



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Continuing its work to protect Maine's threatened working waterfronts, the Maine Department of Marine Resources' Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program, with the support of the Land for Maine's Future Board, approved the allocation of \$250,000 to the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op on Tuesday. In support of this action, George Lapointe, Commissioner of DMR and Chair of the Land for Maine's Future's board said, "With this allocation, the State has secured a piece of vital commercial fisheries property in midcoast Maine for future generations of fishermen. In addition, these funds will make it possible for a local co-op to expand and improve their existing facility and address the access needs of the struggling local ground fishing fleet. This is the only harbor North of Portland with an active dragger fleet of any size, and securing improved access for them as well as other fisheries is a win for the community and for the State as a whole."

The village of Port Clyde at the tip of the St. George peninsula is perhaps best known for the ferry service to Monhegan, but to locals it is a village steeped in fishing. Located on the edges of Muscongus and Penobscot bays the diversity of vessels in the harbor is a testament that this harbor provides key access to a myriad of fishing grounds.

Funding for the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program originally occurred when Maine voters, in November of 2005, approved \$2 million in bond funds. The voters of Maine will be asked to continue funding this program that strives to preserve and protect Maine's vital working waterfront properties in the upcoming November election. In the meantime, the Department of Marine Resources and other partners at the State Planning Office as well as the Working Waterfront Team of Coastal Enterprises Inc. and the Island Institute will continue reaching out to address the access needs across the coast.

According to Hugh Cowperthwaite the Program Manager for the WWAPP from Coastal Enterprises Inc., "With a small pool of monies available we are looking forward to targeting some smaller projects to develop in the coming months. Most people think when you're talking about coastal properties its all big-dollar projects, but these monies could help communities secure access to clam flats, or worm beds, who knows? We're looking for creative ways to make the money go further and have as much impact as possible, as we continue this vitally important work of preserving coastal access." Those interested in more information can call 772-5356 and ask for the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program, or information is available on the program website: www.wwapp.org