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In the past year the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program (WWAPP) has had great success in achieving its mission of protecting strategically significant working waterfront properties along Maine's coast. The program is one of the tools that the Maine Working Waterfront Coalition supports within its "toolbox approach" to securing and enhancing Maine's Working Waterfront. The WWAPP has proved to be an essential tool to the long-term future of this economic sector and under the new program six properties are now protected and will continue to be available to commercial fisheries businesses for generations to come.

"When considering the need for more dollars to invest in this program, our hope is that people will understand the tremendous benefits these projects are bringing to the people of Maine." Hugh Cowperthwaite, WWAPP Program Manager, Coastal Enterprises, Inc. The six projects that were funded have provided matching funds to secure property with a fair market value of over \$4 million dollars. The state's investment has leveraged an additional \$1.9 million dollars in the form of bank loans, grants, foundation assistance, private donation, municipal support and other state programs. Properties that provide support for more than 400 jobs and access for 200 boats have been secured. These properties provide berthing, wharfage, parking, supplies, bait, sales, gear storage, landings and walking access to clam-flats. To date this program has supported \$7.5 million in annual income directly dependent on only 6.82 acres of working waterfront.

The model for the program clearly works in a number of different situations. In the first round, awarded applicants included two municipalities, a fishing co-op, a private commercial fisheries business, a land trust, and a community-based nonprofit. The Spruce Head Fisherman's Cooperative received an allocation from the program, which enabled them to purchase a property they have been leasing for 35 years. *"Without the state grant monies it could be considered doubtful that the sale would take place. Not only does the grant ensure access to the water for our current 68 lobstermen/owners, also employ helpers and Co-op employees, it also guarantees future generations of commercial fishermen access to that piece of the coast."* David Sleeper, General Manager, Spruce Head Fisherman's Cooperative.

The WWAPP is funded through the Land for Maine's Future Program and is managed by the MDMR. CEI and the Island Institute were contracted by the MDMR to assist applicants applying to the WWAPP. A great amount of work went into developing the WWAPP to address the financial gap many commercial fisheries businesses are faced with when trying to purchase property to stay on Maine's expensive coastline. In the 5-month window that the program was initially open, the program received over 100 inquiries but ultimately only six projects applied and were allocated funds. With 400K left, the program was reopened at the 2007 Maine Fishermen's Forum with a seminar that focused on tools to secure Maine's working waterfront. In the first 2-weeks of the program reopening there have been over 20 inquiries to the programs very limited remaining 400K. This clearly shows a strong need for the continuation of this new and innovative tool to securing waterfront access in Maine.

"Keeping the program alive is now the key to continuing the great success of this program. This program is essential to maintain Maine's working waterfront infrastructure to ensure that future generations of Mainers have the opportunity to fish and work on the water." Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Association, Inc. With the governor's recent announcement of his bond-spending package, which includes \$5 million over three years for the WWAPP, the Coalition is encouraged by his continued support of Maine's Working Waterfronts. Throughout its 4-year history the Working Waterfront Coalition has received strong bipartisan support from the legislature. With supporting legislation in place (LD 450) we are encouraged by the continued bipartisan support we have received, the WWAPP has received and Maine's working waterfront communities continue to receive.

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A statewide group of industry associations, nonprofits, state agencies, and individuals dedicated to supporting and enhancing Maine's working waterfront through policy, planning, investment, and education.