

Working Together to Protect Coastal Maine



About the Map

Maine's coast lies entirely within the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Three Canadian territories and three U.S. states, including Maine, share this vital resource and are actively working to protect this highly productive environment.

Focus Areas identified by Maine's Beginning with Habitat program are designed to bring attention to coastal areas with concentrations of known rare and significant plant and animal habitats.

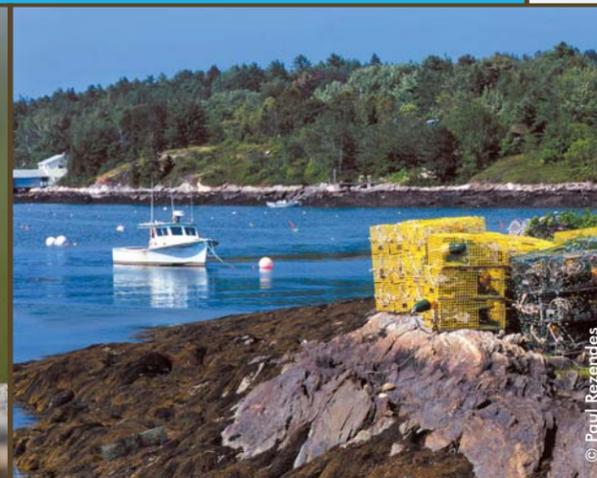
Priority Coastal Resources



Scenic



Habitat



Access

Working Together

Protecting Threatened Coastal Resources

Maine's coastal lands have been under increasing pressure from development in recent years, leading to environmental degradation and unplanned development. Thankfully, about 16 percent of Maine's coastal zone lands have been permanently protected through efforts by local, state, and federal agencies in cooperation with nearly 50 coastal Maine land trust and other conservation organizations. However, trends show that record numbers of Americans are moving to the coast, both nationally and here in Maine—a trend that is not expected to slow. Clearly, there is more to be done if we are to keep pace with change.

Collaboration is Key

The success of land conservation efforts in the next 20 years will largely determine the character of the Maine coast forever. The time to act is now, and we need to work together. This is the spirit of the Maine Coast Protection Initiative (MCPI), a coalition of over 70 organizations committed to expanding the pace and quality of coastal land conservation. Through MCPI, coastal land trusts and other conservation organizations are working together to build their long-term capacity to protect and steward our precious coastal landscapes.



© Maine Coast Heritage Trust



© Lois Winter

Conservation Priorities

From its southern sandy beaches to its northern bold headlands, the Maine coast forms the western border of the Gulf of Maine. This is an ecosystem of international significance with marine waters and shorelands that contain critical and essential

habitats, provide access to the coast, and define the scenic character of a region that is both home and vacationland. By working with landowners, coastal land trusts and their state, federal, and conservation partners are building a network of conserved lands—a system of places that ensure we **protect critical habitats, meet priority coastal access needs, and safeguard the scenic character** of the region, the natural resources, and the wide variety of ways people use, depend upon, and enjoy the coast.

Enabling Strategic Conservation Planning

Strategic conservation planning is a core strategy for protecting high-priority coastal resources. Through the MCPI, land trusts are building organizational and technical capacity to acquire and steward important lands. New and updated resource information is being created in geographic information system (GIS) formats, four GIS service centers have been created, a coastal access inventory and data base is being put in place, and a methodology to inventory and rate scenic resources is being updated, all of which will support local strategic conservation planning and proactive acquisition efforts.



© Rich Knox

Get Involved

Show your care about coastal Maine and add your voice in support of its protection

- Encourage your municipal leaders to support conservation
- Join your local land trust
- Visit www.protectcoastalmaine.org

