

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES ANNOUNCES CONTINUED WORKING WATERFRONT ACCESS FUNDING *Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program to Reopen to Fund Additional Projects*

**Portland, Maine**—In the spring of 2006 the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) announced \$2 million in available funding for the new Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program. The new fund provides matching funds through a competitive application process to help secure coastal waterfront land that supports commercial fisheries businesses and activities. With the first round of allocations made and significant properties that support Maine's fisheries protected, the WWAPP has funds available to consider funding additional projects and is reopening the application process March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

The DMR has created a Working Waterfront Team consisting of Coastal Enterprises Inc. and the Island Institute to work directly with potential applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with the Working Waterfront Team who are available to assist and advise with program details and the application process to assure that proposals are complete and meet program requirements. Application materials are now available by contacting CEI at (207) 772-5356, [ewr@ceimaine.org](mailto:ewr@ceimaine.org), or on the website [www.wwapp.org](http://www.wwapp.org). Application deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 with an expectation that allocation decisions will be made during the summer of 2007. All projects must be completed by summer of 2008.

Financial awards may be used for projects that include land used for walk-in and small boat access for worming, clamming and similar harvesting activities, property dedicated in entirety to commercial fisheries use, or mixed use properties where the portion used to support commercial fishing business can be clearly delineated and its use secured. There is a strong program preference for projects that protect and secure use of existing, established fishing access sites and facilities over projects that might involve development of new access sites and facilities. Funds can be used for property acquisitions in the form of access easements, rights of way, development rights, full title or other permanent interest in the land. Support for such acquisitions requires permanent and secure assurance that the property may not be used, altered or developed in a manner that precludes its use by commercial fisheries businesses. These funds are available to private businesses, cooperatives, municipalities, or other qualified organizations.

Funds are intended to address a demonstrated financial need. The amount of the award will be based on the value of the working waterfront covenant as established by appraisal, or demonstrated financial need, or 25% of the property's fair market value, whichever is greater up to the limits of the required match. Specific criteria for matching funds are included in the application materials available from CEI.

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 the summer of 2007.