



BLUE HORIZON



Summer 2011

ISSUE 9

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Mark Your Calendar for FOBHB Summer Events!

Long Island Beach Clean-Up with FOBHB & Friends of Acadia—Saturday



July 30. Boats and Volunteers Needed! To sign up, contact the FOBHB Director, Barbara Arter at 546-2018 or bsarter@fobhb.org.

FOBHB Annual Meeting - Monday August 29, 6:00 pm

at Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club. Come meet the Board and the Executive Director! Enjoy an evening of light refreshment and an exhilarating talk. Speaker to be announced. Please RSVP with Barbara at 546-2018 or bsarter@fobhb.org



Message from the President

Through the years, with generous support and the hard work of many, we have become recognized as a strong advocate for the bay; we've made our concerns known at the state and federal level; and we have worked tirelessly pursuing a healthy and sustainable future for the bay. Along the way we have had to fight several battles. As you will see with this newsletter, there is a growing number of people and organizations with concerns for the health of our bays and oceans.

Each one of us can contribute in small ways to protecting Blue Hill Bay. One is to ensure our

own pollution doesn't reach the bay by using the holding tanks aboard our boats. FOBHB has partnered with Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club to operate a pump-out boat that will easily accommodate the disposal of this waste. Let's make sure we all take advantage of this service and encourage others to do so as well.

The Long Island beach cleanup will happen again this summer as FOBHB spearheads an effort with Friends of Acadia. Please join us for this annual effort, and when you use any

~Continued page 2

New Group Discusses Waterfront

The newly formed Blue Hill Friends & Neighbors conducted a public information session in May on Public Water Access & Waterfront Facilities. Harbormaster, Denny Robertson, reported that the rebuilding of the town wharf this summer includes an additional 16 feet of length so that two boats will be able to dock at the same time. Robertson also reported that the proposal to dredge Blue Hill harbor is still moving forward with the Army Corps of Engineers who will conduct a feasibility study.

Phil Black, chair of the Blue Hill Marine Resource Committee, spoke of the committee's attempt to acquire waterfront property for working and recreational purposes such as those on Parker Point Road and adjacent to the South Blue Hill wharf. Selectman Jim Schatz reported that the board is currently working to attain public access on Woods Pond. For more information contact Denise Black, at 374-5973.



Pump-Out Boat Available

Blue Hill Bay boaters take great pride in their waters. They know firsthand the joys of life on the water and that improper sewage management will directly impact waterbodies. Overboard discharge of marine sanitation devices (heads) within three miles of shore is illegal but it is still challenging to get boaters to use onboard holding tanks and shore-side pump-out facilities. The Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club, KSEA, FOBHB and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection have collaborated to purchase and operate a pump-out boat to empty marine sanitation holding tanks. The 21-foot, totally green, electric-powered launch is available to come alongside your vessel and quickly empty your holding tank. **Simply call KYC on VHF channel 9 to arrange a rendezvous!**



Message from the President

beach make sure it is cleaner than when you arrived.

Promoting sustainable fisheries is another effort we can all take on. With the exception of farmed Atlantic salmon, the local Maine fisheries are working toward long term sustainability and should be supported. So enjoy the seafood available this summer while being selective in choosing sustainable fisheries.

Unfortunately, industrial salmon farming, with its pollution, disease, and pesticides still remains a problem for Maine's clean waters. Cooke Aquaculture's recent expansion of its salmon farming operation off Black Island, at the entrance of Blue Hill Bay, continues to be of concern for its negative environmental impact. We are working with the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure pollution laws are strictly enforced.

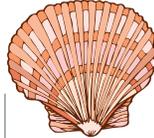
Lastly, at the end of August we will be having our annual meeting so please make plans to join us. This is an opportunity to

learn more about our work.

Our efforts to protect Blue Hill Bay for future generations are possible only with the generous support from our members. I know you share this passion for a clean and healthy bay, so please join us once again in our continued efforts.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you on the water.

~Don Eley, President



Friends of Blue Hill Bay Contact Information

*For more information about FOBHB
please contact our Director,*

Barbara S. Arter
PO Box 1633
Blue Hill, ME 04614
207-546-2018 (O)
bsarter@fobhb.org
www.fobhb.org

Our Mission and Directors

Friends of Blue Hill Bay is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural ecology, traditional marine fisheries and the unique aesthetic quality of Blue Hill Bay. Friends of Blue Hill Bay is a federal and state tax-exempt 501(c) (3) corporation.

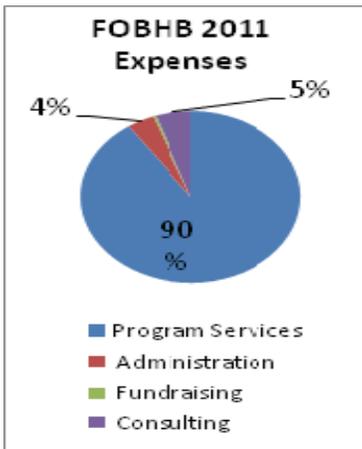
Directors

Don Eley, President
Dottie Hayes, Vice President
George Knapp, Secretary
George Fields, Treasurer

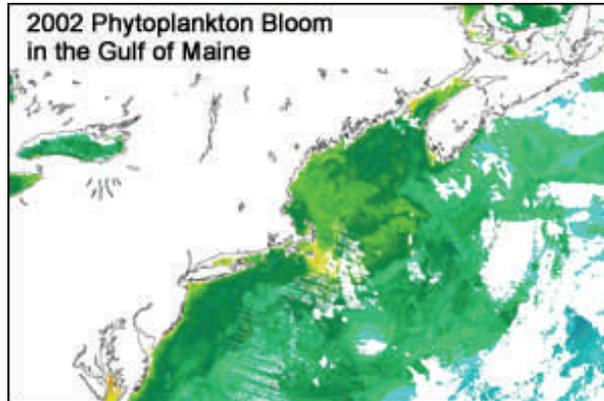
John Candage Patrick Wilmerding
Ronald Lesko William Matlock
Sal McCloskey John Roberts
Robert Slaven, Jr. Teke Wiggin
Jennifer Cecil Robert Vaughan
Robert Newman John Knutson
Craig Williamson

Expense Report

The graph below represents FOBHB 2011 expenses. Total expenses to date for the year equaled \$13,091. The majority of the expenses went to Program Services (90%) which includes the Director's salary, expenses, and newsletters expenses. Administration and legal expenses (consulting) have held steady over recent years.



FOBHB to Serve on DEP Nutrient Criteria Stakeholder Group



Starting in June, FOBHB will serve on a DEP Marine Nutrient Criteria Stakeholder Group. The establishment of nutrient input criteria is critical to the process of managing our water resources and preventing nutrient pollution, and is required by the EPA Clean Water Act. The purpose of developing nutrient criteria for coastal systems is to achieve improved management goals through the establishment

of thresholds in nutrient loads entering our waterways and to also establish system indicators. Although Maine has developed nutrient criteria for freshwater systems (lakes, rivers, etc), criteria for estuaries and coastal marine waters have yet to be developed.

Nutrients are important drivers of production in coastal ecosystems. Excessive nutrient inputs, like fertilizers from terrestrial systems and waste from finfish aquaculture, contribute to over-production of organic matter (phytoplankton, microalgae, macroalgae) and changes in the natural flow of energy throughout food chains (animals, bacteria, etc.). Typical undesirable results of nutrient over-enrichment is less dissolved oxygen, decreased light availability throughout the water column, and changes in native species composition and physical conditions. In marine systems in the Northeast, nitrogen is the nutrient that impacts rates of primary production. Therefore, the control of nitrogen enrichment is of primary interest to coastal managers in order to prevent undesirable conditions or to improve degraded systems.

FOBHB Joins National Ocean Policy Initiative



FOBHB has been active in signing onto letters supporting healthy ocean and sustainable fisheries management policies this spring. In April we joined the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance in signing onto a list of recommendations to the National Ocean Council on Strategies for Implementing the Priority Objectives of the National Ocean Policy. The recommendations made in the letter addressed Ecosystem-Based Management, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, and Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration.

Specifically, they recommended collaborative and adaptive management at local scales, matching marine activities with marine ecosystems, protection of food sovereignty and marine based food systems, bottom up decision-making, pollution prevention, integration of local knowledge with sound science, and sharing of knowledge and data effectively with public in a timely manner. You can read the full letter on the FOBHB website (www.fobhb.org)

The National Ocean Council is a multi-agency, multi-level task force that guides the President's National Ocean Policy. The NOC is in the process of de-

veloping strategic action plans to implement the National Ocean Policy. These plans will help shape the future of our oceans, and guide the regional ocean use planning that is set to begin soon in New England. The Council will be holding listening sessions in June across the country to hear from stakeholders and the public as they develop these plans.

FOBHB Awarded Grant for Symposium

FOBHB has received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of holding a Blue Hill Bay Symposium in fall of 2011.

The purpose of the symposium is to bring together people who have a stake or interest in the future of Blue Hill Bay. The objectives are to gather information about marine resources, water quality, and marine culture; identify areas for further research or conservation; and establish a mechanism for ongoing information exchange. Presentation topics might include climate change impacts on the bay, water quality and pollution impacts, clam flat closures, sustainable fisheries, and a history of local fisheries. Watch local papers for an announcement this fall!



Blue Hill Bay Loses Friend and Advocate: A Tribute to Rusty Duym

It is with great sadness that we announce that long-time FOBHB Board Member, Rusty Duym, passed away this winter. Below is a tribute written by fellow board member, Robert Slavin:

Rusty Duym was a true friend of Blue Hill Bay. He knew every gunkhole, dragged its bottom for scallops, planted moorings in it, raced around its buoys, sailed its sparkling waters, and worked to keep it healthy for commercial and recreational users. A member of the board of FOBHB from nearly our inception, he was the sparkplug behind our significant project to inventory the unique contributions of the bay; contributions to both the local economy and to the special character it adds to life in the surrounding communities.

Rusty was a familiar sight around the bay in his red-hulled workboat, Duchess, earning a living on the water. With his sideburns half a fathom wide, there was no mistaking him in a crowd at Marlintoni's or accepting an award at KYC. If you needed a crew to hand, reef and steer, race



an Atlantic, replace the swivel and chain on your mooring, recover a swamped dinghy, or pound out "Stars and Stripes Forever" on a steel drum, Rusty could do it.

He was as proud of being the first person to single handedly circumnavigate Long Island in a 10-foot Turnabout as he was in being first to finish in a single handed race to Bermuda, sailing his much loved and much sailed sloop, Williwaw.

He was an instructor at the Boat School in Eastport and later a technician for Billings marine in Stonington. The Board of FOBHB benefitted from his deck plate perspective of problems and no-nonsense recommendations for solutions.

There is a term, a mark of respect, now little used but once common along the eastern seaboard north of the Chesapeake Bay, reflecting a special combination of skills, interests, character, and moral and physical strengths found in many who followed the seas. The honorific was "waterman". Rusty Duym was waterman. The board of directors of the Friends of Blue Hill Bay mourns the passing of their friend and colleague, Rusty Duym, a Down East Maine Waterman.

~ Robert Slavin, for the Friends of Blue Hill Bay Board of Directors

Aquaculture and Fisheries Update

Cooke Aquaculture in Blue Hill Bay

In February, Phoenix Salmon US, Inc was granted a lease by MDMR for a 38 acre, 10-year net-pen aquaculture lease site off the west coast of Black Island in Frenchboro in Blue Hill Bay. The recent lease, which was opposed by FOBHB, is an expansion of an existing site off Black Island to raise 800,000 Atlantic salmon over an 18-36 month period. The estimated kilograms of feed fed per pen system for the first twelve months is 2,608 metric tons and 7,360 metric tons for the next twelve months.

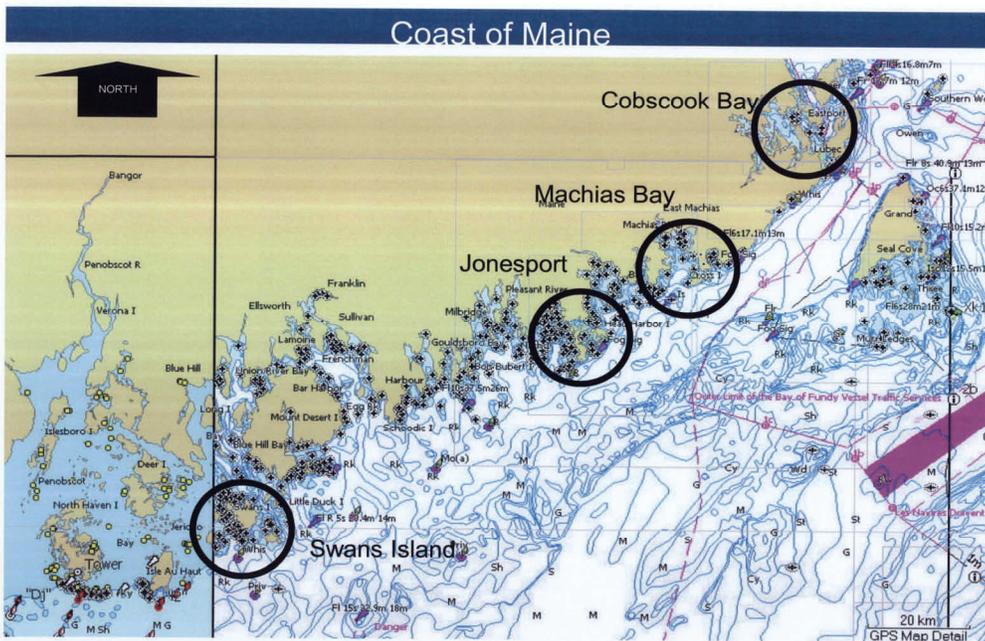
Phoenix Salmon US is part of True North Salmon Us Inc, the US affiliate of Cooke Aquaculture. Currently the only company producing farm-raised salmon in Maine is Canadian-based Cooke Aquaculture which has several

subsidiaries throughout the US, Canada, and Chili.

They own hatchery operations in Oquossoc, Bingham, and East Machias and marine lease sites (pens) in Cobscook Bay, Machias Bay, Jonesport, Mount Desert Island and Blue Hill Bay.

Why should we be concerned about salmon aquaculture in Blue Hill Bay? According to the World Wildlife Fund:

- the fecal waste, excess feed, toxic pharmaceuticals, and feed additives from millions of captive fish pollute our bays and oceans;
- approximately three million farmed salmon escape from their pens each year thus competing with wild salmon for food and habitat;
- the crowded conditions of salmon farming pens provide ideal conditions for the outbreak of disease and parasites that are transferred to nearby wild fish; and
- carnivorous farmed salmon need increasing amounts of wild caught fish for food, thus competing directly with humans and fish species for this valuable, yet diminishing resource. Currently, on average, it takes 2.5 Kilograms of fish from the world's oceans to produce 1 kilogram of farmed salmon. However, in Chile, this ratio is reported to be as high as 8 to 1.



Cooke Aquaculture Sites On the Coast of Maine

Approval of Salmon Lease in Nova Scotia Spurs Outrage

Halifax, NS — Despite much opposition, the Nova Scotia government has approved an industrial-sized salmon aquaculture project for Cooke Aquaculture in St. Mary's Bay. The two farms will stock about 700,000 fish in 84 hectares. A petition signed by approximately 83% of the total population of the islands impacted and all of the lobster fishermen on the islands was submitted

In response to the announcement, about 75 fishermen and concerned citizens protested at the legislature in Halifax on June 17. According to the CBC, residents of St. Marys Bay overwhelmingly oppose the salmon pens. The bay is the heart of the most lucrative lobster fishing grounds in Nova Scotia, an industry valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars a year and hundreds of local jobs. For more information visit <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2011/06/17/ns-fishermen-protest-salmon-farms.html>



FOBHB Comments on Black Is. Discharge Permit

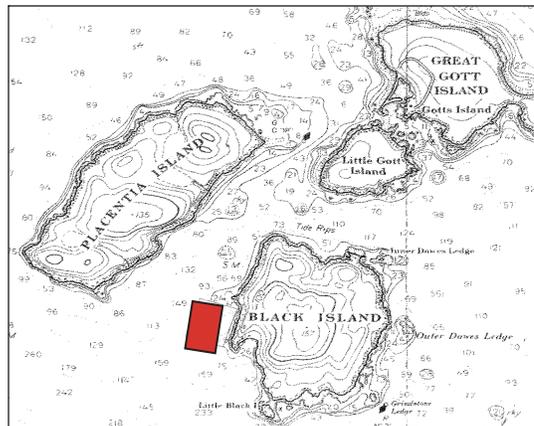
In April, FOBHB submitted a letter to Maine Department of Environmental Protection in response to the recent issuance of a Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit and Maine Waste Discharge License for Atlantic salmon aquaculture to Phoenix Salmon US, Inc for the site at Black Island South located in Frenchboro, Maine. The site will be stocked with about 40,000 fish per cage and the site will have about 20 cages for a total of 800,000 fish per site. The fish are fed 2-3 times daily using automatic feeders. The estimated kilograms of feed per pen system for the first twelve months is 2,868 tons and 8,096 tons for the next twelve months.

FOBHB expressed the following concerns:

- Phoenix Salmon has a history of water pollution problems as documented by DMR's own report (Lewis, DMR, 2010).
- Monitoring reports have cited elevated sulfides and *Beggiatoa* spp coverage at the existing north site. Subsequently DEP issued numerous warnings that the conditions "exceeded warning standards" (DEP 2009).
- The number and density of fish grown at the north site was cited by DEP as one of the causes of high

organic loading at the north site in 2010.

In addition to advocating for stronger and stricter monitoring/permitting, FOBHB is also requesting that the agencies involved start working collaboratively and proactively with citizen stakeholders to address their concerns. It is time for Maine state agencies to give equal effort and attention to finfish aquaculture and the citizens of Maine. Please visit www.fobhb.org to view the full letter.



Black Island Salmon Aquaculture Site

NY Times Article Reveals Mislabeling of Fish



According to a recent New York Times article ("Tests Reveal Mislabeling of Fish," May 26, 2011, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/27/science/earth/27fish.html?_r=1&hpw), studies by researchers in North America and Europe have consistently found that 20 to 25 percent of the seafood products they check are fraudulently identified.

Cheap fish is often substituted for expensive fillets, and overfished species are passed off as fish whose numbers are plentiful. Yellowtail stands in for mahi-mahi. Nile perch is labeled as shark, and tilapia can be found everywhere.

"Customers buying fish have a right to know what the heck it is and where it's from, but agencies like the F.D.A. are not taking this as seriously as they should," said Michael Hirshfield, chief scientist of the nonprofit group Oceana, referring to the Food and Drug Administration.

Dana Miller, a doctoral student who worked with Dr. Mariani in Dublin studying the mislabeling of cod, the most popular fish in Ireland, said, "we expected with all the policies and legislation and inspections, the numbers would be pretty low." But 25 percent of samples of fresh cod and had-dock and over 80 percent of the smoked products, were in fact something else. Irish cod stocks are overfished.

Study Shows Impact of Escaped Farmed Salmon

In recent years there have been concerns about aquaculture salmon escapees attempting to enter the Magaguadavic River in New Brunswick. In 2010 13,000 escaped from cages near Deer Island, and another 168,000 from a site east of Grand Manan. These escapes indicated the problems that cages had with weather and sea conditions.

In freshwater, there have also been issues of fry and parr escaping from hatcheries and displacing wild Atlantic salmon. This may be a component in reducing adaptation to natural conditions found in a 2011 study.

Monitoring wild and escaped farmed salmon in the Magaguadavic, the North American index river of interactions, has now continued through almost an entire generation, since 1992. In 2010, only 12 wild salmon returned, along with 28 aquaculture escapees.

A peer-reviewed study, involving the Atlantic Salmon Federation and other researchers, was recently published in the journal, "Heredity." It indicates that farm salmon escapees have interbred with wild salmon in the Magaguadavic River, resulting in significant alteration of the genetic integrity of the native population, including possible loss of adaptation to wild conditions. For more information see the article at :

http://www.nature.com/hdy/journal/v106/n3/abs/hdy2010165a.html?WT.ec_id=HDY-201103



Friends of Blue Hill
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Blue Hill, ME 04614

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*Conserving the natural ecology, sustainable
marine fisheries, and unique aesthetic quality of
Blue Hill Bay since 1999*

New Life for Blue Hill Clam Flats

From Phil Black, Marine Resources Committee

The Blue Hill Clam Committee and Marine Resources Committee have been busy the past year working to restore the local native clam fishery. Early in 2010, a local Blue Hill clam digger approached the MRC with a proposal to start a clam reseedling program for depleted flats in the area. As a result, the town passed a clam ordinance establishing a clam committee of 5 members and requiring commercial license applicants to volunteer 30 hours of time reseedling clam beds before they can receive a license.



The town applied for all of the necessary state permits and with the help of volunteers, over one million clam seeds less than 2" long have been replanted by taking seed clams from the closed flats in Blue Hill and moving them to the open flats elsewhere in the area (some area flats are closed to digging due to water quality problems). The goal is to reseed all the open flats in Blue Hill and to make clams a sustainable and renewable resource for future generations.

Visit the FOBHB Website

We have some new additions to the FOBHB website!! Please visit the site (www.fobhb.org) to view:

- New York Times article "Tests Reveal Mislabeling of Fish"
- FOBHB Letter to Maine DEP regarding Black Island Pollutant Discharge Permit
- CBC Article: "Approval of Salmon Lease in Nova Scotia Spurs Outrage"
- Heredity Journal Article: Study Shows Impact of Escaped Farmed Salmon
- Tribute to Rusty Duym
- National Ocean Council Letter
- Managing the Cost of Aquaculture