

Maine Coastal Waters Conference

Climate, Energy and our Coastal Communities

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Point Lookout
Northport, Maine



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Monica Medina, *Senior Advisor to the NOAA Administrator*

Angus King, *former Governor, State of Maine*

Susi Moser, Ph.D., *Susanne Moser Research & Consulting*

SPONSORED BY

- Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Program
 - US Geological Survey - Eastern Region
 - Maine Sea Grant Program
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, Gulf of Maine Coastal Program
 - The Island Institute
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 - Maine Department of Marine Resources
 - The Nature Conservancy
- The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Register online (after August 20) at www.maine.gov/dmr/coastalconf

OVERALL CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

Join us for an exciting event – the second “Maine Coastal Waters Conference”. This all-day event will feature informative talks about issues of concern to those who manage, study and love the Maine coast. A morning plenary session will introduce attendees to the major conference themes, while breakout sessions will allow participants to delve into topics of interest in greater detail. Lunch, a poster session and a post-conference reception will allow for important networking time.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- ◆ State, federal and municipal coastal managers
- ◆ Scientists
- ◆ Non-governmental organizations such as land trusts, coastal watershed groups
- ◆ Others who use scientific information for coastal decision-making



CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

- ◆ Coastal Enterprises Inc. – *Hugh Cowperthwaite*
- ◆ Friends of Casco Bay - *Mike Doan*
- ◆ Island Institute – *Gillian Garratt-Reed*
- ◆ Maine Department of Marine Resources - *John Sowles*
- ◆ Maine Sea Grant College Program - *Paul Anderson*
- ◆ Maine State Planning Office, Coastal Program – *Theresa Torrent-Ellis and Matthew Nixon*
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy – *Barbara Vickery*
- ◆ Town of Brunswick – *Vanessa Levesque*
- ◆ US Fish & Wildlife Service - Gulf of Maine Coastal Program – *Sandra Lary*
- ◆ US Geological Survey-Eastern Region - *Hilary Neckles*
- ◆ Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve - *Michele Dionne*

CALL FOR POSTERS

Conference attendees are invited and encouraged to bring a poster highlighting the science or management of Maine’s Coastal waters.

Guidelines:

1. Please choose among the following themes: Climate Change; Natural Resource Management; Alternative Energy; or Other
2. Please include a **one-paragraph abstract** of your poster with your conference registration.
3. Posters will be hung on the walls using masking tape so please be sure your poster is light enough to do this. Easels & tables are not available.
4. To plan the space and prepare a directory of posters for attendees, we would like to know by September 21 if you are bringing a poster.

DIRECTIONS TO POINT LOOKOUT

- From South: I-295 N to exit 28 for US-1/Coastal Rte toward Bath/Brunswick
Continue to follow US-1 for approximately 70 miles to 67 Atlantic Highway (Rt 1) in Northport
- From Bangor: Follow US Rt 1 for approximately 45 miles to 67 Atlantic Highway (Rt 1) in Northport
- From Augusta: Follow Rt 3 to Belfast (approximately 42 miles)
Turn onto Rt 1 South. Follow for approximately 11 miles to 67 Atlantic Hwy (Rt 1) in Northport

Maine Coastal Waters Conference Conference Agenda

- 7:30 – 9:00 AM** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:50 – 9:00 AM** **Welcome** – Paul Anderson, Director, Maine Sea Grant
Introduction – George Lapointe, Commissioner, ME Dept of Marine Resources
- Morning Plenary Session**
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** Ms Monica Medina, NOAA Senior Advisor
- 9:30 – 10:00 AM** Former Governor Angus King - Ocean Related Energy
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM** Dr. Susi Moser – *Let’s Talk Climate: Communication for Effective Community Engagement*
- 10:30 - 11:00 AM** **Morning Break** (*posters and exhibits available*)
- 11:00 – 12:30 PM** **Morning Concurrent Sessions (Session A)**
- I.** Climate change impacts to the Gulf of Maine and the industries and communities that depend on it
 - II.** Impacts of Sea level rise on our coastal communities
 - III.** Ocean energy in Maine: Recent developments and a broad overview
 - IV.** Community participation in the management and conservation of coastal ecosystems
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM** **Lunch** (*posters and exhibits available*)
- 2:00 – 3:30 PM** **Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (Session B)**
- V.** Anticipating sea level rise: Recommendations to the state’s climate change adaptation Task Force
 - VI.** Where will my next kilowatt come from? Case studies on ocean energy in Maine
 - VII.** What’s in your toolbox? Tools for understanding, assessing and managing natural resources and human uses at a community level
 - VIII.** How fishermen are leading the way towards sustainable fisheries and a successful industry through new innovations in commercial fisheries management
 - IX.** *Green Slime*: What nitrogen pollution has done to coastlines around the world and what we’re doing in Maine to prevent it
 - X.** Making lemonade from the climate change lemon: Business and community planning in an uncertain future
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM** **Wrap up and Closing Reception**

Program subject to change without notice



MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS

I. Climate change impacts to the Gulf of Maine and the industries and communities that depend on it

The Gulf of Maine has peculiar vulnerabilities to the world's changing climate well beyond rising sea levels. As physical characteristics in the gulf change, so too will chemical and biological attributes. This session will provide information on the possible changes in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem in the coming decades and a glimpse into the ramifications on Maine's society.

Moderator – Gillian Garratt-Reed, Island Institute

- *Bob Steneck, Darling Marine Center - the anticipated impacts of physical changes on marine flora and fauna, lobsters in particular*
- *Anne Hayden, Principal, Resource Services, Brunswick, Maine - impact on communities (socio-economic-cultural)*

II. Impacts of Sea level rise on our coastal communities

One of the more obvious concerns associated with changes in the world's climate is rising sea level. Although sea level has fluctuated over the millennia, contemporary evidence suggests a strong likelihood for significant sea level rise in the coming decades. This session will provide information on the current science and model predictions for the coast and how communities can predict and respond to related impacts.

Moderator - Barbara Vickery, The Nature Conservancy

- *Pete Slovinsky, Senior Coastal Geologist, Maine Geologic Survey - What modeling shows is likely to happen to coastal salt marshes and towns. Case studies of Scarborough and Camp Ellis using modeling*
- *Riley Morse, Product Development Manager, Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System - Modeling storm surge impacts*
- *Sarah Newkirk, Coastal Program Director, The Nature Conservancy in Long Island, NY - Coastal Resilience Project: a project to provide information on sea level rise to towns and help them make decisions about how to prepare*
- *J.T. Lockman, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission - Implications of current Maine policy for sea level rise adaptation*

III. Ocean energy in Maine: Recent developments and a broad overview

The future of our world's energy policy will rely on the development of many alternative energy sources to meet the burgeoning needs. This session will provide information on efforts in Maine to generate energy from ocean currents, tides, and wind as well as related policy initiatives.

Moderator - Don Perkins, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

- *John Ferland Ocean Resource Power Company, Maine) – Tidal Energy*
- *Beth Nagusky (Co-Chair Ocean Energy Task Force) – OETF Summary*
- *Habib Dagher (University of Maine, Advanced Structures & Composites Center) – Wind Energy*

IV. Community participation in the management and conservation of coastal ecosystems

Maine's coastal communities have a shared responsibility and opportunity to understand, conserve and manage their natural resources. In this session panelists will provide three different communities in Maine who are helping to manage uses and implement conservation measures at different scales. Discussion will include regional approaches to ecosystem-based management and methods for engaging various types of communities and stakeholders in the process.

Moderator – Heather Leslie, Brown University

- *John Sowles, Maine Department of Marine Resources - local ecosystem-based resource management experiment in Taunton Bay, Maine*
- *Mark DesMeules, Executive Director, Damariscotta River Association – engaging the whole community in the Damariscotta region with the work of preserving coastal resources*
- *Paul Dest, Director, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve - Mount Agamenticus to the Sea – a landscape approach to coastal conservation and management*

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

V. Anticipating sea level rise: Recommendations to the state’s climate change adaptation Task Force

What would be your recommendations to the State's Climate Change Adaptation Stakeholder Process about how we should proactively adapt to sea level rise impacts? A range of state and local government representatives will be on hand to participate in the discussion as well as the speakers from the morning concurrent session II.

Moderator - Malcolm Burson, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

- *Dan Bacon, Scarborough Town Planner*
- *Steve Burns, York Town Planner*
- *Maryann Nahf, Harpswell Conservation Commission*
- *Michele Dionne - Chief Scientist, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve*
- *Kristen Grant - Maine Sea Grant*
- *JT Lockman – Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission*
- *Kathleen Leyden – Director, Maine Coastal Program, State Planning Office*

VI. Where will my next kilowatt come from? Case studies on ocean energy in Maine

Several alternative energy projects are moving forward along Maine’s coast and this session provides an opportunity to hear about recent developments, challenges and successes. Facilitated discussion will allow for interaction with the panelists.

Moderator – Matt Nixon, State Planning Office

- *Rob Snyder, Island Institute - Test Facility Siting and Community Participation – Maine Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition*
- *George Baker, Island Institute*
- *Dana Murch, Maine Department of Environmental Protection – Overview of current & proposed hydro projects in Maine*

VII. What’s in your toolbox? Tools for understanding, assessing and managing natural resources and human uses at a community level

Learn how you can utilize several new information collection and management tools that are available to community organizations to help them in managing, preserving and enhancing their ecological, economic and cultural assets.

Moderator – Theresa Torrent-Ellis, State Planning Office

- *Chris Feurt, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, Collaborative Learning for Communities*
- *Jennifer Atkinson, Quebec Labrador Foundation – Muscongus Bay Community Atlas*
- *Shey Conover, Island Institute - Community-based Geographic Information Systems*
- *Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant – “Seascapes: A Guide to Marine Area Characterization”*

VIII. How fishermen are leading the way towards sustainable fisheries and a successful industry through new innovations in commercial fisheries management

Several fishing industry representatives will discuss recent advances in fisheries management that have resulted from fishermen and community-based organizations stepping up with bold ideas to save and restore Maine's commercial fisheries. Facilitated discussion will allow for interaction with the panelists.

Moderator - Jen Litteral, Island Institute

- *Annie Tselikis, Penobscot East Resource Center*
- *Gary Libby, Midcoast Fishermen's Association*
- *Leo Murray, Cobscook Bay Fishermen's Association*
- *Niaz Dory, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance*

IX. Green Slime: What nitrogen pollution has done to coastlines around the world and what we're doing in Maine to prevent it

Scientists and policy makers will discuss the science of nutrient pollution in coastal waters, with particular emphasis on nitrogen and the ongoing efforts to develop and implement policy to mitigate impacts. Facilitated discussion will allow for interaction with the panelists.

Moderator - Joe Payne, Friends of Casco Bay

- *David Townsend, University of Maine – Nitrogen in the Gulf of Maine*
- *John Brawley, Saquish Scientific - Nitrogen conditions and state criteria efforts*
- *Matt Leibman, US Environmental Protection Agency - The problem with excess nitrogen, and regional efforts to limit nitrogen in coastal waters*
- *Darcie Couture, Maine Department of Marine Resources – Excess nitrogen and Red Tide along Maine's coast*

X. Making lemonade from the climate change lemon: Business and community planning in an uncertain future

A panel made of state agency, municipal and non-profit representatives will discuss initiatives at the state, municipal, and business level that could act as buffer against the potential threats of climate change. Topics will include diversification of waterfront community's economic base, municipal-based micro-loan programs, as well as coastal and harbor planning. Facilitated discussion will allow for interaction with the panelists.

- *Brad Swanson, Coastal Enterprises Inc. (North Star Alliance Initiative)*
- *Emma Miran, Stonington Micro Loan Program*
- *Jim Connors, Maine Coastal Program, State Planning Office*
- *David Cousens, Fisherman and President, Maine Lobsterman's Association*
- *Dave Courbeau, Scarborough Harbor Master and President, Maine Harbormasters Association*



