



BLUE HORIZON

Summer 2013

ISSUE 11

Inside this Issue

This page

- Annual Meeting News
- Keep the Bay Blue
- Long Island Clean Up

Page 2

- FOBHB Contact & Board
- Expense Report
- FOBHB Remembers Ned Hayes
- Project Sponsors Needed!

Page 3

- Aquaculture in the Bay
- FOBHB Ocean Acidification Project

Page 4

- Blue Hill Bay Needs Assessment Completed

Linda Greenlaw to Speak at FOBHB Annual Meeting!

Linda Greenlaw, America's only female swordfishing captain, will be guest speaker at this year's **FOBHB Annual Meeting** to be held on **Monday July 29, 6:00 pm** at the Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club. Linda is author of three *New York Times* bestselling books about life as a commercial fisherman: *The Hungry Ocean* (1999), *The Lobster Chronicles* (2002), and *All Fishermen Are Liars* (2004). She is the winner of the U.S. Maritime Literature Award in 2003 and the New England Book Award for nonfiction in 2004.

Greenlaw's latest book, *Seaworthy: A Swordfish Boat Captain Returns to the Sea*, is a chronicle of her return to swordfishing after ten years as a lobsterman and marks her return to non-fiction and high-seas adventure.

Greenlaw first came to the public's attention in Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*, where Junger called her "one of the best captains ... on the entire east coast." She's also been featured on *Good Morning America*, *Today*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *The Martha Stewart Show*, and *National Public Radio*.

Seating at the Annual Meeting is limited so please RSVP to Bebe at bebemoulton@gmail.com or 374-5933 by July 25.



Keep the Bay Blue!

FOBHB continues to partner in 2013 with our neighboring bays to the east and west in order to advocate and protect the waters of coastal Maine. Our collective impact can be seen in the amount of interest and respect that municipalities, state and federal conservation agencies, and other conservation organizations and foundations show for our efforts. We are continually tapped to provide support and expertise for clean water and sustainable fisheries throughout the year.

This year FOBHB was asked to assist the Penobscot Bay Keepers in providing training for water quality monitoring and advocacy. The waters of our two bays mingle off Deer Isle so what's important in one bay is important in the other. Toxic legacy pollutants continue to haunt the waters of eastern Maine because what happens in the bay stays in the bay!

In Frenchman Bay, we provide input into shellfish management, GIS resource mapping, and advocacy for shared-resource responsibility.

FOBHB also provides input to the Down East Research and Education Network, which is concerned with land and water conservation and economic sustainability in our region. And on June 3 FOBHB was rep-

.....Continue on pg 2

2013 Long Island Beach Clean Up

Long Island Beach Clean-Up with FOBHB & Friends of Acadia—Saturday July 27. Volunteers are needed for this annual event which includes a boat ride and a stroll on the beaches of beautiful Long Island in Blue Hill Bay.

Marine debris from both land and sea is a problem along shorelines and in coastal waters throughout the world. Seals, birds, and fish can be wounded or unable to swim if they consume or become entangled in debris. Seabirds have been known to swallow small plastic pieces causing suffocation or starvation. The top marine debris items collected during clean-ups are cigarettes and plastic bags and food containers.

To volunteer, contact *Bebe* at bebemoulton@gmail.com or 374-5933

*2012
Volunteers
at the KYC
(right).
They picked
up over 10
bags of
marine
debris in
just 2 hours!*



Continued from page 1

resented at the National Ocean Council meeting in Ellsworth where representatives from NOAA, the Maine Coastal Program, and DMR sought input for National Ocean Planning in the Gulf of Maine. We also continue to partner with Friends of Acadia and the Hancock County Planning Commission on assessing and making recommendations for resource conditions in the bay (see Needs Assessment story, page 4).

We have also added a new outreach project to our advocacy menu. We are very excited about the new Ocean Acidification and Shellfish Inventory Project. Please see our story on page 3!

Friends of Blue Hill Bay is the oldest 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 fisheries

practices, nonpoint source pollution, and unsustainable development. Your contribution also supports public outreach including speakers and symposia, local beach clean ups, a wastewater pump-out boat, and web-based communications. And none of this would be possible without your contribution. Without FOBHB, there would be no one providing support and advocacy. Thank you! We hope you will continue your support!

~ FOBHB Board of Directors

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.

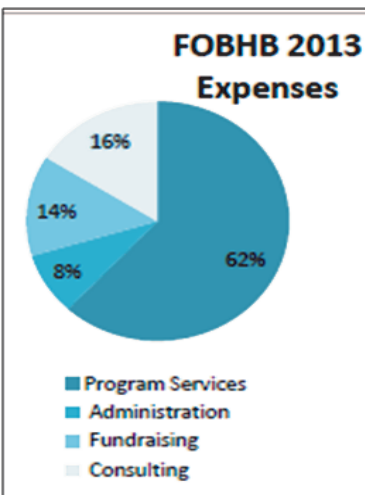
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Expense Report

The graph below represents FOBHB 2013 expenses. Our annual budget is approximately \$39,000, 95% of which comes from personal donations. In 2012, 62% of expenses were dedicated to Program Services which include the Director's and administrator's salaries and office, program, and communications expenses. Legal expenses for aquaculture activities in the bay made up 31% of the budget this year.



FOBHB Remembers Dr. Ned Hayes

The Blue Hill Peninsula, and all of the towns with shorelines washed by Blue Hill Bay, have a history of producing sons and daughters whose contributions in the fields of arts and letters, sciences, seafaring, and public policy reflect proudly on the pretty corner of the world from which they have sprung. Dr. Edward Barbour Hayes, with roots in nearby Brooklin and residing in distant Barcelona, Spain, was such an individual, fully loving a life sadly shortened by a heart attack, May 9, 2013 in Barcelona. He was 57.

Ned, a physician, was our speaker at the FOBHB Annual Meeting in 2010. Joined by Captain Dan Parrott, who holds a Coast Guard Masters License, Ned described the challenges and satisfaction realized in sailing a three-masted topsail schooner through the Marshall Islands of the Central Pacific, providing health care to islanders on isolated atolls.

Ned was the son of long-time FOBHB board member and tireless supporter, Dottie Hayes. He leaves also his wife, Paz, three children, and an extended yet close family, to all of whom the Board expresses sincere condolences.



Dr. Ned Hayes (left) with Captain Dan Parrott at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

~ Bob Slaven,
on behalf of the FOBHB Board

Ocean Acidification Project Sponsors Needed! You Can Help!

Last week FOBHB hired high school student, Allie Hayes, as an intern for the Shellfish Ocean Acidification Project (see related story). Although FOBHB received some funding for the project, we are looking for fiscal sponsors from area businesses and community members to help pay for Allie's work and expenses. If you would to be a fiscal sponsor of this great project, contact Barbara at bsarter@fobhb.org!!

FOBHB Receives Grants to Study Shellfish and Ocean Acidification

According to the National Research Council (2011), excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels is absorbed by rivers and oceans making sea water more acidic and leading to a suite of changes in ocean chemistry (Figure 1, NRC 2011). Preliminary evidence suggests ocean acidification will have negative effects on corals, shellfish, and other marine life, with wide-ranging consequences for ecosystems, fisheries, and tourism.

Calcifiers—organisms with shells or skeletons made from calcium carbonate—are among the most abundant forms of marine life. Ranging from tiny plankton species that form the basis of marine food chains, to vast coral reefs that provide habitat for many ocean animals, calcifiers are an essential part of many marine ecosystems. As ocean acidification decreases the availability of carbonate ions, these organisms must work harder to produce shells. As a result, they have less energy left to find food, reproduce, or defend against disease or predators. As the ocean becomes more acidic, populations of some species could decline, and others may even go extinct.

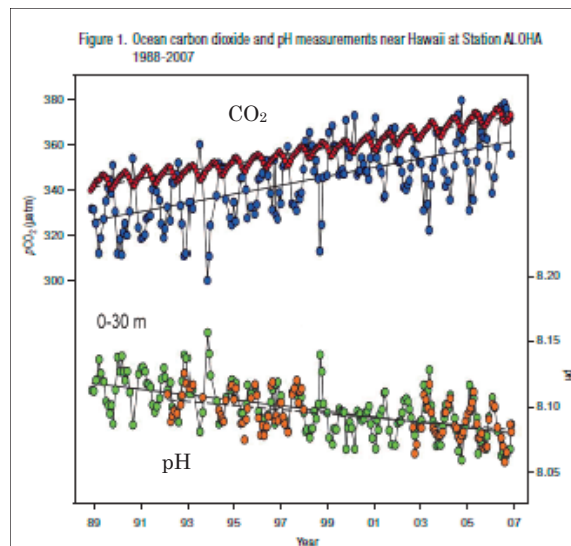
Researchers in the Gulf of Maine, have observed episodes of acidic river influx corresponding to the peak spawning period for softshell clams (*Mya arenaria*). They conclude that such events have the potential to adversely affect the survivability and subsequent settlement distribution of softshell clams if they occur during spawning periods. In Blue Hill Bay, over 279,000 pounds of softshell clams were harvested in 2011 netting over \$404,000. Other species that depend on shelled organisms include lobster and crabs, which net Blue Hill Bay fishermen over \$23 million.



FOBHB Intern, Allie Hayes, at work.

This spring, FOBHB received partial grants from the Maine Community Foundation and the John Sage Foundation to launch a baseline documentation of shellfish diversity and abundance in Blue Hill Bay. The data will be used to monitor potential impacts of ocean acidification, pollution, harvesting, and shore management. For the first year of the project we anticipate several school groups (students and teachers) as well as community volunteers will participate in field trips, for a total of about 50-65 community members directly involved in experimental data collection and exposure to shore habitats. Once the results are collected, this project will serve all Maine coastal communities.

If you would like to get involved in this project please contact Barbara at bsarter@fobhb.org or 546-2018.



Aquaculture in the Bay

As of June 2013, there are three aquaculture leases pending in the Bay: Squid Cove in Mt Desert (green sea urchins), Goose Cove in Trenton (quahogs), and Morgan Bay north of Jed Island in Surry (oysters and quahogs).

The lease in Morgan Bay continues to be controversial with strong opinions both for and against the operation. Public hearings were held March 25 and 27. A third hearing was held on June 18 due to public demand.

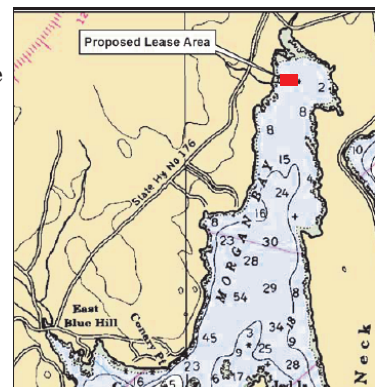
The decision to reconvene came in response to motions filed by Boston lawyer and Surry summer resident, Jack Pirozzolo, who requested information about communications between the applicant and DMR, as well as a request to schedule “a fair and unbiased hearing.” The motion also asked that DMR aquaculture staff be disqualified from running the hearings because of “institutional bias and personal bias.” Although DMR disagreed that staff are biased and continued to administer the June 18 meeting, Pirozzolo says he will continue to appeal his motion.

Those who spoke out against the four-acre, three-year

lease raised concerns that recreational uses, wildlife, and property values would be negatively impacted. Several community members commented that due to aquaculture and bacteria closures, there are fewer and fewer places to swim and enjoy beaches.

Navigation and fisheries were also concerns among community members. DMR was criticized for not having made a site visit during the active summer months when there are high levels of kayaking, sailing, and clamming. Instead they visited the site in the fall and therefore did not get a complete understanding of the full use of the site.

A herring harvester also commented that DMR gives preferential treatment to aquaculture and as a result traditional fisheries like herring are ignored.





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

Blue Hill Bay Needs Assessment Completed

Did you know that of the 8 towns surrounding Blue Hill Bay (BHB), Blue Hill has the highest number of fishermen? Or that BHB is one of the primary harbor seal pupping regions in the Gulf of Maine? Or that lodging and food service accounts for the greatest amount of employees and payroll in Hancock County?

These are some of the findings presented in the recently released “Blue Hill Bay Needs Assessment” that was developed by the Hancock County Planning Commission and FOBHB. The Assessment was a year-long, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to assess the status of bay resources and make informed decisions about coastal activities which impact these resources. The eight communities that make up the watershed include Tremont, Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Trenton, Ellsworth, Surry, Blue Hill and Brooklin. The project also includes many new maps including land cover, land values, population change, conserved lands, wetlands, impervious surface, shellfish closures, and ecological habitats (right).

Blue Hill Bay fisheries contribute 3% to the total state volume of fisheries (270 million pounds) and 6% to the state value overall (\$426 million). In BHB, lobster landings represent 76% (6,988,858 lb) of the total landings (all fisheries) and 88% of the total value (\$23, 220,096).

While water quality in the bay is generally very good, there are areas of concern including numerous bacterial shellfish closures, stormwater runoff pollution, rising sea level, loss of recreational and commercial access, passage for migratory fish, unchecked development, and the need for more community input into state management decisions. To view the report and the maps please visit: www.hcpcme.org/bluehillbay

