

**Blue Hill Bay Meeting
Ellsworth City Hall
11/26/2012 6:00 PM**

Attending:

- Mark Whiting, Maine State Biologists
- Ann Berleant, Weekly Packet
- Bill Matlock - Surry
- Mindy and Dick Marshuetz South Blue Hill
- Odette Galli - Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington
- Jane Disney, MDI Bio-lab, Lives in Blue Hill Bay Watershed
- Jesse Leach, Penobscot, Oyster grower in Bagaduce – concerned about the lack of shellfish in the water Encouraging Maine Maritime Academy on research
- Joe Porada – Chair of Seven Town Shellfish Coalition
 - Aquaculture – concerned about loss of shellfish – green crabs
- Carl Young – Tremont Tax Assessor
- Chris Peterson – Bar Harbor Marine Resource Committee, COA professor, Frenchman Bay Partners
- John Kelly – Acadia National Park, environmental
- Barbara Arter- consultant working on this project
- Tom Martin, HCPC Director – water quality, job creation potential, harbor management
- Jim Fisher – Hancock County Planning Commission

Introductory Remarks – Jim Fisher

- Purpose of this meeting
- Presentations
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis

Barbara Arter – Economic Value of Fisheries and Bay Ecology

Overview

- Description of Blue Hill Bay Watershed
- Larger Context – Gulf of Maine

Major Resources

Recreation, Tourism Fisheries

Fish

- Maine 270,000 lbs \$426,000
- Lobsters 104,700 \$334,300

Where are the fish landed?

- Hancock, Knox and Cumberland lead
- Where do the harvesters live?
 - Hancock and Washington Counties

Licensing

	Lobster
Maine	50%
Blue Hill Bay	61%

- Some harvesters have more than one license
 - 472 people hold 651 licenses
- Volume of catch
 - Blue Hill Bay 76% (88% of value) – 3% of landings – 6% of value
 - 1/5th of all lobsters in Maine
- Towns

Blue Hill	122
Bar Harbor	99
Ellsworth	91
Mt Desert	54
Brooklin	42
Trenton	34
Surry	29
Tremont	<1?

- Data – does not include stern men and other assistances
- Data – does not include personal recreational licenses
- Traps by town of residence

Aquaculture

- Map of license sites - 11 experimental

Questions:

What is the relative importance of fisheries to other economic sectors?

- This question came up a few times. Jim will try to come up with some comparable numbers across sectors.

Comment : Facilities in Tremont – 100% funded by fishermen, buyers, moorings, does not require tax payers support. There are many other spinoff industries.

- Boat storage
- Maintenance
- Manufacturing
- Food
- Fuel
- Fishing has been stable through this last economic crisis
- Tremont – cannot harvest shellfish

Scenic, Tourist, Recreation and Development Values - Jim

- See power point presentation for details

Questions

What is the value of a visit?

How much does tourism contribute to the economy?

Is tree growth factored into the land value? –Yes, in general it is, but the way the towns keep records may have full value of land in one column and easement value in another. Tree growth and other easements helps to explain why some coastal properties are low value.

Facilitated Discussion

- Strengths
 - Lobster fishery
 - Value of harvest
 - Tourist value of working waterfront
 - UMaine has looked at this
 - Local fishing practices to sustain lobsters
 - Natural Resources
 - Creative Economy
 - Acadia National Park
 - Shore and bay – bring people here
 - Retirees
 - Summer residents
 - Ecosystem supporting fishermen
 - Bay rich in phytoplankton and other food sources
 - Sea urchin row content
 - Working waterfront
 - Economic multiplier of fisheries – farm – dealer – restaurant
 - Windward side of tourism – tourists visit on the way to MDI
 - People are active and engage in local governance
 - Summer population
 - Pay taxes
 - Use very few services
 - Wealthy, Healthy, Old People
 - Collaboration – towns are working together, doing shore cleanups, better access to the water in some places
 - Taxes are lower in Tremont than many interior lands
 -
- Weakness
 - Monoculture – dependent on lobsters
 - False tradeoff
 - Depleted fish stocks – may never recover
 - Rules limiting alewives into Graham Lake
 - Abysmal communications network – need better reach of broadband

- Collapse of the clam stock
- Shortage of data –
 - What are the important indicator species?
 - Lack of statewide commitment to research and tracking
 - Economic data aren't adequate
 - Need more data on economic data on tourism
- Cost of housing – affordability for local workers
- Lack of comprehensive towns in several of the towns
- Multiple jurisdictions- each town operates separately.
- Opportunity
 - Removal of dams – encourage additional alewives
 - Re-licensing of some up river dams on Union River
 - May be a chance to lobby for increased fish passage
 - Leonard Dam – is currently generating electricity, producing a scenic lake
 - Composting clam shells to raise the PH in natural bodies and destroy bacterium
 - Tidal Power
 - New fisheries – aquaculture
 - Sustainable fisheries
 - Marketing of Maine Brand with lobsters and shellfish – higher price points
 - place based branding
 - Water taxi – water based transportation
 - Value added – lobster processing plant in Prospect Harbor
 - Multi-town comprehensive planning – where towns work together
 - Recreation opportunities
 - Kayaking to aquaculture sites
 - Eastport salmon festival
 - Acadia Night Sky Festival
 - Bioluminescent kayak tour
 - Long Island – has an easement with public access – but not being advertised yet
 - Opportunity to form broad coalitions
 - Clean water
 - Working waterfronts
 - Restoring rivers
 - Heritage Tourism - Working landscape
 - State – public access guide
 - Using this research to identify areas that are suitable
- Threat
 - Collapse of the lobster fishery
 - State imposing trap limits
 - Having more traps – means there are more bait bags feeding the young lobsters and breeders
 - Acidification of the ocean – dissolving mollusk shells
 - Invasive species – green crabs, Asian crabs
 - Kelp Harvesting - may deplete oxygen levels and harm fisheries
 - Loss of commercial access to the shore – need to retain access until another opportunity comes along. If the wharves are converted to residences, the industrial capacity is lost.
 - Stormwater runoff

- Road construction – long, deep ditches that carries contaminated water to the bay
- Towns having mooring areas without functioning pump-out stations

Wrap – up

- This is the last of the public meetings
- Working on a draft for January
 - Updating maps
 - Preparing background data analysis