



WORKING WATERFRONT ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM

The Case for Continued Funding

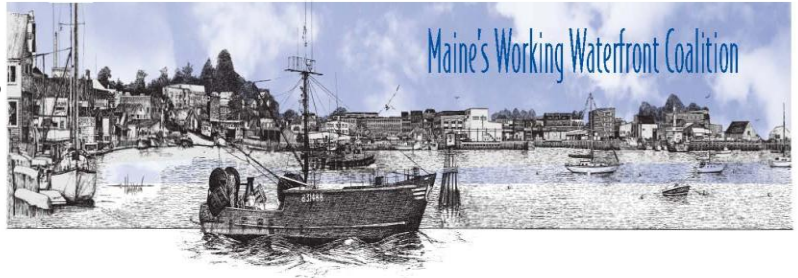
Presented by the Maine Working Waterfront Coalition

Who We Are

The **Maine Working Waterfront Coalition** is a broad based statewide collaboration of more than 140 industry associations, non profits, state agencies and individuals dedicated to supporting and enhancing Maine's working waterfront through policy, planning & research, investment and education.

The Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program...

...is a \$6.75 million state bond program to provide matching grants to purchase, preserve and protect strategically significant working waterfront properties that support commercial fishing activities.



Our Request: There is a 25 million dollar need. Towards this end we are requesting **3 million dollars** in bond funding over the next biennium to preserve working waterfront access through the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program as administered by the DMR and LMF.

The Challenge:

- It is estimated that there are over 100 critically important commercial fishing properties along the coast that are necessary to secure with an estimated cost of 25 million dollars.
- Maine's 5,300 mile coastline has ~20 miles of working waterfront remaining... less than 0.4% of the coast.
- Studies by the Island Institute and Coastal Enterprises, Inc. estimate that about 70% of the commercial fishing access in Maine is achieved across privately owned property. Therefore the access is vulnerable to conversion to other incompatible uses.
- The current economic conditions in the lobster and groundfish industries may cause working waterfront owners to sell their property... this critical access and infrastructure will be lost forever.
- There have been over 300 inquiries into the program and current funding cannot meet this need.
- More than \$740 million in Maine State revenue and 35,000 jobs are supported by Maine's working waterfront.

Economic Impacts:

- Since January 2006 the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program has **secured 17 properties encompassing 33 acres of land and nearly a mile of coastline** with a **fair market value of over \$15 million**, supporting:
 - more than **400 boats & 830 fishing industry jobs**
 - more than **900 families**
 - more than **13 million pounds of seafood** landed annually
 - more than **\$35 million** in **income** directly dependent on working waterfronts
 - more than **\$75 million** in **additional economic contribution** to the local economy
 - Bond funds have **leveraged an additional \$12.5 million** from applicants' savings, bank loans, grants, foundation assistance, private donations, municipal support and SHIP and other state programs.

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How It Works:

- Criteria for selection include: the economic significance of the property, the availability of alternative properties in the vicinity, community support, the treat of conversion to another use, and the overall utility of the property.
- Applicants to date include one family wharf, eight fishing co-ops, three private commercial fisheries business, two municipalities, a land trust, a historical society and a community-based nonprofit.
- The program can benefit fisheries such as lobster, crab, shrimp, groundfish, halibut, soft shell clam, worm, tuna, mussel, scallop, oyster, quahog, sea urchin, seaweed, and sea cucumber.
- The program is delivered by Coastal Enterprises, Inc. under contract to the Maine Department of Marine Resources with monies allocated by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

Preserving Working Waterfront Is Critical to Maine's Future:

- Fishing embodies both the heritage and geography of Maine's coast but due to development pressure our fishing communities are being squeezed out of the coastal waterfronts.
- A study by the Maine State Planning Office predicts that by 2050 much of Maine's coast will be classified as suburban-urban.
- Both the Brookings Report and the Governor's Natural Resource-Based Industry study reinforce the need to protect Maine's working waterfronts. **The time to invest is now... before it's too late.**
- In past statewide referendums, Maine voters approved the Conservation Bond, of which the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program was a part, with 66% approval in 2005 and 63% in 2007 and 59% in 2010 .

WWAPP Recipients



For more information about the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program (WWAPP) or the Maine Working Waterfront Coalition:

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