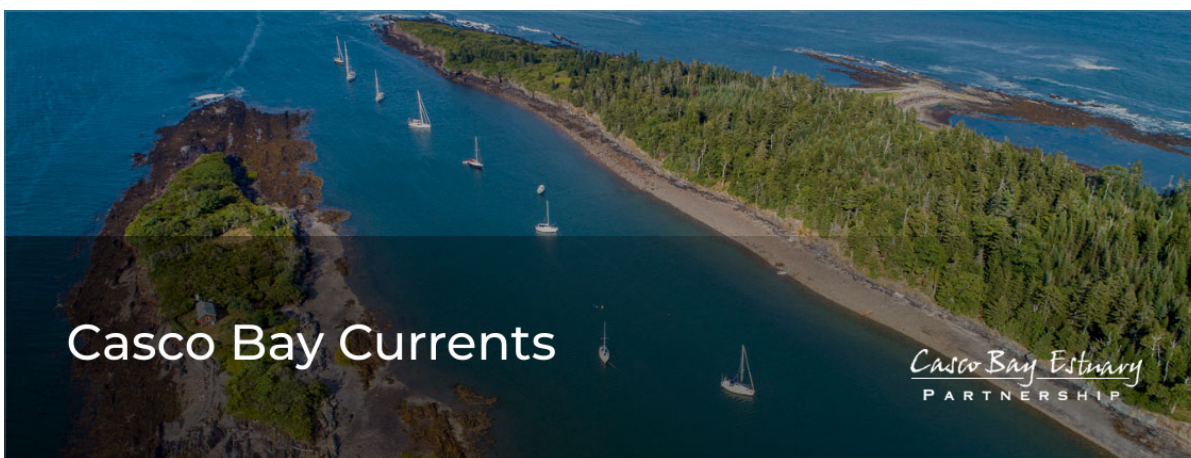




Casco Bay Currents Spring 2023

Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 11:43 AM

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



Spring 2023



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Welcome,

to the Spring 2023 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 newsletter.

CBEP is Hiring a Staff Scientist!



We're hiring! The Catherine E. Cutler Institute at the University of Southern Maine is pleased to announce an opening for a full-time Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) Staff Scientist to join our dynamic team.

[Here](#) is the job description and follow [this link](#) to apply. All required materials must be submitted by **April 30, 2023**.

Be A Fish Ambassador! And Other Cool Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) to help conserve, steward, and provide public access to local lands and clean water for current and future generations to enjoy. Please check the PRLT [website](#) or contact Toby Jacobs, Stewardship and Outreach Manager at toby@prlt.org with any additional questions.

1. Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring volunteers attend a training led by the Maine DEP and then collect water samples and data every other Saturday morning from mid-May through mid-September. Sign up as a [Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer here](#).

2. Fish Migration Ambassadors

Thousands of visitors come to see the fish migration at Mill Brook Preserve in Westbrook. As a result, PRLT has a fish migration ambassador program. Ambassadors will engage with visitors at two fish viewing pools. No prior skills are needed and PRLT will provide training. Volunteer shifts will be late May to mid-June and hours are flexible. Sign up as an [Ambassador here](#).



3. Fish Count Volunteers

PRLT is working in collaboration with University of Southern Maine and the Department of Marine Resources to support ongoing research on the largest fish migration from Casco Bay. You can support these efforts by becoming a Fish Count volunteer. Volunteers count fish as they enter Highland Lake in Westbrook for 30 minutes at a time from mid-May to early June. They are looking for 2023 volunteers from now until the run starts in mid-May. [Click here to sign up](#).

Photo: Jerry Monkman, ecophotography.com

2023 Habitat Protection Fund Request for Proposals



Photo: Cousins River Marsh, 2021 Habitat Protection Fund project

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership requests proposals for its Spring 2023 round of funding to support the permanent protection of targeted habitats in the Casco Bay watershed. Proposals are welcome from land trusts and government entities including municipalities and state agencies.

By **April 21, 2023**, applicants must **provide tax parcel lot/map information to [Matt Craig at CBEP](#)** in advance of their application in order to give USFWS time to prepare maps. Maps will be prepared on a first come, first served basis.

The application deadline is close of business on Thursday, May 25, 2023.

For more information and to download the RFP, follow [this link](#).

Grants & Other Resources

Maine's first-ever **Outdoor Equity Fund** is awarding \$300,000 to organizations that advance outdoor access, learning, and experiences for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. This new grantmaking fund was created by the Nature Based Education Consortium (NBEC) and is implemented as a partnership

between NBEC and Maine Initiatives. The Outdoor Equity Fund's inaugural cohort of grantees includes ten organizations whose work focuses on issues ranging from Indigenous land stewardship, food and storytelling, surf and water access for women, immigrant health and well-being, and so much more. Read the full press release [here](#).

FY24 Coastal Communities Grant Program: The Program Statement will be released in the Spring of 2023 to coincide with the second round of Community Action Grants from the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. CCG applicants are encouraged to examine opportunities for coordinating these two grant programs to maximize project scope and efficiencies. As non-federal funding, Community Action Grants provide an eligible match for the federal Coastal Community Grant opportunity. Interested parties may choose to be notified of the Program Statement release by contacting [Joan Walton](#).

Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program: The FY2024 Shore and Harbor Planning Grant program statement will be released to coincide with the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future's [Community Action Grants](#). While it is not required for the application, the Community Action Grant funds may be used as match for the Federally funded Shore and Harbor Planning Grant. The release date is not yet set but should occur in **late spring of 2023**.

Maine DOT's Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) promotes economic development, public access, improved commercial fishing opportunities and works to preserve, and create, infrastructure at facilities in tidewater and coastal municipalities. The SHIP program assists municipalities in improving or creating facilities, such as public wharves, piers, landings and boat ramps. There is a required 50% local share under this program. The SHIP program can provide up to \$250,000 in assistance towards eligible projects. Maine DOT has instituted an ongoing application process for the SHIP program. Please contact Matt Burns at 207-624-3409 at any time to discuss your proposed project.

Maine Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Missed the four-part series on the BIL? Webinar recordings are available at www.maine.gov/bil/events/MMA_BIL_webinar_series. This series hosted by GOPIF and the Maine Municipal Association covered federal funding and state technical assistance for Transportation, Clean Energy and Building Efficiency, Broadband and Technology, and Resilience and Environmental Protection.

Working Waterfront Inventory Template

Working waterfronts are critical



to Maine's economy, culture, and maritime history. Despite the regional and statewide importance of working waterfronts, much of this crucial infrastructure is managed at a municipal level. Changes along Maine's coast have increased pressure on the working waterfront at a faster pace than



many towns can keep up with, adapt to, and plan for. To address this, the [Maine Coast Fishermen's Association](#) (MCFA) and [Tidal Bay Consulting](#) developed a [Working Waterfront Inventory Template](#).

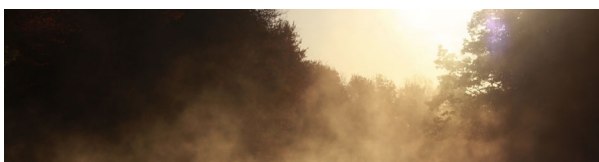
This is a tool for towns to collect data on working waterfront locations, infrastructure, the local economic impact of fisheries and aquaculture, and other important social and economic indicators. Completing this inventory and monitoring change over time will aid in towns' efforts to support municipal planning and prioritize policies and funding for projects that preserve a resilient working waterfront. The inventory can be developed as a stand-alone document or can be incorporated into a harbor management plan or comprehensive plan.

Paddling the Royal and Presumpscot Rivers

It's nearly paddling season! There are a number of online paddling resources in the Casco Bay Watershed.

The ***Presumpscot River Paddling Map and Guide*** is a condensed, professional quality, fold up waterproof map and guide suitable for use on the water, which also provides highlights of natural, recreational, and historic features of interest, including adjacent trails.

A digital version of the guide is available at [CBEP's website](#). CBEP also has a limited number of printed editions and can print more if there is a demand. Presumpscot Regional Land Trust also has an interactive online [Presumpscot Water Trail Paddle Map](#) where you can find out more about sections of the river, portage routes, parking areas, put-in/haul-out sites, and dams.



Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) provides all the information you need for seven easy, flatwater, portage-free,



and free public access paddling trips in the Royal River Watershed. These trips are great for families and beginner paddlers. Find all the information on the RRCT [website](#).

Photo: A magical sunrise paddle on the Royal River in Yarmouth Maine. Credit: Kristel Hayes

CBEP and Partner Events

- **April 22: City of Portland Earth Day Celebration**, Payson Park, Portland. More information [here](#).
 - **May 11-12: Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) Annual Conference & Research Symposium**, The Hutchinson Center, Belfast Maine. Connect with peers in environmental education during a day of inspiring community building. For more information and to register, go to the MEEA [website](#).
 - **May 11: Save the Date! Communities Leading on Climate Conference**. University of Maine Orono. Keep an eye on this site for details: [Community Resilience Partnership Program](#).
 - **June 3: Walk the Working Waterfront**, Commercial Street, Portland. No registration required.
 - **June 14: CBEP Management Committee meeting**. More information [here](#).
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