



BLUE HORIZON



Summer 2012

ISSUE 10

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Mark Your Calendar for FOBHB Summer Events!



Long Island Beach Clean-Up with FOBHB & Friends of Acadia— Saturday July 28. To sign up for this annual event, contact Barbara at 546-2018 or bsarter@fobhb.org.

FOBHB Annual Meeting - Monday August 13, 6:00 pm at the home of Tom and Kitty Clements. Please RSVP with Barbara at 546-2018 or bsarter@fobhb.org. Join us to hear Darron Collins, President of College of the Atlantic and COA Class of 1992, talk about his conservation experience in Guatemala, the Gulf of Mexico, and Russia.

Prior to coming to COA, Collins managed international and domestic projects at World Wildlife Fund for more than a decade, serving as managing director for the Amur-Heilong Ecoregion, senior advisor to the organization's CEO, and manager of creative assets, leading the organization into new territory for outreach and development.

Collins has conducted ethnobotanical research among the Q'eqchi'-Maya of Guatemala, investigative reporting of the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and written, produced, and directed the award-winning Russian documentary, *Amur River Basin: Sanctuary for the Mighty Taimen*.



Your Contribution Protects BH Bay & Beyond!

Friends of Blue Hill Bay is the only grassroots, member-supported group in Maine dedicated to healthy bays, stricter aquaculture policies, and stronger citizen input.

Your contribution supports countless hours of research, document preparation, legal fees, and meetings associated with protecting our bays from improper and non-sustainable aquaculture practices. And with the increase in aquaculture sites, this year is no exception! Your contribution also supports public outreach including speakers and symposia, local beach clean ups, a wastewater pump-out boat, and web-based communications.

But did you also know that some of our most effective impact comes from partnering with other regional conservation organizations, mentoring new grassroots organizations forming throughout eastern Maine, and supporting national Gulf of Maine clean ocean practices and policies?

This year we partnered with Frenchman Bay Partners, the Down East Research and Education Network, the Hancock County Planning Commission, and Friends of Acadia on a variety of regional conservation projects. Furthermore, our expertise, experience, and

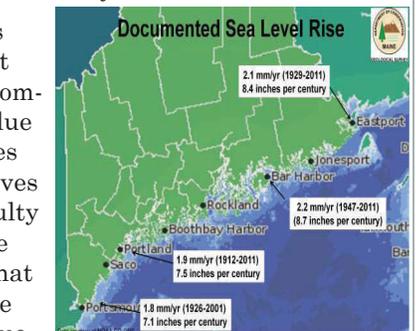


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FOBHB & HCPC Conduct Bay Needs Assessment

Regional sea level has risen 8 inches in the last century, there are 480 commercial harvesters in Blue Hill Bay, and fish species such as smelt and alewives are dwindling due to faulty road passage. These are just a few of the facts that community members are learning through the Blue Hill Bay (BHB) Watershed Needs Assessment.

The Needs Assessment is a stakeholder initiative designed to help BHB communities (Tremont, Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Trenton, Ellsworth, Surry, Blue Hill and Brooklin) better understand their resources and make informed decisions about coastal activities such as stormwater management, waterfront access, alewife restoration, shellfish restoration and aquaculture, recreation opportunities, and coastal storm preparation.



FOBHB is partnering with the Hancock County Planning Commission on the project which will also update FOBHB's 2007 maps. For more information or to participate visit

Your Contribution.....

knowledge, as well as our endorsement of important issues, are invaluable to groups throughout the state who are trying to tackle the challenges of protecting waters and voicing citizens' rights. This year we mentored and supported Friends of Goose Cove, Friends of Morgan Bay, Friends of Linekin Bay (Boothbay), and Friends of Penobscot Bay. Most importantly, our endorsement on letters and other communiqué support national sustainable fisheries management of species such as blue fin tuna, river herring, menhaden, and rainbow smelt, that make Blue Hill Bay and the Gulf of Maine their home.

Collectively these efforts guarantee a strong regional voice for bay and ocean conservation. Without FOBHB, there would be no one providing support and advocacy. And none of this would be possible without your contribution. Thank you! And please continue your support!

~ FOBHB Board of Directors

Check out www.fobhb.org for more:

- FOBHB Petitions Superior Court
- Town of Surry Letter to DMR
- FOBHB Letter to DMR
- 2011 Symposium PowerPoint Presentations
- Bay and Ocean Conservation News
- Links to important ocean initiatives:
 - Occupy the Ocean
 - Lenfest Forage Fish taskforce
 - The Ocean Conservancy

Donate today!
By mail or on-line with your credit card!

Visit the **FOBHB** website:

www.fobhb.org

or

go directly to:

<http://www.fobhb.org/donate.html>

Donate



Our Mission and Directors

Friends of Blue Hill Bay is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural ecology, sustainable 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.

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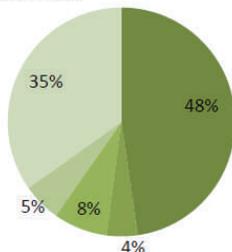
bsarter@fobhb.org

www.fobhb.org

Expense Report

The graph below represents FOBHB 2012 expenses. Our annual budget is approximately \$34,000, 95% of which comes from personal donations. In 2012, 48% of expenses were dedicated to Program Services which include the Director's salary, office and program expenses, and newsletters expenses. Due to increased aquaculture activities in the bay, legal expenses increased to 35% this year.

FOBHB 2012 Expenses



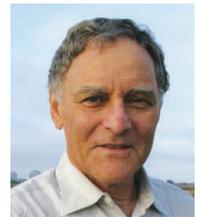
- Program Services
- Administration
- Fundraising
- Research/Consulting
- Legal Expenses

FOBHB Holds "Behold the Bay" Symposium

On Friday, November 18, The Friends of Blue Hill Bay hosted "Behold the Bay: a symposium celebrating the marine resources of Blue Hill Bay" at the Blue Hill Town Hall. Over 60 people attended the day-long event including numerous local residents and representatives from several state and federal agencies, area land trusts, municipal government, and charitable and conservation organizations. Speakers at "Behold the Bay" included Dr. Steven Katona (Conservation International), Phil Black (Blue Hill Marine Resources Committee), Dr. Susan Shaw (Marine Environmental Research Institute), Ted Ames (Penobscot East Resource Center), Kathleen Leyden (Maine State Planning Office), Kristin Hoffman (Forest Society of Maine), Sara Williams (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Angela Dubois (Maine DEP), and Dr. Curtis Bohlen (Casco Bay Estuary Partnership).

Highlights of the symposium included keynote speaker, Dr. Katona (right), who spoke about the Ocean Health Index, which estimates that the human population will be 9.2 billion by 2050 and that we need to ensure that we "link oceans and humanity in a positive feedback loop." Ted Ames (left), from Penobscot East Resource Center, said, "Blue Hill Bay is doing okay, but there are few alewives, stripers, cod, haddock, hake and pollock. Alewives are food for many of these species, and we need to make sure there are fishways in our rivers, such as the Union River, so that the alewives can get upstream to spawn." Curtis Bohlen, from the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, told the group of successes and lessons learned from southern Maine and advised the audience "to engage with communities and relate them to healthy coastal ecosystems." Dr. Susan Shaw (below), of the Marine Environmental Research Institute, described their "Seals as Sentinels" project, water quality and invasive species monitoring efforts, and the recent release of their "State of Blue Hill Bay" report.

"If funding is available, we'd like to hold a symposium like this every year. It's an excellent venue for all of us to learn about our local bays and estuaries," says FOBHB Director, Barbara Arter. The symposium was made possible by personal donations to FOBHB and a grant from the Hancock County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.



Blue Hill Bay Aquaculture Update

According to the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), as of 2011, there were 13 aquaculture lease sites totaling 102 acres in Blue Hill Bay (see map right). Nine are experimental or standard shellfish leases (quahogs, mussels, oysters, etc), and two are limited-purpose licenses (temporary, shellfish, in less than 400 ft² area). There are also two finfish (salmon) leases off Swans and Black islands making up an additional 33 of the total 102 acres.

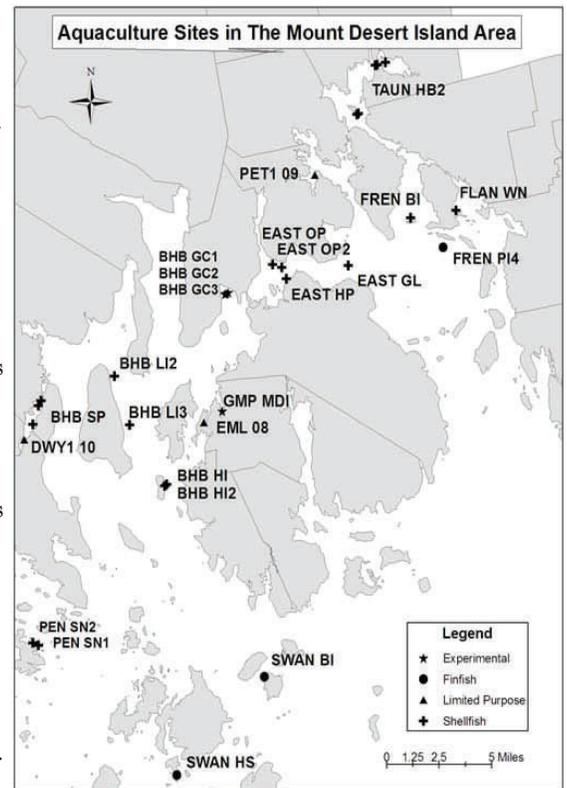
In addition to those shown on the 2011 map, two shellfish aquaculture leases (Goose Cove and Newbury Neck) were granted this spring, and two more lease applications (Morgan Bay and Squid Cove) are pending in the bay. If all leases are granted and put into service as expected, this would bring the total acreage of aquaculture sites to approximately 160 acres. For more information, visit the DMR website at <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leaseinventory/index.htm>

Granted 2012: Acadia Sea Farms, Inc., Goose Cove, Trenton: 50 acres oyster, standard 10-year lease, suspended & bottom culture.

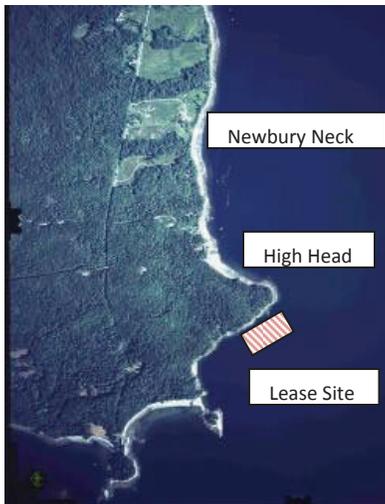
Granted 2012: Terrell Gray, Blue Hill Bay, South of Newbury Neck, Surry: 3-year exper. lease, 4 acres blue mussels, suspended culture.

Pending: Downeast Acadia Seafarms, Joe Porada, Morgan Bay, Surry: 2-acre experimental lease, quahogs and oysters.

Pending: Maine Cultured Mussels Inc/Mussel Bound Farms, Squid Cove, Western Bay, Mt Desert: 2-acre exper. lease, sea urchins, no gear proposed and the urchins will be fed kelp and harvested by divers.



FOBHB Files Petition with Superior Court to Protect Newbury Neck



This spring, Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) granted Terrell Gray a lease to grow blue mussels just off shore of High Head at the end of much-loved Newbury Neck.

Prior to the lease grant, FOBHB worked with Mr. Gray to find a more appropriate location for the expansion of his mussel farm in BHB (he already operates BHBLI2 above).

FOBHB President, Don Eley, made it clear at the recent public hearing and in written comments that “FOBHB believes shellfish aquaculture has a valuable role to play in Maine’s economy and in Blue Hill Bay. However, for aquaculture to be successful, all stakeholders must be included in any process, particularly those most impacted, in this case the local community members.”

FOBHB and the Town of Surry, both interveners in the case, testified that the lease should not be granted due to its potential negative impacts on the high recreational use and tourism of the area; concerns about riparian access, navigation, and fishing; and most importantly, the applicant’s violations and failure to properly husband and

maintain his existing site off Long Island.

In its letter to DMR, the Town of Surry stated that in addition to all of these concerns, “Surry residents’ objections were given no consideration in the DMR decision.” Thirteen Surry residents testified that the proposed lease would substantially change the character of the immediate area, specifically kayaking, swimming, camping, beach-going, etc.

In their letter to DMR, FOBHB further argued that many of the conclusions stated in DMR’s lease decision were based on subjective anecdotal information and observations rather than objective scientific findings. Specifically, neither the applicant nor DMR conducted any baseline underwater investigation of the proposed site in order to determine pre-aquaculture conditions. Furthermore, FOBHB states, “there has been no independent observation of the area, and it is inappropriate for the DMR to find that this proposed lease will not unreasonably interfere with the flora or fauna of the area when there is nothing to substantiate this claim.”

Despite this opposition, DMR granted the lease in April, and in June FOBHB filed a petition in Maine Superior Court citing that DMR’s action adversely impacts the natural ecology of the bay, excludes all other reasonable uses of the area, and denies the community the ability to fish, boat, and recreate in the area. It further charges that DMR regulations do not contain adequate rules dealing with the method of gathering and assessing baseline information as required by law.



Friends of Blue Hill
Bay
P. O. Box 1633
Blue Hill, ME 04614

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Return Service Requested

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

Bits and Pieces

Volunteers Needed!

- 1) Document the entire shoreline from High Head to Goose Rock with a digital camera at low tide. This will allow us to inventory the shore so that if a mussel farm goes into place we can document any changes.
- 2) Gather data on water clarity using a Secchi disk on a weekly basis. This will create a baseline to compare against any impacts from the mussel farm. For more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara at 546-2018.



Boaters, don't forget the Pump-out Boat! The Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club, KSEA, FOBHB and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection fund 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!**



Volunteers on their way to clean up Long Island in 2011.



Images from 2011

Aaron Doherty of Penobscot East Resource Center spoke at the 2011 FOBHB Annual Meeting about the Downeast Groundfish Initiative which is implementing true ecosystem based management and shared stewardship of the decimated Downeast groundfishery.

Check out Partnering Projects!

FOBHB partners with other groups in the area to advocate for conservation. Check out some of the other projects:

- **Downeast Fisheries Trail** — celebrating traditional fisheries: www.downeastfisheriestrail.org/
- **Down East Research and Education Network** — promoting research and education opportunities: www.downeastresearchnetwork.org
- **Diadromous Species Restoration Research Network** —promoting migratory fish research and restoration: www.umaine.edu/searunfish/
- **Frenchman Bay Partners**— working for a sustainable future in our neighboring bay: www.frenchmanbaypartners.org/
- **Blue Hill Friends and Neighbors**— enhancing quality of life for the citizens of Blue Hill: Call Denise at 374-5973
- **Friends of Acadia**— promote stewardship of Acadia National Park: www.friendsofacadia.org