

Our Beautiful Bay

**Frenchman Bay Partners
E-Newsletter**

**May 2013
Volume 2, Issue 3**

New Frenchman Bay Partners Logo:



**Frenchman Bay
Partners**

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Frenchman Bay Partners Conservation Targets



Eelgrass

Students Model FBP Process at Science Symposium

Forty-seven middle and high school students from Mount Desert Island and other Maine towns met at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory on May 14 to consider the best ways to manage seaweed along the Maine coast. The symposium focused on seaweed because of its importance to Maine's coastal ecology and economy. The resource is currently under discussion by the Maine state legislature, where a new bill, LD 585, would authorize the Department of Marine Resources to develop the first statewide seaweed management plan.

Each of the students at the Coastal Marine Habitats and Climate Change symposium had either participated in MDIBL's "[Seagrasses in Classes](#)" program, which brings inquiry-based learning on marine habitats into middle-school classrooms, or had volunteered with MDIBL's environmental programs, monitoring water quality or restoring eelgrass in Frenchman Bay. Students came from Conners Emerson School in Bar Harbor, Tremont Consolidated School, MDI High School, Waterville Senior High School, the John Doughty Middle School in Bangor, and home schools in Bar Harbor and Old Town.

After presenting their own research, listening to seaweed biologists, including Dr. Jessica Muhlin of Maine Maritime Academy and Dr. Raul Ugarte of Acadian Seaplants Ltd., learning about the [Frenchman Bay Partners' process](#), and participating as stakeholders in a meeting on rockweed management, the students decided that climate change and overharvesting posed the greatest threats to Maine's seaweed and conveyed their concern in a letter to the Marine Resources Committee of the Maine Legislature.

"The students were enthusiastic participants and careful evaluators of the threats to this important natural resource," said Dr. Jane Disney, director of the Community Environmental Health Laboratory at MDIBL and president of the Frenchman Bay Partners. "They left the symposium understanding how local collaborative planning works. That kind of planning is increasingly important for the sustainability of shared ocean resources."

The symposium was made possible in part by grants from the Hattie A. and Fred C. Lynam Trust of Bar Harbor and U.S. EPA.

What Can the Frenchman Bay Partners Do With Municipalities in Frenchman Bay?

Though municipalities around Frenchman Bay have been very receptive to joining the [Frenchman Bay Partners](#) with liaison representation, many towns were unclear about what the



Mudflats



Diadromous Fishes



Subtidal Benthic Habitats

Partner Profile: Maine Sea Grant



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liaison responsibilities with the partners would look like. Roger Bowen, Selectman and liaison to the Frenchman Bay Partners for the Town of Gouldsboro, suggested that the liaisons all meet with the newly elected executive committee to discuss the nature of their role.

Seven of the eight municipalities around Frenchman Bay were represented at the February 26, 2013 [municipal liaisons meeting](#) at the Lamoine Town Hall. The meeting was positive and productive. Jane Disney gave updates on the Annual Meeting, Bridie McGreavy and Chris Petersen gave updates on grants, and there was a discussion about what the Frenchman Bay Partners can do with each of the municipalities. Everyone agreed that the partners could support grant writing and education activities in each of the towns. There were many networking opportunities at the meeting, as liaisons representing different municipalities realized the ways in which they could collaborate with one another and share useful information for future projects. All liaisons agreed that the [e-newsletter](#) was the best means of communication from the partners.

The Frenchman Bay Partners emphasize working together and sharing information. If there is something you think the partners can do together with your town, please contact Jane Disney, Frenchman Bay Partners president, at jdisney@mdibl.org.

Diadromous Fish Subcommittee Holds First Meeting at College of the Atlantic (COA)

Chris Petersen of COA (Frenchman Bay Partners Vice President) led the first meeting of the diadromous fish subcommittee on April 16, 2013, at COA. The meeting served as a starting point for engaging others who also have a stake in migratory fishes in the Frenchman Bay area. Attendees included representatives from COA, Maine Sea Grant, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Somes-Meynell Sanctuary, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center (University of Maine), the Town of Sullivan, Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Acadia National Park, the fishing community, and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The goals for this first meeting were to discuss past and current migratory fish projects in the area and to focus on needs for future projects. Projects discussed within the geographic scope of the FBP included the work that's been done on Flanders Stream in Sullivan. A new arch culvert has been installed and the traditional fish ladder was taken out and a series of weirs put in to facilitate fish passage on the stream. Monitoring of Flanders Stream is to begin this spring to determine if fish passage is effective and, because there is an active harvest of alewives, to keep track of alewife population status. Some local people would like to restore the run of alewives on Jones Stream in Gouldsboro. There is a dam at the pond, but the land owner has no problem putting a fishway there. The DMR worked with the town a little and encouraged them to work with engineering companies. Planning for Jones Pond is thus in the most preliminary stages. The group also discussed work that had been done outside of Frenchman Bay on MDI, specifically the work at the Mill Pond in Somesville and at Seal Cove Pond in Tremont.

The group discussed the decline of smelt and some ideas for conservation, which included early education on how to distinguish between males and females. The DMR is actively recruiting people to monitor smelt, with monitoring and additional information available [here](#). The group also discussed the bill to legislature sponsored by Seth Goodall, LD 1171 (SP 408), "Resolve, To Allow Certain Holders of Lobster and Crab Fishing



Licenses To Harvest River Herring for Personal Use as Bait".

The role of the FBP can be to support on-going migratory fish projects by matching people up for grant writing, providing supporting letters for grants to fund the work, and perhaps to provide in-kind volunteer contributions or other resources. In addition, the FBP can advertise projects and the FBP website can serve as an information repository across groups. Chris will be trying to get some GIS students to do some specific anadromous fish maps for the area in the fall, as we work on the next version of the Frenchman Bay Atlas. Additional projects might also involve assessing Morancy Stream in Sullivan as an alewife run, trying to do some surveys for smelt, and also getting an understanding of sea-run brook trout (another diadromous fish in the area).

For more information, the [minutes from this meeting](#) are available on the FBP website.



Partner Profile: Maine Sea Grant and the Downeast Fisheries Trail

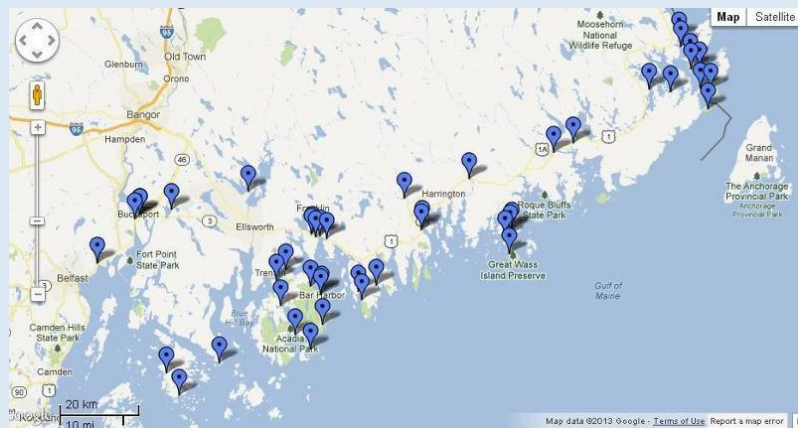
Maine Sea Grant is a part of the Sea Grant network sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and hosted at the University of Maine. Maine Sea Grant is a state-federal partnership aimed at sponsoring scientific research, helping Maine's coastal communities, and teaching communities and young people about the ocean through educational programs. In Maine, Sea Grant work is supported through the Marine Extension Team, a cooperative effort between Sea Grant and the University of Maine. The nearest representative is Natalie Springuel, Coastal Community Development Extension Associate, who is based out of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.

Natalie recently coordinated the Downeast Fisheries Trail Celebration, a Maine Sea Grant Program. The Downeast Fisheries Trail runs from Penobscot Bay to Campobello, New Brunswick, with 45 unique sites representing both historic and active fisheries. The Downeast Region has a rich maritime heritage, and the Fisheries Trail helps illustrate that heritage for visitors and community members alike. Each of the 45 sites is described on the Downeast Fisheries Trail website: www.downeastfisheriestrail.org. The Trail is coordinated by Maine Sea Grant, with help from the Lobster Institute, Sunrise County Economic

Council, Penobscot Marine Museum, and with support from DownEast and Acadia Regional Tourism, Maine Community Foundation, and others.

Associated with the Downeast Fisheries Trail is the new online literary magazine called The Catch, available online at: http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/the_catch/. The Catch features Maine writers, whose submissions of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction are all connected to sites on the Trail in an effort to honor Downeast Maine cultural heritage and natural resources. There are seventeen Downeast Fisheries Trail sites in Frenchman Bay Watershed alone-that's reason enough to check it out! You can "like" them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DowneastFisheriesTrail>), too!

To request a brochure, please call Natalie Springuel of Maine Sea Grant (207-288-2944 x5834).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Frenchman Bay Partners Communications Committee meeting on June 3, 2013 at 3:30pm in the Forest Conference Room at MDIBL.
- Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Committee meeting on June 19, 2013 at 7:00pm in the Lamoine Town Hall.
- Hancock County Planning Commission Working Waterfronts Workshop on June 27th, 2013 at the VFW Hall in Ellsworth.

Details for these and more events can be found on the calendar at the [FBP website](#).