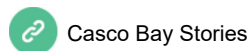
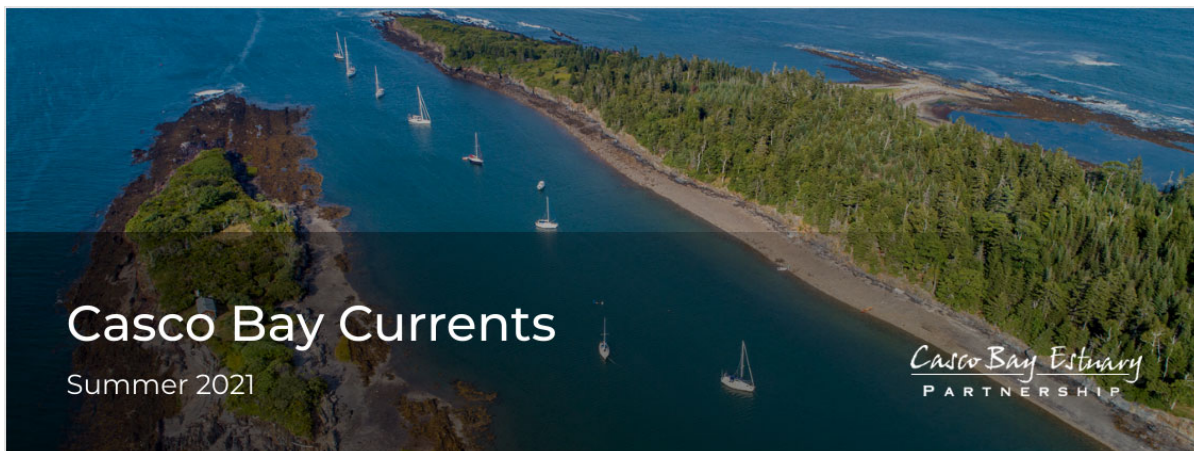

Casco Bay Currents Summer 2021

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 10:38 AM

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



Welcome,

to the Summer 2021 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).

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@Jerry and Marcy Monkman/[EcoPhotography](#)

A New Resource for the Wild-Harvest Shellfish Community



Photo: Bridie McGreavy

The **Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group** (WG) convenes members of the wild-harvest shellfish community, including harvesters, municipal committee members, wardens/marine resource officers, researchers and educators. The mission of the group is to collaboratively address pressing issues in the wild-harvest shellfish community and to share expertise and best practices for management, conservation, research, and monitoring across towns and stakeholders in Casco Bay. The WG members identify a few key projects per year based on shared issues and management questions within the shellfish community. Each of these projects contribute to the WG's vision of a healthy intertidal ecosystem that sustains shellfish resources and the harvesters that depend on these fisheries.

Currently, the WG is collaborating with the **Greater Portland Council of Governments** and **Casco Bay Estuary Partnership** to develop the Community Intertidal Data Portal. This will be an online, interactive resource of environmental, physical, and social data to help communities adapt to rapidly changing ecosystems due to climate change. Through July 31st, the WG is conducting a survey of municipal staff and committee members, as well as anyone directly involved in coastal planning and climate change adaptation to understand how to tailor map viewers to the issues they work on. The input from this survey will inform the format and content of several data products within the portal. The survey can be completed online (in 10 minutes or less) at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/intertidaldataportal>

Please reach out to Madeline Tripp at mtripp@gpcog.org with any questions about the survey and outreach portion of the Community Intertidal Data Portal project, or reach out to Jessica Gribbon Joyce at jessica@tidalbayconsulting.com to learn more about the WG.

-Madeline Tripp, Environmental Resilience Fellow, AmeriCorps, Greater Portland Council of Governments

Meet CBEP's Newest Intern, Parker Caswell!



Greetings to CBEP's newest intern! Parker Caswell is from Sandwich, New Hampshire and is an Earth and Climate Sciences Major at Bates College. He is currently doing thesis research on salt marsh migration and greenhouse gas fluxes in marshes.

For his CBEP internship, Parker will be carrying out marsh monitoring fieldwork as well as data entry and analysis. He is working with Habitat

Program Manager Matt Craig on restoration site monitoring at Long Marsh in Harpswell and other marsh systems, and engaged in continued monitoring of the [living shorelines pilot project](#) sites in Brunswick and Yarmouth.

Parker says "My big-picture goals are to do earth sciences work that has direct impacts on human populations. Specifically I hope to work on things such as sea level rise, water quality, and food systems."

In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, cooking and eating tasty food. And he shared with us that his favorite Casco Bay critters are seals.

Welcome, Parker!

CBEP Supports Area Land Trusts in Protection of Aquatic Habitats



Cousins River Fields and Marsh. Photo: Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) has announced the spring 2021 Habitat Protection Fund awards. With the Habitat Protection Fund, CBEP supports the permanent protection of aquatic habitats in the Casco Bay watershed through cost-sharing grants to support transition and acquisition costs.

Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) received a \$10,000 grant from the Fund in support of the purchase of the Read Easement on 54 acres in Cumberland. CBEP cited the expansion of the existing CCLT-protected Rines Forest, the protection of meadows vulnerable to development, and the location of the parcel within a regional corridor connecting habitats and trail networks as a few of the reasons for fully funding CCLT's proposal.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) was awarded \$5,000 for Cousins River Fields and Marsh, a 43-acre parcel in Yarmouth that is part of one of the largest parcels of undeveloped, unprotected land touching tidal salt water in York and Cumberland Counties. This property can easily be seen from the Cousins River Bridge on Interstate 295.

CBEP awarded **Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT)** \$10,000 for the 308 acre Lowell Preserve in Windham. The property's close proximity to the North Falmouth Community Forest and unfragmented forested area north of Little Duck Pond, and proximity to the Greater Portland Area population center.

Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) was awarded \$5,000 for the acquisition of 2 parcels totaling 78 acres in Otisfield. Acquisition of these parcels will protect the Little Pond tributary, the terrestrial habitat between Little Pond and the Crooked River, and 28 acres of additional wetlands.

Climate Resilience Pilot Project in New Meadows Region

CBEP and the New England Environmental Finance Center (New England EFC) are partnering with the communities of Harpswell, Phippsburg and West Bath in a pilot project for local climate resilience planning, to help them prepare for effects of climate change and develop climate planning models for other towns and cities in Maine. The project, supported by \$125,000 in private funds donated to the Maine Climate Council, was selected in a competitive process by the **Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future** and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.



"The neighboring coastal communities of our pilot project share distinct social and geographic vulnerabilities and have a history of collaboration," **said Martha Sheils, Director, New England Environmental Finance Center, and Victoria Boundy, Community Engagement Coordinator, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.** "New England EFC and CBEP are excited to support these towns to make regionally informed, science-based policy and planning decisions and to set them up for sustainable financing."

Maine's four-year climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, recommended enhancing state support for communities to build climate resilience, such as by adopting official sea-level rise projections, incorporating climate change in land-use planning, and strengthening public-health monitoring, education, and prevention.

"With increasing storm events, droughts, and rising sea levels, Maine's climate action plan calls for empowering communities to help them become more resilient to the impacts of climate change," **said Hannah Pingree, Director, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, and co-chair, Maine Climate Council.** "The partnerships behind this pilot project will help inform the state as it seeks to increase both funding and technical assistance to support crucial resilience planning for Maine's cities and towns."

*Photo: The salt marsh and tidal creek at Phippsburg Land Trust's Hook Rock Preserve, adjacent to the **Route 216 Culvert Feasibility Study**, part of a collaborative project to assess and learn about potential alternatives for a replacement culvert.*

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