

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Awards Grants to Build Resilience in the Casco Bay Watershed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) is pleased to announce grants totaling \$112,726 have been awarded to seven communities and nonprofit organizations. Funding for these projects is provided by CBEP through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). These grants are part of a new CBEP pilot program that supports projects in the Casco Bay watershed aimed at:

- Advancing planning or strengthening networks to increase community resilience.
- Restoring or enhancing priority aquatic habitats to build ecosystem resilience.
- Increasing monitoring infrastructure and capacity to support the collection of environmental data throughout the Casco Bay watershed.

The seven grant recipients are:

Chebeague Island: \$12,000, to engage the community in developing a vision of climate resilience, set priorities, and turn planning into action.

Friends of Casco Bay: \$25,000, to install telemetry, a weather station, and additional equipment at one of their three Continuous Monitoring Stations in Casco Bay. This will allow them to provide real time data on coastal conditions and respond quickly to threats or equipment malfunctions.

Maine Department of Marine Resources: \$13,650, to increase the monitoring capacity of near-shore habitats in the Casco Bay region by linking intertidal ecological monitoring at three important shellfish harvesting locations.

Manomet Conservation Sciences, \$25,000, to explore novel methods to boost softshell clam populations and restore tidal mudflats at three different sites in Casco Bay.

Phippsburg: \$25,000, to develop a Climate Action Plan by building community capacity to address climate impacts and develop resilience strategies.

South Portland: \$6,038, to purchase equipment to improve the city's capacity to monitor water quality conditions and address threats in impaired streams.

Trout Unlimited - Sebago Chapter: \$6,038, to capture daily water quality and habitat data before, during, and after construction of the Gorham Bypass, to understand the impacts of roadway construction on water quality and fish habitat.

“Communities and organizations in the Casco Bay watershed selected for this funding are taking important steps to build capacity and infrastructure, plan for, and address the effects of climate change on water quality, community resilience, and ecosystem health,” said Curtis Bohlen, Executive Director of CBEP. “These projects help communities address local priorities while advancing the goals of the Casco Bay Plan.”

“Phippsburg is increasingly experiencing the effects of climate change, including heavier and more frequent storms, sea-level rise, and flooding,” said Ross McLellan, Town Administrator of Phippsburg. “This project will help our community build much-needed capacity to assess and address these climate challenges.”

Friends of Casco Bay Executive Director, Will Everitt, says "CBEP's grant will enable us to install telemetry at one of our Continuous Monitoring Stations, enhancing data accuracy and providing an early-warning system for issues in the Bay. This investment by the Partnership will not only strengthen our ability to monitor the health of our coastal waters but also support other critical scientific efforts in our region."

For more information about CBEP and these grant opportunities, [please visit the CBEP website.](#)

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