



WORKING WATERFRONT ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM

The Case for Continued Funding

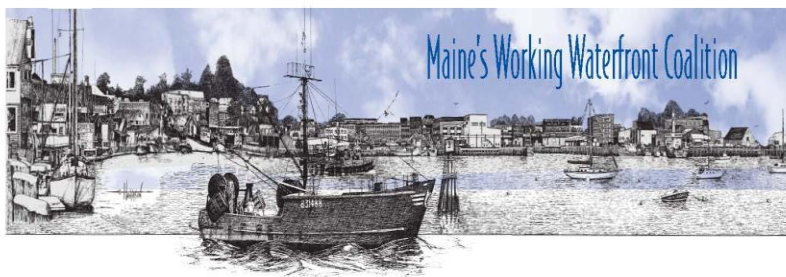
Presented by the Maine Working Waterfront Coalition

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 \$5 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 **two 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 owed 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 200 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 19 properties encompassing 40 acres of land and over a mile of coastline** with a **fair market value of over \$17 million**, supporting:
 - more than **520 boats & 950 fishing industry jobs**
 - more than **1,000 families**
 - more than **16 million pounds of seafood** landed annually
 - more than **\$40 million** in **income** directly dependent on working waterfronts
 - more than **\$80 million** in **additional economic contribution** to the local economy
 - Bond funds have **leveraged an additional \$14 million** from applicants' savings, bank loans, grants, foundation assistance, private donations, municipal support and SHIP and other state programs.

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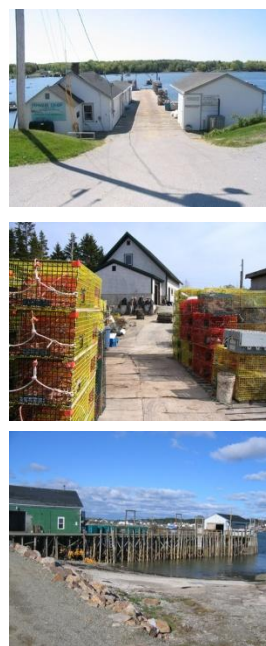
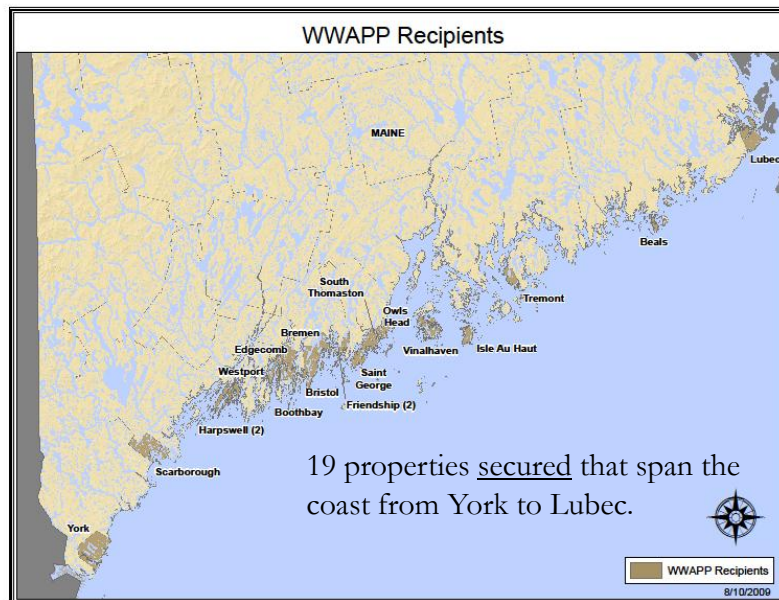
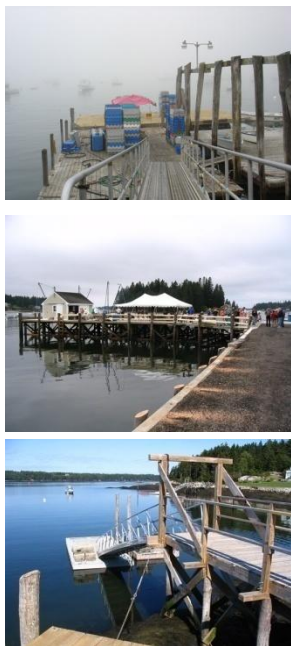
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How It Works:

- 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 two family wharfs, eight fishing co-ops, four 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.
- All bond funds have been allocated and it's up to the voters of Maine to approve more funds.

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.



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

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