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# Our Beautiful Bay Frenchman Bay Partners

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### CONSERVATION TARGETS



**Eelgrass**



**Mudflats**



## Stakeholder Groups Identify Similar Ecosystem Service Priorities for Frenchman Bay

Ecosystem services are benefits that people derive from the natural world. For example, harvesting lobsters, mussels, clams, worms, and other species pumps \$10 million into the Frenchman Bay area economy on an annual basis. Other services include carbon storage, purification of runoff, recreation, and tourism. Anyone who interacts with the natural world benefits from its many services.

Frenchman Bay Partners has been engaging community members in conversations about the benefits we all derive from our connections to Frenchman Bay. Identifying and prioritizing these attributes can inform management decisions. Community conversations introducing the concept of Ecosystem Services were held on November 12 and 13, 2014 in Bar Harbor. Participants were also engaged in helping to create a computer-based Ecosystem Services Value (ESValue) decision support tool for Frenchman Bay. Participants in the first meeting included a broad cross-section of Frenchman Bay Partners who helped to pilot the ESValue process. Participants of the second meeting were all owners of businesses in Bar Harbor, most of whom were not already members of the Frenchman Bay Partners. In all, 52 people participated in discussions and building the decision support tool.

At each meeting, stakeholders were divided into three focus groups: beneficiaries of ecosystem services, aquatic ecosystem services, and terrestrial ecosystem services. The striking result is that both groups prioritized local businesses as primary beneficiaries of ecosystem services, identified freshwater wetlands as providing the most important of terrestrial ecosystem services



### Diadromous Fish



### Subtidal and Benthic Habitats



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as providing the most important of terrestrial ecosystem services, and viewed harvesting of marine resources as the most important ecosystem service provided by Frenchman Bay. The priorities of focus groups like these can be used at a later date to analyze alternate future scenarios, given a development or planning scenario where the future of Frenchman Bay could be impacted.

Next steps include initiating another business stakeholder meeting on the other side of Frenchman Bay, and working with project partners to develop an online version of the ESValue tool development exercise. The 2015 ESV Stakeholder Meeting will be held at Chipper's Restaurant on Route 1 in Hancock, Maine on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Send any business contact suggestions to afarrell@mdibl.org. To read more about the development and results of the ESValue tool, click [here](#).



## Winter on Frenchman Bay

The month of February seemed like one endless snowstorm. As soon as the clouds from one storm cleared, the wind would begin howling, flakes started to swirl, and folks huddled inside, giving up for the moment on fighting the ice dams threatening the roof. Upper Frenchman Bay froze from the shores of MDI to Lamoine. In early March, a Coast Guard ice breaker came up from Southwest Harbor to cut a channel in the ice. Acadia Aqua Farms shared the bottom photos with us. We have a feeling people will be sharing their stories about the winter of 2015 for awhile.



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## Eelgrass Collaborators Meet to Share Progress and Discuss Future

On January 22, 2015, 22 eelgrass scientists and others interested in eelgrass conservation in Maine and New Hampshire came together to share work in progress and discuss future directions for eelgrass research and restoration in Maine. Six presenters covered topics ranging from eelgrass loss in Frenchman Bay, Casco Bay, Lamprey Bay, and Great Bay, to what archaeological flounder bones can tell us about past eelgrass habitats. Attendees discussed possible next steps, including eelgrass restoration in Casco Bay with assistance from the MDI Biological Laboratory and partners. Read the full summary [here](#). As an outcome of the meeting, an editorial was sent to news outlets in Maine. Read the full editorial [here](#).



*Eelgrass collaborators at MDI Biological Laboratory*

## Shellfish Day at the Maine Fishermen's Forum

Thursday, March 5, 2015 was Shellfish Day at the Maine Fishermen's Forum. Dozens of people showed up to hear academics, government representatives, and fishermen speak about the shellfish industry. Topics in the morning included red tides, economic losses from wastewater treatment plant closures, using technical and applied marine science to support management decisions, and action planning. Afternoon sessions focused on viral indicators and shellfish sanitation, clam projects in Freeport, and clam farming in Maine.

Frenchman Bay Partners and their "Project 610" (a project aimed at opening 610 acres of closed clam flats in Frenchman Bay) were represented during the last two hours of the morning session, which covered projects associated with the New England Sustainability Consortium (NEST). A panel of 610 Committee members, including Joe Porada (Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Committee Chair), Allie Roher (Maine DMR), Anna Farrell (MDI Biological Laboratory), Hannah Anis (Maine DMR), Chris Petersen (COA), and Jim Norris (Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Committee), spoke to the value of partnering together to affect water quality related closures.

Common themes throughout the NEST presentations included working the tides and realizing that valuable partnerships take time. Listening to and respecting others' opinions and ideas and coming back to issues to reinforce partnerships are essential. Read the minutes [here](#) and view

the 610 Project Committee presentation [here](#).



610 Committee panel members at the Fishermen's Forum in Rockland, Maine

## Partner Profile: Maine Coast Heritage Trust

[Maine Coast Heritage Trust](#) is an environmental conservation organization dedicated to "protecting the character of Maine for future generations". Their mission states: "Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT provides statewide conservation leadership through its work with land trusts, coastal communities and other partners."

The Frenchman Bay Partners and MCHT collaborate on a variety of projects, most notably eelgrass restoration, market based approaches to conservation, and diadromous fish initiatives.

## Upcoming Events

### **May 2, 2015** Frenchman Bay Partners Annual Meeting

- College of the Atlantic Gates Center
- 9-2 pm with a potluck lunch (stay the entire time or just come for a bit)
- RSVP to Anna Farrell [afarrell@mdibl.org](mailto:afarrell@mdibl.org)

### **June 2, 2015** ESV Stakeholder Dine and Discuss

- Chipper's Restaurant, 1239 Route 1, Hancock, ME 04640
- 6-8:30 pm (tentative)
- RSVP to Anna Farrell [afarrell@mdibl.org](mailto:afarrell@mdibl.org)

For more information about Partner events, check out the [events page](#) on the website.

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