

NEWS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES ANNOUNCES WORKING WATERFRONT FUNDING *Coastal Enterprises, Island Institute to Manage Grants Program to Purchase Commercial Fishing Access*

Rockland, Maine—The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has announced \$2 million in available funding for the new Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program. The new fund, part of the \$12 million Land for Maine's Future bond approved by voters last November, will provide matching grants to help secure coastal waterfront land to support commercial fisheries businesses and activities. Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI) and the Island Institute will serve as program managers under contract with DMR. The organizations' role as program managers will be to assist and advise grant applicants to assure that their proposals are complete and meet minimum program requirements. Application materials and a scoring workbook are now available to those wishing to apply for the grants by contacting CEI at (207) 772-5356, hsc@ceimaine.org, or www.wvapp.org. Application deadline for the grants is November 1, 2006, and the grants will be given in the spring of 2007. All projects must be completed by spring 2008.

Funds are available to acquire working waterfront property through a variety of means, including covenants, conservation easements, access easements, development rights, full title, or other permanent interests in the land. Grants will include restrictions on any future development of the land that would preclude its use for commercial fishing. Preference will be given to projects that protect and secure use of existing fishing access sites and facilities, rather than those that involve developing new access or facilities.

Grants will be given for up to 50 percent of the costs to acquire real property that is used for or directly supports commercial fishing. Specific criteria for matching funds are included in the application materials available from CEI. Private businesses, cooperatives, municipalities, and organizations may apply for the grants. Scoring of grant applications will be based on a total of 100 points, including:

- the economic significance of the property (30 points)
- alternative properties available in the vicinity (20 points)
- the degree of community support for the project (10 points)
- the level of threat of conversion to non-fishing uses (20 points)
- the utility of the property for commercial fisheries business (20 points)

Once applications have been received and scored, the Land for Maine's Future Board will make final decisions and award grants in early spring of 2007.