

Our Beautiful Bay

Frenchman Bay Partners Newsletter

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Frenchman Bay Partners e-newsletter.

The Frenchman Bay Partners (FBP) is a group of individual and organizational stakeholders from the Frenchman Bay Watershed with a shared vision for a healthy and sustainable future for Frenchman Bay. To view the current list of partners or to join as a member of Frenchman Bay Partners visit www.frenchmanbaypartners.org.

Frenchman Bay Partners

Frenchman Bay Partners (FBP) is comprised of organizations and individuals interested in working together toward a sustainable future for Frenchman Bay. Over the past several months FBP has been working on a Frenchman Bay Plan using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (<http://conservationmeasures.org/>). The decision to develop a plan using these standards was made after a year of stakeholder meetings including local bay users, shorefront property owners, land trusts with holdings around the bay, town officials, education, conservation, and research non-profit



Mudflats



Diadromous Fishes



Eelgrass



Benthic Habitat

organizations, and representatives of Maine State Planning Office and Department of Marine Resources.

Stakeholders have defined the scope of a plan for Frenchman Bay: The plan will include the entire Frenchman Bay watershed, with short term projects focused on coastal habitats and species. A shared vision for the future of the bay is emerging. A new website has been launched (www.frenchmanbaypartners.org) that will serve as a vehicle for planning, an educational tool for bay users, and a conduit for bringing partners together to implement strategies that will ensure a healthy future for Frenchman Bay.

For more information contact Jane Disney, FBP coordinator, at 207-288-9880 ext. 423 or jdisney@mdibl.org

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Frenchman Bay Steering Committee

John Bennett
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Carol Korty and Bob Pulver:
Lamoine Conservation
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Bob DeForrest, Terry Towne, and Billy Helprin :
Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Chris Petersen
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Acadia National Park

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Wendy Norden
University of Maine at
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Barbara Arter
Friends of Blue Hill Bay

Joe Porada
Downeast Acadia Sea Farms

Natalie Springuel
Maine Sea Grant

Geographic Area of Frenchman Bay Plan: Frenchman Bay Watershed



The Frenchman Bay Plan: An Introduction

After a series of stakeholder meetings in 2010, a sub-set of partners volunteered to participate on a planning committee and dedicated the past year to collecting information from additional stakeholders to help inform a bay planning process. In October 2011, a planning retreat was held to create the framework of a conservation action plan for Frenchman Bay using the CMP Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.* Based on current knowledge about bay habitats and species, and input from stakeholders around the bay, four conservation targets were prioritized from ten that

were identified. These are:

- Mudflats
- Diadromous fishes
- Eelgrass
- Benthic habitats

As part of the bay planning process, potential and current threats to these targets have been identified. The bay planning process will continue as the committee focuses on strategies and actions that can be implemented to address these threats and ensure an ecologically, economically and socially healthy bay that is resilient in the face of future challenges. As drafts of the plan are available, they will be posted at www.frenchmanbaypartners.org.

* The Frenchman Bay planning process is supported by The Alex C. Walker Foundation and The Nature Conservancy

Partner Profile: The Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Committee

Beginning in 2010, six towns surrounding Frenchman Bay and the city of Ellsworth banded together for a regional shellfish conservation effort. Trenton, Lamoine, Hancock, Franklin, Sullivan, Sorrento, and Ellsworth all have clammers who have joined this effort. The reason to form the Regional Shellfish Committee (RSC) materialized after the 2009 shellfish season. Red tides had caused clam flat closures all along the coast of Maine leading diggers state-wide to begin clamming in Frenchman Bay. Shellfish Committee Chair, Joe Porada, and approximately 90 other local clammers joined together to create an ordinance that allows limiting licenses to local diggers, with the caveat that the participating towns enforce their ordinance and



under-take clam flat restoration. To help protect the region's flats from further intensive digging, a full-time warden has been hired. The RSC joined the Frenchman Bay Partners in 2011. Their input will be instrumental in helping to create a Frenchman Bay Plan that includes strategies to minimize threats to mudflat habitats.