

Cobscook Bay State Park

Dennysville, Maine

Coordinates: N44° 50.580 W067° 09.534

Geocaching.com code: GC4B1WW

Type of Cache: Traditional*



This 888 acre (360 hectare) park, founded in 1965, is situated on part of the Moosehorn National Wildlife refuge and overlooks Cobscook Bay. Cobscook, the Maliseet-Passamaquoddy tribal word for "boiling tides", describes this setting where the tidal range averages 24 feet (7 metres).



Nutrient-rich salt water flowing in from the Gulf of Maine stimulates plankton growth, which in turn feeds a vast array of invertebrates (such as shellfish and marine worms). Eagles, ospreys, seals, otters and even the occasional bear enjoy the Bay's abundant fish, including smelt, alewives, shad, sea-run brook trout, striped bass and the Atlantic salmon.

Attracted by Cobscook Bay's sheltered coves, mudflats, and eelgrass beds, thousands of shorebirds stop over each fall to rest and forage as they migrate south from northern breeding grounds. The Bay's inner coves support a quarter of Maine's wintering black ducks and the state's highest concentration of bald eagles. A free birding list for the Cobscook Bay region is available at the Park entrance.

The park's geology is shaped by three primary forces: Cobscook Bay's powerful tides; the underlying bedrock

(a volcanic tuff-breccia that dates back to the Silurian Age roughly 420 million years ago); and the glacial action from the Wisconsin ice sheet (approximately 12,000-18,000 years ago)- which deposited mud and an assortment of rock, sand, silt and clay known as glacial till. Where the bedrock is exposed, grooves left by the ice sheet (known as glacial striations) are visible on rock surfaces. For more information on this geologic legacy visit the park's Ice Age Trail. *(Excerpts largely taken from Cobscook Bay State Park on Maine.gov)*

Learn more about this area:

www.maine.gov/cobscookbay

www.fws.gov/northeast/moosehorn/

Thank you to: Maine State Parks (cache owner), Gary Best (Maine State Parks)

Passport Question:

- The Bay is home to a variety of wildlife and bird watchers can expect to see many birds in the area. According to the educational card and fun facts hidden in the geocache, how many bird species can be counted in this area?

***Please note:** This geocache is part of the Maine State Parks GeoTour. Why not take part! For more information on this GeoTour visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/activities/geocaching.shtm

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at www.gulfofmaine.org

