

Maine Climate Council  
Recommendations from the Coastal and Marine Working Group

Kathleen Leyden, ME Dept of Marine Resources  
Casco Bay Academy – Sept 29, 2020







# Coastal and Marine Working Group Members

Co-chairs: Kathleen Leyden, Maine Department of Marine Resources & Heather Leslie, University of Maine

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Representative Lydia Blume, Maine State  
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Bill Needleman, City of Portland

Chris Petersen, College of the Atlantic

Kristen Puryear, Maine Department of  
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David Townsend, University of Maine

Steve Walker, Maine Coast Heritage  
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Carl Wilson, Maine Department of  
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# Maine's coastal communities and ecosystems are foundational to our identity and our economy

- \$5.6M contributed each year by coastal tourism (Waypoints 2017)
- \$674M in fisheries and aquaculture products landed (Maine DMR 2019)
- 45% of Maine residents live in coastal and island communities (MCP 2020)



*Credit: H. Leslie*





## OUR STRATEGIES: CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### Mitigating and adapting to climate change creates new opportunities for Maine coastal communities and marine-dependent businesses

Technical assistance delivers information businesses and towns need to plan and adapt



Nature-based solutions protect communities, create jobs, preserve green space, save \$



New and emerging seafood opportunities



Climate resilience creates new jobs, products for Maine ports





## Coastal + Marine Working Group

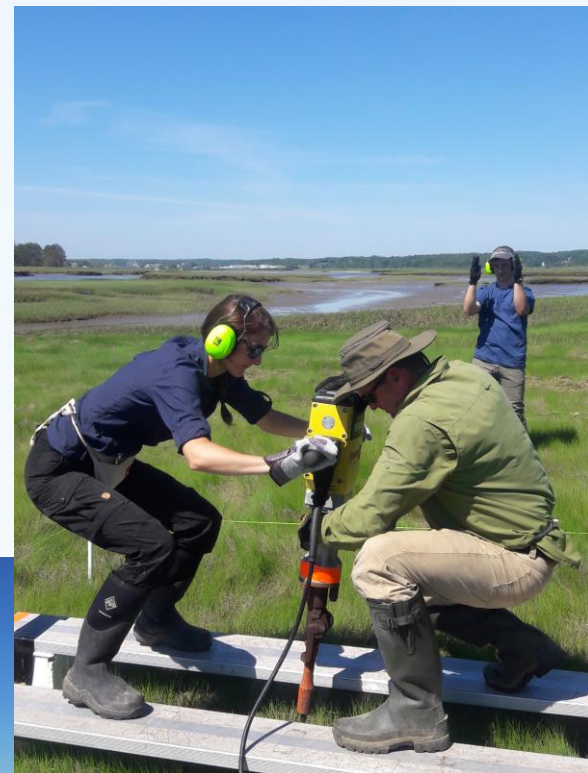
## Strategies

1. **Track climate impacts** to support adaptive decision making
2. **Provide technical assistance and outreach** via the Coastal and Marine Information Exchange and Maine Seafood Business Council
3. **Enhance mitigation** by conserving and restoring coastal habitats
4. **With nature-based solutions**, promote climate-adaptive ecosystem planning and management
5. **Managing for resiliency** of Maine's marine fisheries and aquaculture industries
6. **Create climate-ready working waterfronts**



## STRATEGY 1. Track climate impacts to support decision making

- Establish a state-level Climate Collaborative for Coastal and Ocean Monitoring
- Collect, assess, and share information on how climate change is affecting Maine's coastal and marine areas to support adaptive decision making
- Leverage existing programs led by the state, non-profits, academic communities and citizen scientists.



*Credit: C. Enterline, J. Anderson*





## STRATEGY 2. Provide technical assistance and outreach

- In coordination with the monitoring collaborative...
- The **Coastal and Marine Information Exchange** will provide coastal and marine stakeholders with accessible, relevant information and decision support tools
- The **Maine Seafood Business Council** will provide Maine's seafood harvesters, shoreside businesses, and working waterfronts with information and tools to support operational decisions, capital investments, and long-range planning to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies



*Credit: B. McGreavy*



## STRATEGY 3. Enhance mitigation by conserving and restoring coastal habitats

- Determine blue carbon stocks and mitigation values by conducting a comprehensive coastwide survey.
- Encourage blue carbon habitat conservation and restoration through formal carbon sequestration incentives or carbon permit program
- Achieve blue carbon mitigation by managing, conserving and restoring tidal marsh, eelgrass, and seaweed habitats



*Credit: J Hagan  
Back River saltmarsh  
between Georgetown and Arrowsic*





## STRATEGY 4. **With nature-based solutions, promote climate-adaptive ecosystem planning and management**

- Foster climate-adaptive planning in marine, coastal, and inland areas for the State and municipalities
- Promote nature-based solutions for climate challenges that impact coastal rivers, shorelines, and coastal and marine habitats
- Conserve and restore ecosystems to foster resiliency
- Strengthen stormwater management tools



*Credit: S. Moore*





## STRATEGY 5. Manage for resiliency of Maine's fisheries and aquaculture industries

- Information support
- Market support and business resilience
- Evaluate how regulations can better address environmental change while recognizing the need for stability



*Credit:  
J Waller, J. Hagan*





## STRATEGY 6. Climate-Ready Working Waterfronts

- Develop ways to finance infrastructure improvements.
- Invest public funds wisely.
- Improve guidance and technical assistance for municipalities and business owners.
- Reform and improve regulatory and non-regulatory approaches for waterfront redevelopment.
- Continue conversations about marine emissions, Green Ports, renewable energy



Top photo credit: Maine Marine Trades Association  
Bottom: Islesford Solar Panel Array: Island Institute