

Casco Bay is one of 28 “estuaries of national significance” designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To protect the ecological integrity of the Bay and its watershed, the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership works with its partners to ensure effective management and wise stewardship of the Bay’s resources.

## Minimizing Stormwater Pollution

### **Portland Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)**

In 2011, the Portland City Council approved a 15-year implementation schedule for CSO remediation. The anticipated \$170 million “Tier III” plan will rely heavily on construction of in-line storage conduits for combined stormwater and sanitary wastes, reducing the number of CSO discharge points and preventing CSO discharges during many storm events. CBEP funded development by the City of an outreach plan for stormwater and CSO remediation. The City’s outreach effort significantly affected how discussion of the fee was managed and helped lay the ground work for the Council’s unanimous vote. Director, Curtis Bohlen, served on the City’s taskforce.

## Protecting and Restoring Habitat

### **Royal River Dams and Fish Passage Improvements**

In early August, CBEP through the Habitat Restoration Fund, worked with three other groups to remove a former granite bridge which collapsed into the river leaving about twenty slabs—some 4 feet long and about 2 feet thick up and an estimated 6,000 lbs./3 tons each—which had jammed up the water flow near Elm Street a few years earlier. The slabs were hoisted using hand pulleys and moved to the edge of the river banks, the terrain being too rough for heavy equipment. The goal is to eventually re-establish the connection between Casco Bay and the Royal River, though much larger projects involving two town owned dams would have to be completed before fish are able to return to higher points in the river.

## Shellfish Committee (AKA “Clam Team”)

### **Expanding and Sustaining the Shellfisheries of Casco Bay 2011**

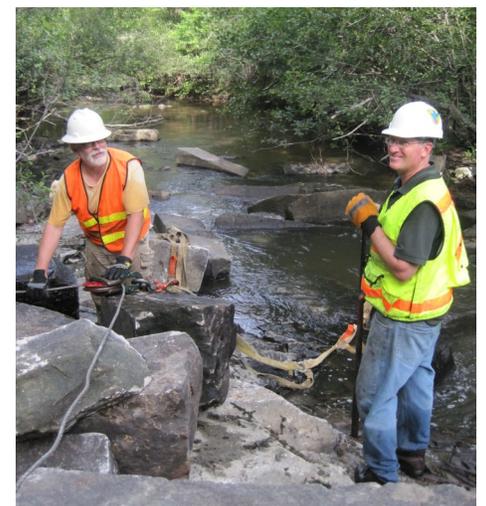
CBEP commissioned a study to look at the condition of shellfish beds in Casco Bay. The study, “Expanding and Sustaining the Shellfisheries of Casco Bay 2011” is the fourth in a series. The study’s authors identified high value clam flats around Casco Bay, and looked at those that are closed to harvest either periodically or permanently. They assessed the cause of the area closures and determined whether remediation was likely to be practical. Significant

The work of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership is guided by the *Casco Bay Plan*, which identifies five key goals for watershed protection:

1. Minimize pollution loading from stormwater and combined sewer overflows
2. Open and protect shellfish beds and swimming beaches
3. Protect and restore habitat
4. Reduce toxic pollution
5. Promote responsible stewardship



One of Portland’s CSOs located at Back Cove



Royal River Rolling Stones Project Fall 2012

