

**Blue Hill Bay Final Presentation**  
**03/11/13**  
**Ellsworth City Hall**  
**Minutes**

**Attending**

- Tom Martin, HCPC
- Jim Fisher, HCPC
- Veronica Young - MERI
- John Hopkins, Town of Brooklin
- Barbara Arter, BSA Consulting
- George Fields, Friends of Blue Hill Bay
- Pat Shepherd, Surry, Penobscot East Resource Center

**Welcome** by Tom Martin

**Overview** – Barbara Arter

- This is a needs assessment
- Financial support from the Maine Coastal Program / NOAA
- Considered a variety of data sources

**Context**

- Population has increased 32% over the last 30 years
- Brooklin and Mount Desert lost population in the last decade
- These two towns also have the highest median age
- Unemployment, income and poverty– Hancock County vs. Maine and US
  - o Much of the income is from pensions, inheritance and investments
- Larger watershed and more immediate watershed

**Fisheries**

- Significant lobster landings in Maine are recorded by Blue Hill Bay Towns (including Bar Harbor that includes Frenchman Bay)
  - o Noted a discrepancy - the pie chart suggest that lobster landings are 6.9 million pounds while another table indicates 23 million pounds
  - o The 23 million pounds probably includes all of Hancock County (particularly Stonington)
- Fisheries recommendations
  - o Regional shellfish ordinance
  - o Public Access
  - o Shellfish Conservation
  - o Fish Passage

- Aquaculture

## Questions and Comments

Barbara – recommendations for ground fish

- Penobscot Resources
  - Boats were in the Blue Hill Bay to help DMR
  - Bay was closed again after one day
  - New system – bays will open one year and closed two years
  - In southern Maine Fishermen don't believe the stock assessments
  - Future research will be required for improving stock assessments
- No discussion of the effect of dragging on bay ecology
  - Dragging does have significant impacts
  - Length of impact – lessons from Taunton Bay and Masconugus Bay
  - Types of drags
    - Chain sweep drags cause more problems
    -
  - Suggest that we add this
- Community Education – people aren't aware of the origins of their fish
- Recommendations about lobsters
  - Biggest problem – supply early in the season – ahead of demand
  - Prices bottom out early in the season
  - Lobster fishing has created a lot of jobs and had positive economic impacts
  - Need more lobster processing in the state.
- Dredging – table to land-use and development
- Fish Passage- discussion of improving fish passage for Ellsworth Dam (Leonard Dam)
  - This would be a good time to comment as the dam is currently being relicensed
- Elver
  - Many applications for a small number of permits
  - Need to manage poaching
- We need as much feedback as we can get for the final draft

## Tourism

- Presented a quick overview of the economic importance of tourism
- Presented findings from public input
- Looking for synergies with fisheries and tourism

## Questions and Comments

- Center Harbor access – Brooklin –still being discussed
- Wade Dow property in West Brooklin – Eggamoggin Reach - under discussion about public access

- Land Trusts are good partners for trails – (contact Jim Dow)

### **Water Quality**

- Non-point Source Pollution
- Ocean Acidification
- Circulation and Current patterns
  - o Poor flushing and long residence time
- Shellfish closures
  - o Prohibited
  - o Restricted
  - o Conditionally Restricted
  - o Conditionally Approved
- Some smaller areas have potential to be improved
- Water Quality Recommendations
  - o Shellfish Closures
  - o Stormwater – Low Impact Development
    - Ellsworth – Impervious surface
    -
  - o Acidification
    - Comment – need to test pH of clam flats and set priorities
    - Local environmental organizations can help with monitoring
    - Prioritize – clam flat buffering
  - o Sewage Pollution – sewage pollution
  - o Coastal Bank Erosion
    - Information on armoring – impacts
    -
  - o Sea Level Rise

### **Land Use and Development**

- Population growth
  - o 41% increase in year round housing
  - o 94% increase in second homes
  - o 63% Total dwellings
- Commercial development
  - o Along corridors
  - o Ellsworth
  - o Generating stormwater runoff
- How are we managing growth
  - o Towns are not receptive to zoning
  - o Most towns have zoning, but the rules are very general
- Stormwater runoff mitigation is based on historical events

- Storms are occurring much more frequently – the 25 year measurement needs to be revised
- New design standards are necessary
- Low Impact Development
- Culvert design
- Outdoor storage for materials
- Sewage
- Harbor Management
  - Boat washing
  - Pier storage
  - HCPC will be holding a workshop on Public Access
  - Parking policies
- All towns need to plan for sea-level rise. It impacts all issues. Need to look at gradual rise as well as severe storm events and mitigation for both.
- All tides access
  - Dredging - what is ecological impact of dredging? We need a study and we need a policy in place.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Need to look at Frenchman Bay Partners. In that model each town has signed on to the plan.

For BHB, we need to go to towns with a list of recommendations and the towns about the recommendations: do they support them or not? Towns should also be asked to commit to mission and engagement. Committees should review the report and the suggestions and make a recommendation to the selectmen or town council to vote on.