SPO/IF&W/DMR), seafloor mapping and spatial planning (SPO/DMR/DOC), marine and aquatic monitoring (DEP/DMR), ecosystem health indicators and environmental reporting (SPO/DEP/DMR), adapting to a changing climate and coastal storms (SPO/DEP/DOC), and sustainable communities (SPO/DMR).
- Maine's marine environmental monitoring efforts are augmented through the Council's regional data and information management efforts.

Who from Maine Participates?

- **Restoration** (John Banks - Penobscot Nation; Stu Fefer - USF&WS; Liz Hertz - MSPO; Dan Kircheis - NMFS; Slade Moore - MSPO; Hilary Neckles - USGS; Jeff Reardon - TU; Gail Whippelhauser - DMR)
- **GOMMI** (Jonathan Grabowski - GMRI; Linda Mercer - DMR)
- **Gulfwatch** (Lawrence LeBlanc - UMO; Susan Shaw - MERI)
- **Sustainable Industries and Communities Committee** (Nathan Johnson - AECOM; Linda Mercer - DMR; Theresa Torrent-Ellis - MSPO)
- **Ecosystem Indicator Partnership** (Peter Larson - Bigelow Laboratory; Steven Perrin - Bar Harbor; Peter Slovinsky - DOC; Esperanza Stancioff - UMO; Beth Della Valle - Cumberland; Chris Feurt - UNE; Liz Hertz - MSPO; David Page - Bowdoin College; Carol Tukey - Harpswell; Keith Matassa - UNE; Susan Shaw - MERI; John Wise - USM; David Courtemanch - DEP; Michele Dionne - WNERR; Mike Doan - FCB; Angie Dubois - DEP; Jonathan Eaton - Georges River LT; Kim Groff - DEP; Bob Bayer - Lobster Institute; Sebastian Belle - Maine Aquaculture Association; Ian Bricknell - UMO; Chris Heinig - MER Assessment; Theresa Johnson - UMO; Linda Mercer - DMR; Bob Steneck - UMO; Rick Wahle - UMO; Carl Wilson - DMR; Sue Adamowicz - USF&WS; Erno Bonebakker - Portland; Adria Elskus - USGS; Brad Haskell - Bar Harbor; Blaine Kopp - USGS; Pam Morgan - UNE)
- **Outreach** (Catherine Schmitt - Sea Grant; Tom Shyka - NERACOOS)
- **Information Management** (Seth Barker - DMR)