



Casco Bay Currents: Summer 2018

1 message


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Casco Bay Currents, an email newsletter of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership


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Summer 2018

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Welcome,

to the Summer 2018 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).

You are receiving this quarterly email newsletter because you signed up for our newsletters in the past. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click the link at the bottom of the page.



Last fall, CBEP was awarded a \$10,000 prize from the US Environmental Protection Agency in the "Nutrient Sensor Action Challenge," after submitting a proposal on behalf of a coalition of our partners. We purchased the sensor (being assembled here by CBEP Director Curtis Bohlen and Nicholas Keeney, PhD student in Oceanography, University of Maine) which we will deploy in South Portland. Two years of data collection will increase our understanding of nutrient sources entering Casco Bay, and where they move once they get there.

Partner Profile: Waterfront Alliance

The Waterfront Alliance is a non-profit, civic organization committed to protecting and promoting the Port of Portland and the working waterfronts of South Portland and Portland.



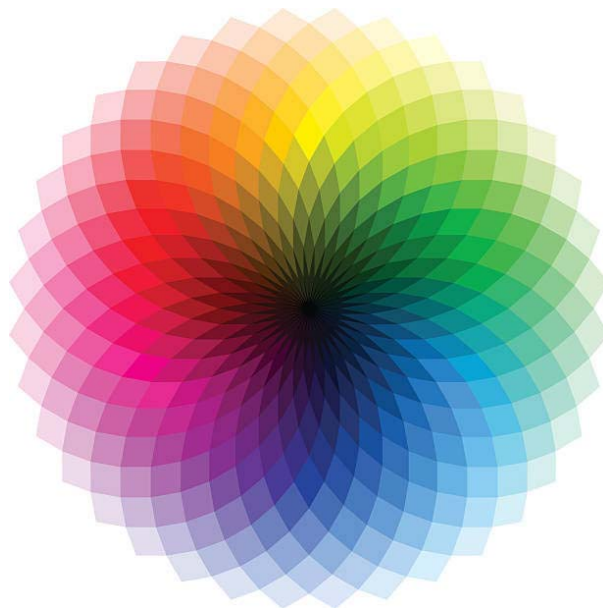
Four goals of the Waterfront Alliance:

1. Promote inclusive conversations on waterfront and harbor issues to build understanding and consensus.
2. Serve as an information clearinghouse on waterfront issues, activities, and plans, and inform waterfront stakeholders of decisions that affect our collective future.
3. Educate the public about the waterfront's history and its vital role in the region's current and future economy.
4. Assist property owners, both public and private, in taking actions that support and protect a sustainable working waterfront.

Membership in the Waterfront Alliance "offers entry to the ongoing, open, and collegial discussion on the future of our waterfront." Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 4 P.M. Recent meetings and events have included: the annual Walk the Working Waterfront during the Old Port Festival, a trolley tour of South Portland's working waterfront, and "Portland Harbor's Waterfront Workforce - training the next generation."

Contact the Waterfront Alliance via [email](#) or check their [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Photo: Jenny Rebecca Nelson © 2016, from "Wharfside: Stories from Portland Harbor's Working Waterfront." For more: [Casco Bay Stories](#).



Volunteer Opportunity: Friends of Casco Bay "Color by Numbers"

Looking for more opportunities to get out on or near Casco Bay? Join **Color by Numbers**, a new program launched by Friends of Casco Bay (FOCB) to measure the health of the Bay. All you need is a Smartphone or a tablet.

Water color is an important indicator of the environmental health of our waters. According to FOCB, scientists have observed that the water color of the Gulf of Maine has become yellower over the last century. They are concerned that this color shift is caused by suspended particles that can block sunlight, which marine plants need to grow, and that may transport pollutants from the land.

Not much color data has been collected in Casco Bay. The data you collect, using a special app on your smartphone, will become part of a worldwide catalog of water color. The more measurements collected, the more accurate our understanding of the Bay.

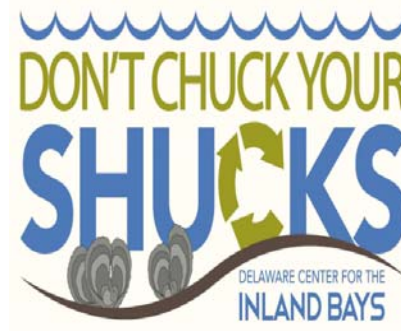
Read more about it [here](#). And you can sign up [here](#).

Maine Mollusk Shell Recycling Program

The Maine Coastal Program (MCP) has been actively exploring the potential for establishing a bivalve shell recycling program in Maine for more than a year.

MCP staff have documented interest in access to shell for use both in marine and fresh waters. A robust shell collection program in Maine would help meet emerging demand. MCP is interested in carrying out pilot studies on the beneficial use of shell material on tidal flats with several academic scientists in Maine with relevant expertise.

Restaurants process many tons of live mollusks annually. Thus restaurants and other food processors are a potentially huge source of bivalve shells that can be recovered from the waste stream and returned to the marine environment as a source of carbonates, as substrate to encourage settling of shell spat, or as a structural material in "living shorelines" and "nature-based solutions" to shoreline erosion.



CBEP, working with leadership and support from MCP, and with the University of Southern Maine Cutler Institute's Gateway to Opportunity (G2O) program, will pilot a shell recycling program in the Casco Bay region. The G2O program connects low-income, public high school students and other youth in the Greater Portland area with meaningful, paid, work-based learning opportunities during the summer. In this partnership, area youth will help with shell recycling project planning, design and implementation.

Shell recycling programs exist in several East Coast estuaries, including Delaware's Inland Bays (see image), Narragansett Bay, and Great Bay in NH. These existing programs will serve as models on which to base Maine's program, but there are challenges to be addressed first. MCP staff, working with CBEP, will investigate the potential for larger-scale use of shell in Maine, exploring market analysis, supply and demand, marketing and commercial interest, program costs, and regulatory barriers.

Image: Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

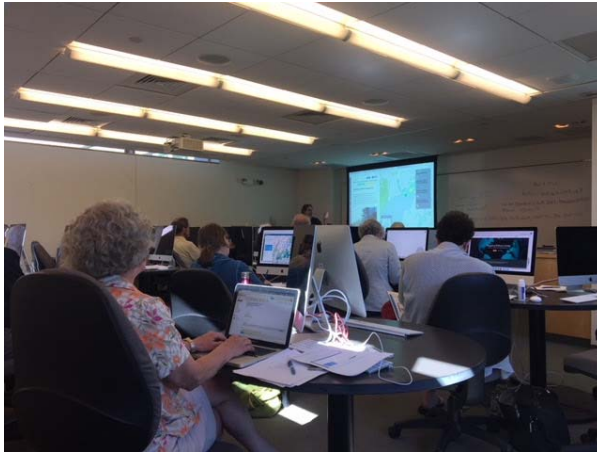


On June 21st, Alexandra Dunn, new EPA Region 1 Administrator (3rd from left), participated in a CBEP Nutrient Council meeting, and then joined Casco Baykeeper Ivy Frignoca (4th from left) and other partners on a short tour of Casco Bay.

Photo: Mary Cerullo, Friends of Casco Bay

Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities

CBEP and New England Environmental Finance Center organized *Climate Vulnerability Assessment Tools: A Hands-On Exercise* on Tuesday, May 29 at



Bowdoin College. Municipal planners and conservation commission members, nonprofit leaders and others test-drove some online climate vulnerability tools that are designed to help coastal communities identify areas that are most at risk from coastal storm events and sea level rise.

The following speakers provided an introduction and guidance on

vulnerability assessment tools:

- Gayle Bowness, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, "Preparing for Sea Level Rise."
- Abbie Sherwin, Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission, "Flood Resilience Checklist."
- Elizabeth Hertz and Eileen Johnson for The Nature Conservancy, "Coastal Resilience Tool" and "Community Resilience Story Mapping."

If you have any questions or are interested in any follow-up training events, please contact [Victoria Boundy](#).

CBEP and Partner Events

- **Saturday, July 14:** *Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's 2018 Annual Meeting with acclaimed poet Richard Blanco.* Link [here](#).
- **Thursday, August 23:** *RRCT Celebrates!* Skyline Farm, 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth, Royal River Conservation Trust. More info [here](#).
- **Wednesday, September 12:** *CBEP Management Committee meeting,* Place TBD.
- **Sunday, September 16:** *Annual Meeting, Celebration & Trail Opening,* Randall Orchards, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. Register [here](#).

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