

An aerial photograph of a vast natural landscape in Maine. In the foreground, a bog with vibrant red and orange vegetation stretches across the lower half of the frame. A small rocky outcrop with a few trees sits on the edge of the bog. Beyond the bog, a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees covers the middle ground. A large, dark blue lake is visible in the upper right, surrounded by forest. In the far distance, rolling hills and another smaller lake are visible under a clear blue sky.

# Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

FEASIBILITY STUDY

To provide feedback on this Feasibility Study, or to learn how to participate in the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area program, please visit: [sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program](http://sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program) or call 207-707-2057.


Learn more about about the National Heritage Areas Program : [nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/index.htm](http://nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/index.htm).

Learn about other National Heritage Areas around the Country: [nationalheritageareas.us/find-your-nha/](http://nationalheritageareas.us/find-your-nha/) .

Read about Legislation Pertaining to National Heritage Areas: [doi.gov/ocl/national-heritage-areas](http://doi.gov/ocl/national-heritage-areas).

*Layout and infographic design by AHD Design | [www.ashleydhakal.com](http://www.ashleydhakal.com)*

*Cover Image by Ryan Malagara, DEVI Productions (Drones Eye View Inc) | 125 Dublin St, Machias, ME 04654  
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## Acknowledgements

The initiative to seek designation as a National Heritage Area began with small farmers who sought to save the wild blueberry industry. The conversation evolved to reveal a collective regional passion to preserve the landscapes and culture that define Downeast Maine.

Thank you to all of the organizations, community members, and advisors whose passion and commitment made the completion of this Feasibility Study possible.

And, thank you the people who have come before us, to those here today, and those who will come after us who care for the land, water, wildlife, and people of this place, and who have helped define what we call Downeast Maine.

This document was written and compiled by Sunrise County Economic Council in partnership with a Working Group\* that included representatives from different aspects of the Downeast Maine heritage story. Staff time was provided by Sunrise County Economic Council and Working Group member organizations. A broad range of community members provided valuable input and information.

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*\*see Chapters 3 and 10 for information about Working Group members*





## Contents

1. Downeast Maine National Heritage Area.....	1
2. Fulfillment of NHA Baseline Criteria .....	9
3. Community Planning & Support .....	27
4. Proposed Location & Introduction to the Region .....	39
5. Downeast Maine’s Nationally Significant Heritage Story.....	49
6. A Historical Context of Downeast Maine’s National Heritage .....	65
7. Local Resources, Regional Opportunity.....	101
8. Alternatives to NHA Designation.....	139
9. Local & Regional Economic Activity .....	147
10. Long-Term Management & Funding of the Downeast Maine NHA.....	161

## Appendices

A – Community Discussions & Invitations for Feedback .....	181
B – Letters of Support .....	191



Downeast Maine is located at the easternmost edge of the continental US and at the 45th Parallel. It overlooks and is exposed to the vastness and fury of the Atlantic Ocean. In some ways, Downeast Maine is at the edge of the world. In other ways, it is at the center of a wonderland of natural resources and scenic beauty.

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*Lobsters, Blueberries, Bicycle - Active fishing villages and prolific blueberry barrens reflect a deep-rooted relationship as people continue to harvest the natural bounty of land and sea, as their ancestors have done for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Photo by Gary Jacobson.*





## CHAPTER 1

# Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

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The initiative to seek designation as a National Heritage Area began with local farmers who sought to save the wild blueberry industry. The conversation evolved to reveal a collective regional passion to preserve the landscapes and culture that define Downeast Maine.

### What is a National Heritage Area?

**A National Heritage Area is a place where the historic relationship between people and landscape has contributed significantly to the cultural and natural heritage of the Nation. It is a place where that heritage story is intact on the landscape today and provides opportunities for community engagement and economic development**

**The underlying purpose of the NHA program is to support strong, healthy communities. The program provides tools to support community and economic development driven by a community's unique assets and priorities. Goals for the NHA Program are to:**

- Inspire long-term citizen engagement in stewarding heritage resources
- Build collaborations and thus capacity to achieve mutual goals
- Develop education programs and learning opportunities around local heritage
- Develop a sustainable tourism industry founded in local culture and outdoor heritage

NHA Designation is national recognition of an area's unique cultural & natural heritage and contributions to the Nation's collective heritage. The Federal designation is approved by Congress through legislation brought forward by state delegates.

The NHA program **does** bring financial benefits with designation. Up to \$350,000 in federal funding is available annually to match local dollars and in-kind contributions 1:1. Funds are provided by the Department of the Interior; technical support is provided by the National Park Service. **All program funds and projects are prioritized and managed by a collaboration of local heritage groups.** This local management entity makes decisions about priority programs, projects, and funding for eligible heritage projects and programs within the NHA region.

*NHA Designation does NOT mean that an area becomes a unit of the National Park Service or Federal Government and they are not operated or governed by NPS or Federal Government. NHAs involve no ownership of land, nor are they a tool to regulate land use or remove municipal or private jurisdiction. NHAs do not create new expenses for a community to bear.*

IF a National Heritage Area designation is granted, the next step for communities is to create a region-wide NHA Management Plan, essentially a roadmap for developing and then promoting NHA infrastructure and programs. The NHA Management Plan is developed through an extensive public process. It outlines objectives and strategies that align with local and regional economic development goals. **The local management entity then implements the NHA program according to the directives set forth by the public and planning team within the Management Plan.**

## The National Heritage Area Program

### DOES

- Bring financial benefits with designation.
- Provide up to \$350,000 in federal funding annually to match local dollars and in-kind contributions 1:1. (The local management entity makes decisions about priority programs, projects, and funding for projects and programs within the NHA region.)

### DOES NOT

- Mean that an area becomes a unit of the National Park Service or Federal Government.
- Involve ownership of land, nor are they a tool to regulate land use or remove municipal or private jurisdiction.
- Create new expenses for a community to bear.

## A Vision for the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

Communities and organizations across Downeast Maine already share core goals with the National Heritage Area program and implement projects and programs that support them. They all strive in some way to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- Foster community-driven, heritage-based conservation and economic development.
- Create collaboration amongst citizens and long-term commitment to pro-actively shape the future of their communities.
- Inspire stewardship of heritage resources by community members through increased awareness of natural environment and cultural experience.
- Nurture active engagement in learning about and sharing history and heritage.
- Provide a platform for heritage-based economic development by attracting visitors and new residents.

Community members want to support each other and work together, especially across sectors typically seen as unconnected. They want to retain and attract residents while promoting and preserving valued local heritage. They want businesses to thrive, expand, innovate, and increase in number. They want children and families to connect with place and community and be aware of existing and new opportunities for themselves here in DownEast Maine .

The National Heritage Area program focuses on four core values that also directly align with core values of communities and organizations across Downeast Maine.

- Sustainable economic development
- Healthy environment and people
- Education and Stewardship
- Community Engagement and Pride



*Wild Blueberry Heritage Center - Marie & Dell Emerson built Wild Blueberry Land in 2001. In 2021, their iconic wild blueberry shaped retail shop was transformed into the Wild Blueberry Heritage Center & Museum. The Center celebrates an important part of the traditional Downeast Maine way of life, and the people whose lives are dedicated to wild blueberries.*

**The National Heritage Area program contributes to a sustainable economy by leveraging federal funds to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.** Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects. They provide new recreational opportunities and help people to access natural and cultural sites. NHAs can help develop new or improved amenities, unique settings, and educational and volunteer opportunities.

NHAs improve local quality of life through engagement of residents, especially youth and families, in telling our united but separate heritage stories. NHAs connect communities to natural, historic, and cultural sites through educational activities, which promote awareness and fosters stewardship of heritage resources. NHAs engage community members in heritage conservation activities, which strengthens a sense of place and community pride.

## The National Heritage Area program focuses on four core values

These directly align with core values of communities and organizations across Downeast Maine.

The diagram consists of four overlapping circles arranged in a diamond shape. The top circle is teal and contains an icon of a house and a tree, with the text 'Sustainable Economic Development'. The right circle is maroon and contains an icon of trees, with the text 'Healthy Environment & People'. The bottom circle is teal and contains an icon of a banner, with the text 'Community Engagement & Pride'. The left circle is maroon and contains an icon of a lightbulb, with the text 'Education & Stewardship'.

*The people of Downeast Maine are fiercely proud of their heritage, motivated to strengthen their economy, and committed to developing quality education opportunities that highlight local heritage. The NHA program provides resources to support communities to plan and implement these types of initiatives at the local level.*



*Monument Cove - Unique land features like those found at Monument Cove on Mount Desert Island reveal the specific geologic formation of Downeast Maine to inspire works of art and wonderment. Photo by Del Higgens.*

## **The Feasibility Study**

The Feasibility Study is the first step in seeking a National Heritage Area designation. The Feasibility Study determines if the heritage resources and story are nationally significant, whether or not the community supports this idea, and if there is adequate community commitment to successfully manage an NHA program for the long term. The Feasibility Study is conducted by a group of local representatives of the different heritage stories and heritage organizations. Community input is sought from as many residents, business owners, municipalities, and organizations as possible across the region. The Feasibility engages community members to explore these questions together:



*Peavey Memorial Library, Eastport - Most libraries in Downeast Maine occupy well-preserved historic structures. Some have always been libraries while others played various roles in their communities.*

- What distinctive stories unite the region?
- How is this important to our Nation's heritage?
- How do we want to share those stories?
- Are existing resources sufficient for cohesive, in-depth, interactive storytelling?
- How can we pool and leverage our human and financial resources with other initiatives?
- Does local support and organizational capacity exist to fund, administrate, and manage an NHA for the long-term?
- Is NHA designation the right strategy to achieve community goals?
- How would NHA designation support & expand community conservation and development goals?
- Where are the proposed NHA boundary delineations, based on the above points?



*Climbing Champlain Mountain- The beauty and mystery of what is now Acadia National Park on Mt. Desert Island has attracted summer visitors for thousands of years, beginning with the Wabanaki people. Climbing the mountains was a favorite activity for rusticators. These mountains now draw millions of outdoor enthusiasts and tourists to the park annually. Illustration by Charles S. Reinhart from Harper's New Monthly Magazine, August 1886. Photo courtesy of Abbe Museum.*

#### A Feasibility Study for NHA

Designation examines a region's national significance from a number of angles. National Heritage Area designation requires meeting 10 base criteria – the Feasibility Study evaluates whether or not these criteria can be met. The 10 criteria are:

1. An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships

- among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
2. Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;
  3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and /or scenic features;
  4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;
  5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
  6. Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area;
  7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area;
  8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area;
  9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public; and
  10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

*This document is the Feasibility Study – the official submission for designation as a National Heritage Area. The Feasibility Study is submitted to Maine’s Congressional Delegates, who introduce it to Congress as a bill. The following chapters examine the assets and capacity of this region to meet the above listed criteria and determine if NHA designation is right for Downeast Maine.*



*Working Waterfront - Jonesport and Beals are a rough and ready “behind-the-scenery” experience of a DownEast fishing community still populated by generations of lobster fishing families. This is a landscape in action featuring hard-working men and women who provide seafood to the world, including the 2nd highest annual catch of Maine lobster in Maine. Dooryards are piled high with accoutrements of deeply rooted traditions built by generations of salty fishermen - lobster traps, buoys, and boats awaiting their return to sea. Photo by Gina Mazza.*



## CHAPTER 2

# Fulfillment of NHA Baseline Criteria

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Designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA) requires the proposed NHA to meet each of 10 base criteria set forth by the National Park Service. The Feasibility Study evaluates whether or not these criteria are met, including examination of a region's national significance and its collective ability to manage and sustain a successful National Heritage Area Program.

Following are the 10 required criteria to be addressed, and a summary of conclusions regarding whether or not the proposal for a Downeast Maine National Heritage Area meets these criteria. The reason behind each conclusion is further detailed in the body of the Feasibility Study, within the chapters referenced below.



*Waponahki Museum, Picking Sweet Grass - The Wabanaki people have long utilized sweet grass for making strong containers for daily needs. What was once predominantly utilitarian craft has become a fine art demanding a high price and museum status. The Waponahki Museum displays traditional tools, baskets, arts, artifacts, historic photos, and conducts preservation of the Passamaquoddy language. Life-size mannequins, modeled after actual Passamaquoddy Tribal members, are arranged in settings depicting their traditional day-to-day lifestyle.*

# 1

*An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.*

A study area must contain a “strategic assemblage” or concentration of resources within a clearly defined geographic area that together form a cohesive landscape and convey a distinct aspect of American heritage. This assemblage forms what is called a “nationally distinctive landscape” and must enable efficient, comprehensive and quality interpretation of a nationally important story.

The American heritage story conveyed through the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area is about the natural resources which enabled humans to thrive in a rugged environment over millennia, and how these resources provided raw materials for development of the growing American nation. It is also about how these abundant and valuable resources enabled European settlement of the Downeast region, which influenced key events that ultimately defined the political boundaries of the eastern United States.



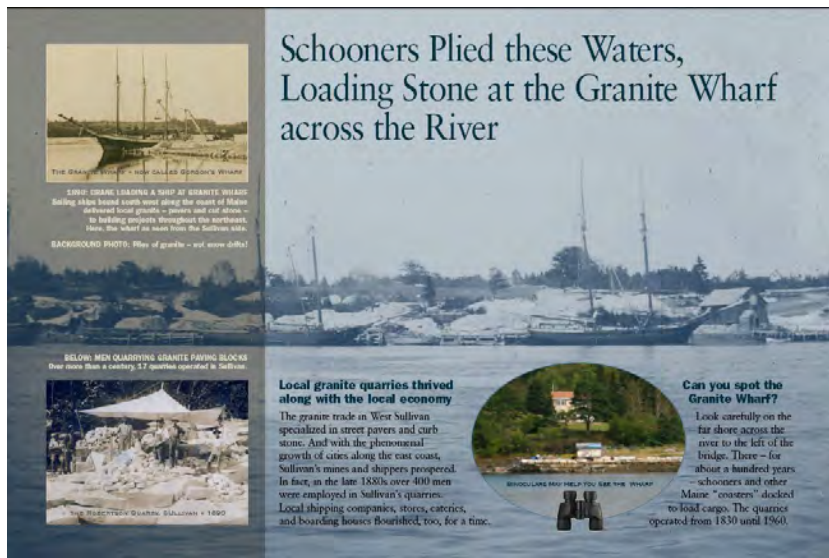
The history of this region’s role in the American nation’s formation remains visible because of the uniquely unspoiled character of Downeast Maine, and the lightly developed rivers, coastline, lakes, forests, and wild blueberry barrens. The coastline and inland waterways that provided travel routes for the Wabanaki and enabled European exploration remain

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*Civilian Conservation Corps Plein Air Artist - The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was designed to bring together what was considered wasted resources - young men and the land. Franklin Delano Roosevelt called 73rd Congress into Emergency Session to hear and authorize his program in 1933. The CCC brought many young men to Downeast Maine to develop trails and carriage roads at Acadia National Park. The natural beauty inspired this CCC worker to paint the Bubbles and continues to inspire both art and awe. Photo courtesy of Acadia National Park.*

navigable and abundant with wildlife. Landscape features that were key to mapping the eastern part of the nation are intact today.

Historic villages and ornate homes built in the nation's infancy remain intact on coves and rivers where timber, shipbuilding, and fisheries industries boomed. Granite and timber industries provided the raw materials to build the infrastructure of these small towns and many early eastern cities.



*Gordon's Wharf, Sullivan - The rapid growth of cities along the eastern seaboard allowed granite quarries to prosper. In the late 1800's, in Sullivan alone, over 400 men were employed in these quarries. Sailing vessels carried pavers and curb stones from Gordon's wharf for over 100 years. Illustration from Schoodic National Scenic Byway Interpretive Panel.*

**Chapter 7** contains a significant (but not exhaustive) inventory of notable natural, historic, and cultural resources directly associated with the nationally important story of Downeast Maine (detailed in **Chapters 5 and 6**).

**These resources, when woven together through existing and new collaborations, enable a cohesive, comprehensive interpretation of the nationally important heritage story of Downeast Maine. Because of the large size and diverse resources of this potential heritage area, heritage resources would best be managed as an assemblage by a partnership of local, regional, state, and federal agencies.**

Resources within this inventory are currently managed by public and private entities, most of whom already collaborate with others to some extent for planning, development, interpretation, and promotion. Numerous opportunities for partnership development exist within the two-county region, and many groups have expressed their willingness to work in partnership to implement the National Heritage Area.

Strengthening existing partnerships through the NHA program creates capacity to establish regional preservation and educational priorities. It would enable development of comprehensive, cohesive educational and interpretive heritage and open space programs and recreational opportunities. An NHA Management Entity composed of public/private partnerships and supported by dedicated staff could coordinate partnership efforts and promote the National Heritage Area as a whole.

# 2

*[This assemblage of resources] Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.*

A Significance Statement and Interpretive Theme(s) are required as part of the Feasibility Study. The Significance Statement expresses why and how a proposed area is nationally important and what exceptional values or qualities it holds that demonstrate this. Interpretive themes support the most important ideas or concepts within the Significance Statement and help communicate the area's significance and its relevance to people visiting or living within a National Heritage Area.

The significance statement, interpretive themes, and historic context detailed in **Chapters 5 and 6** convey how the people, places, and events associated with Downeast Maine contribute to and continue to represent the broader national heritage. Together with the inventory of resources provided in **Chapter 7**, **Chapters 5 and 6** outline a solid thematic framework to support a National Heritage Area in Downeast Maine.



*Lookout Rock, Brooksville - Lookout Rock, now a public preserve protected by Maine Coast Heritage Trust, was until recently held in ownership by the same family since the Revolutionary War. Photo by Maine Coast Heritage Trust.*

The rich natural resources of Downeast Maine enabled the Wabanahki to thrive for 12,000 years, attracted the first French settlement in the nation, sparked the first naval battle of the American Revolution, and provided vital building materials and food supplies for growing American cities. The natural resources that supported a thriving human population and helped to build the American nation remain intact and vital to the culture, environment, economy, and identity of Downeast Maine.

Fisheries, forest products, agriculture, wild blueberries, outdoor recreation, and tourism are the heart of the region's heritage. These industries continue to drive the local economy across

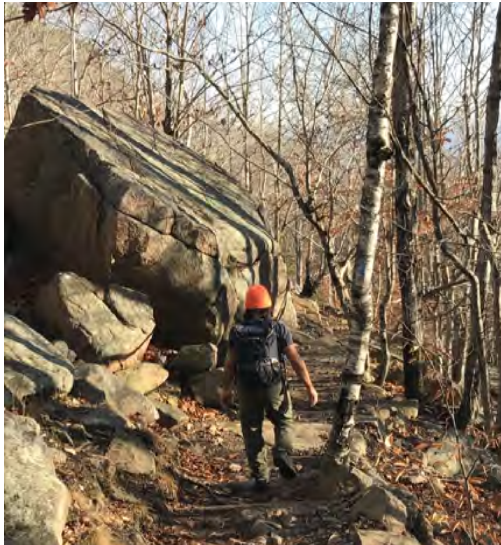
Downeast Maine. The people of Downeast Maine continue to innovate and grow while fiercely protecting their way of life within the context and spirit of community, history, tradition, climate, land, and water.



*Maine Sculpture Trail - The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium was founded by a granite sculptor who grew up on a former granite quarry in Steuben. Five Symposia were attended by internationally renowned sculptors, resulting in a world class collection of large granite works of art that continue the legacy of the region's granite industry through the Maine Sculpture Trail. This sculpture on the Penobscot River in Bucksport frames two other significant structures constructed from granite, the Penobscot Narrows Bridge Observatory and Fort Knox. The Maine Sculpture Trail contributes to the International Sculpture Trail which extends between Downeast Maine and New Brunswick, Canada.*

# 3

*[This assemblage of intact resources] Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and for scenic features.*



*Pictured above: Hiking Acadia - Acadia National Park is an exemplary location to view the geomorphology of Downeast Maine and effects of the Laurentide Ice Sheet on the landscape. The depth of the granite bedrock layer is visible in the rounded granite bald mountains, and the force of the glacier is visible in the sheared cliffs and gigantic erratic boulders scattered throughout the forest.*

**Chapter 7** provides lists of opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. Opportunities were identified by community members through surveys, community discussions, conversations at board meetings of regional partners, previous planning studies, and one-on-one interviews. These opportunities identify ways to build upon existing resources to expand capacity, strengthen partnerships, and generally create new and more opportunities to connect with and commemorate the people and places that make up Downeast Maine. These lists are in no way exhaustive and will grow as NHA planning continues. Opportunities listed in **Chapter 7**, and those to follow, will inform the next phase of participation in the National Heritage Areas program – creation of a Management Plan to guide development and promotion of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area.



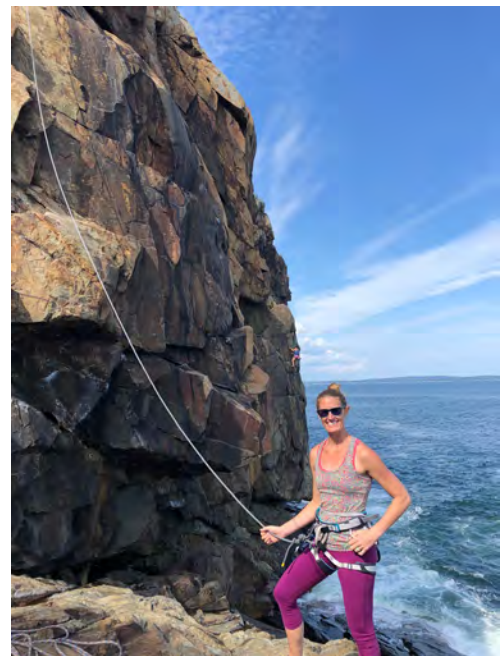
*Great Wass Island Preserve - Great Wass Island Preserve, protected by The Nature Conservancy, projects farther out to sea than any other land mass in eastern Maine. Extreme conditions like constant wind, salt spray, harsh winter storms, and cool summers greatly influence the species types found here and creates unique ecosystems. Great Wass contains maritime slope bogs and raised bogs which are unique to this part of the state. The Preserve supports one of Maine's largest stands of coastal jack pine, one which has evolved to successfully reproduce without the heat of fire typically required to open seed cones.*

# 4

*[This assemblage of intact resources] Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.*

The region's unparalleled natural beauty and outdoor recreation assets remain a primary draw to residents and visitors of all walks of life.

**Chapter 7** provides lists of recreational and educational opportunities identified by community members through surveys, community discussions, conversations at board meetings of regional partners, and one-on-one interviews. These opportunities identify ways to build upon existing resources to expand capacity, strengthen partnerships, and generally create new and more opportunities to connect with and commemorate the people and places that make up Downeast Maine. These lists are in no way exhaustive and will grow as NHA planning continues. Opportunities listed in **Chapter 7**, and those to follow, will inform the next phase of participation in the National Heritage Areas program – development and promotion of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area.



Rock Climbing Great Head, Acadia - Climbing in Acadia National Park offers a variety of fine climbs on small cliffs created during the last continental glaciation. The solid, course-grained pink granite ledges of Acadia National Park offer dramatic sea cliff climbing not commonly available elsewhere in the United States. Photo by Meg Keay.



At left: Lubec Landmarks Tidal Pool Tour - Tours with local land trusts and Registered Maine Guides provide immersive experiences for residents and visitors who want to get up close and personal with the diversity of sea life along the Downeast coast. Photo by APPLE.

# 5

*The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.*

The “strategic assemblage” of natural, cultural, and historic resources related to the nationally important story must maintain a high level of physical and cultural integrity, or intactness, necessary to enable efficient, comprehensive and quality interpretation of that story.

Despite several hundred years of substantial change, the Wabanaki people remain connected with their culture and continue traditions within their schools, cultural centers, and communities, and the Passamaquoddy continue to live on and maintain rights to a portion of their native homelands in Downeast Maine.



*Lost Fishermen’s Memorial Park Sculpture Dedication Ceremony - The Lost Fisherman’s Memorial Park in Lubec honors fishermen that perished in the waters of Washington County, Maine and Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Canada, or fishermen that lived in those two counties and were lost in other waters while fishing. The Wave sculpture, created from granite by local sculptor Jesse Salisbury, is engraved with the names of these fishermen lost between the year 1900 and present day. The Memorial is located adjacent to the Lubec Channel between the US and Canada, where the terrible and beautiful power of the sea is visible in the rushing tides. Photo by Johanna Billings.*



Although industrial resource extraction in Downeast Maine started as far back as the 1700's, Downeast Maine remains one of the last places in this country to be highly developed. After the industrial boom periods of the 1800's and 1900's waned, industry grew more slowly here than elsewhere in the state, in New England, or even in the neighboring provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The gradual and modest level of development allows the relationship between people and land to remain strong and the landscape to retain key elements of our nation's natural and cultural stories.

For the past two-plus decades communities within DownEast Acadia have partnered locally, regionally, and with state agencies to plan and implement projects, programs, strategies, and policies that leverage cultural and natural resources as an economic and community development tool. Although the plans, policies, and programs are varied and the oversight organizations are diverse, they all share a goal of health, education, continuity, and prosperity for the human, environmental, cultural, historic, business, and scenic assets of DownEast Acadia communities.

**Chapters 7** outlines a long list of resources directly related to the nationally important story which retain the integrity needed to support National Heritage Area interpretation in Downeast Maine.



*The Good Life of Helen & Scott Nearing - The Good Life Center in Harborside is the final home of Helen and Scott Nearing, who embodied a philosophy of sustainable living through homesteading that has come to be recognized as a centerpiece of America's "Back to the Land" and "Simple Living" movements. The Good Life Center perpetuates the legacy of Helen and Scott Nearing through its programming that educates and advocates around simple and sustainable living skills, social and economic justice, organic gardening, and the non-exploitation of animals. Photo by The Blessing Bucket.*

# 6

*Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.*

The significant and consistent public input and information gathered over a dozen or more years underscores that the Downeast Maine study area has a unique and nationally important story beloved by many, as well as the potential and desire to better support interpretation of that story and expand on opportunities.

*Nearly 100% of people who provided input during the years-long planning process support establishing a National Heritage Area in Downeast Maine.*

Public discussions about NHA designation took place over the course of several years prior to officially conducting a Feasibility Study. Beginning with smaller focus groups, the conversation widened to eventually include multiple interest groups from communities across both Washington and Hancock Counties. The public provided input through community convenings, public discussions, organization board meetings, one-on-

one, and online. Input was solicited from local, regional, state, and national groups. A core team of 13 people representing key heritage sectors helped guide the development of this Feasibility Study. They also helped solicit input from the general public, municipal and community leaders, and organization members.

Ultimately, nearly 100% of people involved in the planning process express full support of the proposed National Heritage Area. See **Chapter 3** for details on community involvement; see **Appendix B** for Letters of Support and other statements of endorsement.

# 7

*The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.*

The proposed management entity, a wide range of partners, and the roles of each are outlined in **Chapter 10** Long Term Management and Funding. **Appendix B** includes Letters of Support from many of these partners.

SCEC programs include a diversity of partner organizations and funding sources from local to federal. Partners currently engage in a broad range of projects and programs that align with educational, economic, community, recreation, and open space goals of the NHA. Several of SCEC's existing partners are committed to and actively participate in assessing the feasibility of joining the National Heritage Area Program. These relationships will be carried forward into the NHA Management Entity.

Success for the NHA program over such a large region requires coordinated partnerships amongst all involved. Partners in NHA planning have expressed their commitment to continued collaboration with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to develop the heritage area (see letters of support and endorsements in **Appendix B**). Most projects will be undertaken by partner organizations with the Management Entity providing technical assistance, coordination, promotion, and grant funds for appropriate projects. The Management Entity will make decisions about and facilitate priority regional projects & programs. Units of government and organizations directly or indirectly supporting the designation will contribute through projects that fit their priorities and also advance NHA goals.

# 8

*The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.*



*Migrant Raker - Downeast Maine is famous for its lowbush wild blueberry, the official state fruit of Maine. The region is the single-largest overall producer of blueberries in the United States. Overall, Maine's wild blueberry industry includes 450 growers, and generates an estimated \$250 million in annual economic impact. Multigenerational wild blueberry farms are common in Downeast Maine and have provided important seasonal income for local and migrant families for roughly 100 years. Photo by Sue Schmid.*

A National Heritage Area designation in DownEast Acadia will support continued economic development that celebrates and supports the people who live, work, and play here. See **Chapter 9** for details that back this statement.

The people of Downeast Maine are fiercely proud of their heritage. They are determined to strengthen the economy through industries that reflect long standing local values. They want quality education opportunities for all ages. They strive to retain vitality in village centers and facilitate social and cultural connections across communities.

Community members want to support each other and work together, especially across sectors typically seen as unconnected. They want to retain and attract residents while promoting and preserving valued local heritage. They want businesses to thrive, expand, innovate, and increase in number. They want children and families to connect with place and community and be aware of existing and new opportunities for themselves here in DownEast Maine.

The underlying purpose of the NHA program is to support strong, healthy communities. The program provides tools to support community and economic development driven by a community's unique assets and priorities. It contributes resources to support heritage preservation

through initiatives that matter locally.

NHA Designation does NOT mean that an area becomes a unit of the National Park Service or Federal Government and they are not operated or governed by NPS or Federal Government. A local management entity implements the NHA program according to the directives set forth by the

public and the planning team during the development and promotion planning phase.

NHAs involve no ownership of land, nor are they a tool to regulate land use or remove municipal or private jurisdiction. NHAs do NOT create new expenses for a community to bear – the program provides matching funds to support local heritage initiatives.

The National Heritage Area program focuses on four core values that also directly align with core values of communities and organizations across Downeast Maine.

1. Sustainable economic development
2. Healthy environment and people
3. Education and Stewardship
4. Community Engagement and Pride

The National Heritage Area program supports local and regional economic development in three important ways:

1. It engages and unites residents around shared values to strengthen the economy and Downeast way of life.
2. It assists people to explore the opportunities that exist in the region, thus helping attract and retain a sustainable population and demographic.
3. It creates awareness of and interaction with heritage stories to help strengthen pride-of-place and nurture stewards of cultural and natural heritage.



*Seaweed Harvester - The cold, nutrient rich waters provide a highly productive marine environment for a range of sea weeds including sugar kelp, edible kelp, Irish moss, and dulse. Seaweed was important to the earliest human inhabitants of Downeast Maine, the Wabanaki people, European colonizers, and continues to be important in the present day. Downeast Maine is growing as a globally important resource for edible and commercial seaweeds but is a relatively new industry. The sea vegetable fishery has increased in landings, number of wild harvesters, aquaculture sites, and public demand over the last fifty years. Commercial aquaculture has been in place for approximately ten years. Photo courtesy of The Greenhorns, Smithereen Farm.*



*Guided Canoe Trip - Registered Maine Guides are recognized around the world as the gold standard in outdoor skills and knowledge and have a long and colorful history as storytellers and adventurers. Sporting camps and guiding services have provided employment and recreation for hundreds of years in Downeast Maine, especially in the northern parts of the region. Some remaining sporting camps have been in operation through generations of family members, others through new owners and long traditions. Hunting, trapping, and fishing were once the predominant activities, but modern camps and guides now offer recreational paddling, hiking, wildlife watching, and camping. Photo by Tessa Ftorek.*

# 9

*A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.*



*The Downeast Maine National Heritage Area includes all of Washington and Hancock counties.*

An October 2019 Summit was convened to broaden the conversation with stakeholders and to consider all the stories of Downeast Maine. The Summit was attended by participants from local businesses and non-profit organizations in both Washington and Hancock Counties. Although the Summit did not attempt to define a geographic scope for the proposed NHA, participants agreed that important framing determinants for the boundary are the glacially influenced landscape, natural resources economy, and shared history.

The necessary decision about where to draw the NHA boundary raised questions about whether or not to include Mount

Desert Island, or indeed any of Hancock County at all. The possibility of excluding everything west of the Schoodic region was also discussed. Ultimately, people agreed that a National Heritage Area boundary inclusive of both counties will bring more strength to all communities to connect residents, manage visitors, and leverage opportunities. See **Chapter 4** for details on choosing the geographic boundaries of the National Heritage Area.

The geographic area proposed for designation as a National Heritage Area includes the entirety of Washington and Hancock Counties, from the St. Croix River to the Penobscot River, and from the Bold Coast to the Grand Lakes. The **Downeast Maine National Heritage Area** refers to this two-county region.

# 10

*The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.*

A long-term plan for development, implementation, promotion, and management of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area is detailed in **Chapter 10**, Long Term Management and Funding.

No Heritage Area will succeed without a strong and well-coordinated Management Entity and organizational partners guiding it. Given the many challenges inherent in establishing and maintaining a National Heritage Area, the stability or capacity of the Management Entity itself should not be in question. The Entity must have a proven track record of effectiveness in setting and achieving program goals in a collaborative environment and responsible management of large amounts of federal and other funds. The Management Entity must be a 501c3 organization or operate in partnership with one.

The Management Entity will be representative both geographically and thematically of the entire National Heritage Area, while remaining small enough to function effectively. Individual members of the Management Entity will represent a diverse skill set to support the extensive work required. Board members should bring skills and knowledge that fill NHA program needs.

Downeast Maine already contains many organizations whose missions complement each other and frequently overlap. They serve on each other's Boards and committees, partner on projects & programs, and seek funding from the same sources. Adding another 501c3 to the region would create further competition for volunteers, committed Board members, and funding. Start-up nonprofits can struggle to raise adequate cashmatch in the first years. Further aligning the missions and boosting the capacity of heritage-related organizations and community groups is a primary goal for joining the NHA program.

Very few existing entities in Downeast Maine have broad enough missions to represent the full intent of the National Heritage Area Program, and very few have the staff or other resources to dedicate to managing the program to the extent necessary. Therefore, a collaborative board composed of existing organizations and a 501c3 Fiscal Sponsor is the recommended management structure. Partnering with an established 501c3 allows the Downeast Maine NHA Management Entity to focus on its mission to preserve, promote, and build upon the region's valued heritage.

The core Feasibility Study planning team determined that Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) is the best entity to provide 501c3 status, fiscal administration, and staffing for the NHA Management Entity. The mission, programs, and regional coverage of SCEC and their many partners align with National Heritage Area priorities and regional heritage goals. SCEC has provided fiscal sponsorship and staff to convene the public and complete the Feasibility Study.

SCEC supports the Downeast National Heritage Area program goals through all aspects of their strategic plan. SCEC initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity with economic, workforce, infrastructure, health and wellness, and leadership development as primary themes. SCEC works with a consortium of community-minded businesses, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and citizens to achieve this mission.







The Stonecutter Statue by William Muir- William and Emily Muir, noted artists from Stonington, drew inspiration from the life and landscape of Downeast Maine. William was a Modernist landscape painter and an accomplished sculptor. In 1953 alone his sculptures were included in shows at the Metropolitan, and the Whitney Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy, and the Detroit Institute, as well as Bowdoin, Colby, and Dartmouth. Emily, a painter and architect, was the first woman appointed to the National Commission of Fine Arts, under President Eisenhower. William Muir's Stonecutter statue sits on the waterfront in downtown Stonington and commemorates the granite industry and hard working people of Downeast Maine.



## CHAPTER 3

# Community Planning & Support

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Chapter 3 evaluates Criterion 6 of the required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

### Criterion #6 – Planning & Support

Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.

### Convenings & Discussions

Discussions around the possibility of forming a National Heritage Area designation occurred for several years, beginning with conversations about a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Wild blueberry Farmers spoke with state and regional representatives and other farmers. Small convenings led to larger ones with a growing number and diversity of stakeholders.

On July 25, 2019, Sunrise County Economic Council hosted a small group of community stakeholders, also attended by the NHA Program Manager for the National Park Service’s Northeast Region. At the conclusion of that day’s conversations, the group decided to hold a public summit to bring together a broader set of stakeholders and community leaders

to determine if an NHA proposal would have wide-spread community support. A conversation amongst a wider group of stakeholders would help the group consider all the stories of Downeast Maine and discuss potential benefits and identify any concerns with going forward.

A Summit was convened on October 9, 2019 and attended by 40 community participants from both Washington and Hancock Counties. Participants represented local businesses; heritage, education, and conservation organizations; and state and federal government offices. Attendees voiced a desire to conduct a study around broader natural resource-based topics, including our fisheries and forest industries, outdoor recreation resources, history, and scenic beauty.



Summit participants were asked to consider – “What would a Downeast NHA look like?” To do that, meeting participants were broken into six small groups to brainstorm ideas and answer three specific questions:

1. **What best defines this place?**
2. **What are the defining human interactions with this place?**
3. **What are the unique natural, cultural, and historic, features of this place, and how are they important to the nation?**

Breakout groups were asked to discuss these questions and distill their conversations into a brief set of notes and to present their thoughts on how the region’s unique natural, cultural, and



*Lobster buoys drying - Coastal Downeast Maine is a landscape of working waterfronts and dooryards filled with accoutrements of the trade. Traps, drags, boats, buoys, and bait trucks are seen everywhere. Clam and worm diggers work the mud flats early and late according to the tides. Fishing boats roar off from their moorings before sunrise. Boat shops and marinas transport their oversize loads very slowly down the middle of the roads.*

historic resources combine to represent a cohesive and nationally important National Heritage Area candidate. The notes from those presentations are below:

**Group 1:** This area is a land of firsts (nation formation) with unspoiled resources and culture that has led to innovation and creativity. People have shaped the land through fisheries, agriculture, preservation/conservation, and recreation. There is a high quality of life that is community oriented, internationally connected, and focuses on remaining a quiet and beautiful place.

**Group 2:** This is a wild landscape where people earn a living from the natural resources. There is unique natural beauty, with clean waters and bold features. People and the landscape influence one another as they support communities and the land – there is a strong bond. This is a 3-nation region with strong partnerships and deep historical significance.

**Group 3:** This is an unspoiled landscape both culturally and with our natural resources. The land has shaped the people, as the people have shaped the land. The communities and families have both local and international ties with a high quality of life.

**Group 4:** The wild harvest is a focus (blueberries, fisheries, recreational) where there is a deep connection between the land and water. The remoteness makes it special, while the people are resilient and resourceful. The landscape and people interact equally with deep ties to one another and who have a strong history.

**Group 5:** The theme is wild (forest, fisheries, blueberries). The area has low population density, therefore there is room for tourists. It is a seasonal economy making many different activities

for jobs. People are self-independent living off the land and protecting natural resources. There are strong partnerships with the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Several unique features including wild resources, artist heritage, history, good quality of air/light pollution.

**Group 6:** The area is defined by its natural resources where the families have been adapting to the land and water over generations. Strong ties across borders, between different cultures/people, and between the land and sea. This area has a strong history with the Revolutionary War and resources (timber/granite). We have been feeding the nation (wild blueberries, fisheries, etc.) for a long-time. As the industries have changed, the people have changed to meet the times and the landscape.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants endorsed conducting a Feasibility Study and presenting it to Congress for their consideration. It was agreed that SCEC was the appropriate regional community group to support that effort. SCEC committed to identify sources of funding for the work. Maine Community Foundation partners and an anonymous donor provided enough funds to begin the Feasibility Study, and SCEC provided the remainder.

## Gathering Public Input

SCEC began the Feasibility Study in early March 2020. SCEC staff met in person to discuss the project with representatives for Maine’s Congressional delegates; the Maine Office of Tourism; Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry; and the State Bureau of Parks and Lands. Soon after, stay-at-home orders were in place due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and planned tactics for public information-gathering sessions were altered.

In lieu of public meetings, SCEC staff conversed one-on-one with community members and organizational partners via Zoom. SCEC staff attended Board and committee meetings around the region to introduce the proposal and gather feedback. Organization boards and committees throughout Downeast Maine include primarily businesses and



A word cloud representing the common themes emerging from this Summit’s breakout discussion.

community members rather than paid staff. A Feasibility Study web page was created to provide information, and a community survey was created for public comment.

A series of drop-in Zoom meetings was held each Thursday at noon through June and July. Attendance each week ranged from 3-9 participants. A few attended every meeting. Total participation through these remote discussions was over 60 people.

Zoom meetings, the web page, and the survey were promoted via multiple E-newsletters to over 300 stakeholders each time. Social media posts were created and shared with the Facebook pages of chambers of commerce, historical societies, community bulletin boards, libraries, and other social groups. Press releases were distributed to newspapers across Washington and Hancock Counties.

Letters were sent to leaders from each of the four Wabanaki Tribes in the region in January 2021, explaining the project and inviting feedback and participation. Letters were also sent to County Commissioners and to our regional representatives to the Legislature.

Members of the Working Group consulted with Tribal leaders and utilized both contributed information and information from public resources. However, the information contained in this document tells only a limited aspect of the Wabanaki and Passamaquoddy story. The Working Group hopes to develop stronger partnerships with Passamaquoddy Tribal members during Phase 2, Management Planning.

## The Working Group

The Feasibility Study was led by a team of 13 representatives of our collective heritage stories. The core Working Group was established in August to guide SSEC staff to conduct the Feasibility Study and represent



Sunrise County Economic Council

Facilitating the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County

**NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION for DOWNEAST MAINE...**

**What does this mean, and why would we do it?**

Sunrise County Economic Council is conducting a Feasibility Study to determine if the DownEast Acadia region could support designation as a National Heritage Area.

**NHA THURSDAY**

Join Sunrise County Economic Council for **NHA Thursday**, a series of weekly community discussions about the long-term feasibility of establishing and then stewarding a National Heritage Area in the DownEast Acadia region.



Just join one discussion, or join us every week.

**Meetings held via Zoom every Thursday through July 23, from 12:30-1:30pm.**

- June 25
- July 02
- July 09
- July 16
- July 23



If you are unable to join on any of these dates and times, but would like to learn more, please contact Crystal:

[chitchings@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:chitchings@sunrisecounty.org)

OR (207) 707-2057.

**CLICK HERE to Join Zoom Meeting ONLINE**

OR

**Join via TELEPHONE - dial (646) 558-8656**

Meeting ID: 944 0664 1248



**Click here to learn more about a Feasibility Study.**

the diverse aspects of Downeast Maine’s interwoven heritage story. Wild blueberries, fisheries, forestry, habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism, economic development, businesses, history and culture were all represented.

The Working Group contributed information, ideas, advice, and additional contacts to support the project. They helped solicit input from the general public and municipal, community, and organization members.

In addition to Sunrise County Economic Council staff, the core Working Group team included representatives from these regional organizations:

1. Maine Coast Heritage Trust
2. Downeast Salmon Federation
3. Wild Blueberry Commission
4. Maine Geopark – College of the Atlantic
5. Maine Sea Grant – Downeast Fisheries Trail
6. Bold Coast Scenic Byway & Bikeway
7. DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism
8. Hancock County Planning Commission
9. Heart of Ellsworth
10. St. Croix Chamber of Commerce

The Working Group first convened on September 22, 2020 and held additional meetings approximately every 6 weeks through January 2021, and then again in April. SCEC staff provided an update of the Group’s progress and findings to Maine’s Congressional delegates on January 12, 2021, via Zoom. Two public updates and discussions were held via Zoom on February 3rd and 4th. Total attendance at the two public updates in February was 48, some attendees learning about the initiative for the first time.

Letters of support were provided by a wide range of community members and interest groups. Copies of these letters and other public feedback documentation is included in Chapter 10, Public Endorsements for NHA Designation.

## Community Feedback

Following is a summary of public Input gathered during 2020. Public Input was gathered from all across Washington and Hancock counties using various means of communication as described above. Following are summaries of responses to two key questions:



1. What Are Nationally Significant Stories, Themes, Or Places Shared across Downeast Maine?
2. Do You Have Any Concerns About NHA Designation, Or Considerations for Conducting the Feasibility Study?

## 1. Do You Have Any Concerns About NHA Designation, Or Considerations for Conducting the Feasibility Study?

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	1. Marketing the program- making it widely-known to the traveling public that it is worth coming here for the vast amount of tourism related travel 2. That there is plenty of information readily available to current local businesses/organizations so that they can also help promote the historical sites. 3. strong infrastructure- signage/information present at the historical sites to make it unique and memorable to visitors, so that they, in turn, will want to recommend it to friends and neighbors. This may include having docents present/guided tours, etc. 4. support from tourism businesses in the Acadia area to draw visitors to Downeast Maine which certainly needs the economic boost.	4/13/2020 2:39 PM
2	I would be concerned whether local businesses would want to be a part of this effort	4/6/2020 9:23 PM
3	My fear is that this will be used to help Bar Harbor and the State Park and not the individuals in Washington County	3/24/2020 11:32 AM
4	Is there federal monies to help?	3/23/2020 8:25 AM
5	I'd like to understand the worries or concerns that opponents have, to be able to work with these. As far as I know this is a win-win-win scenario. So what issues still remain to be addressed?	3/20/2020 9:42 AM
6	taxes? local towns suffer with reduced or no taxes from such programs.	3/19/2020 4:55 PM
7	waste of dollars	3/17/2020 3:27 PM
8	It will destroy Downeast with its socialist program. Life will become more expensive and expand the poverty level. It will take away our Constitutional rights. Our Land. Our lives.	3/17/2020 7:56 AM
9	What locations will be designated?	3/16/2020 12:20 PM
10	The amount of effort it takes.	3/16/2020 11:57 AM
11	That we don't get it.	3/16/2020 9:43 AM
12	the legal status doesn't seem to protect land from corporate ownership	3/16/2020 8:10 AM
13	I have an abundance of concerns.	3/16/2020 7:00 AM
14	As a widely experienced internationalist I can see all kinds of benefits. There was an attempt once before to establish a National Park in the Cobscook Bay area - it was rejected by the locals as it was perceived as "controlling". How will you enthruse the fishermen, old families not connected to the modern world, and those who resent tourists and don't want the area turned into another Acadia?	3/14/2020 7:05 PM
15	these are the current national heritage areas: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Heritage_Area">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Heritage_Area</a> what similarities does our area have with these?	3/14/2020 3:37 PM
16	Will this impact private landowners, will it be "embraced" by the populace of Hancock/Washington Counties ? Will it have a direct benefit to people here? Who funds it?	3/14/2020 2:05 PM
17	Too much tourism	3/14/2020 8:54 AM
18	Public acceptance and participation, and ability to think outside the box may be a challenge. Willingness to attract visitors through local beautification and preservation ordinances seems questionable.	3/13/2020 6:01 PM
19	How will the region's constituents be involved in visioning, planning, and implementing the manifestation of this designation?	3/13/2020 4:30 PM

## 2. What are Nationally Significant Stories, Themes, Or Places Shared across Downeast Maine?

- The region was the NE point of entry to the United States by many peoples and provided the building blocks for settlement and formation of the American nation.
- Continuous use of land by people – many cultures have inhabited it but importance of natural resources carries through all inhabitations
- Glacial, geologic, and geographic – natural influences on future human society and occupations – how people have adapted and survived on this harsh landscape
- Sea level change is now affecting the coast... land rebounded after glacial melt but is now sinking
- Easternmost point of continental US
- Importance of being Unimportant (geography has left us undeveloped, uncommercialized); landscapes still appear as they did thousands of years ago
- Native American history & continued culture; Passamaquoddy has only written language of indigenous people; Wabanaki Tribe was not completely displaced from their homeland.
- Early European Vikings and explorers, Basque fishermen – early transportation routes and settlement – St. Croix Island International Historic Site, Eastern Maine Canoe Trail
- Wabanaki/l'Acadie/Colonial relationships
- Maritime history – shipbuilding, transportation, trade, battle
- Passamaquoddy helped keep Maine from becoming part of another country (this should be acknowledged during the bicentennial!!)
- Fisheries –prolific waters, human-caused change in species make-up; current management and conservation that allows interactions with working environment, strengthens natural resources economies; continue to feed the world (largest lobster exports)
- Agriculture – Fed eastern cities and soldiers with grains, herring, wild blueberries; continue



*Dutch Lion Daalder Coin, Castine - This 1641 Dutch lion daalder coin found at the mouth of the Bagaduce River in Castine indicates the existence of a thriving trade in the 1600s. Present-day Castine was a contested area of overlapping Wabanaki, English and French claims for centuries. In 1674, during a period of French control, Dutch privateers attacked the fort and took the Baron of Saint-Castin and others hostage for ransom. Photo courtesy of Maine Historical Society.*

to feed the world (largest wild blueberry exports); continue to produce & serve fresh, locally harvested or produced foods; history of sheep on islands, land given to colonels, generals; back to the land movement

- Forest products – lumber built the nation; King’s pines; wreaths & balsam products, timber, maple syrup, toilet paper...
- Migrant worker contributions to wild blueberry & seafood businesses, and migrant families that have become permanent residents
- Construction of eastern US cities – granite (unique forms of granite revealed when magma chambers from ancient volcanoes flipped) & lumber (old growth pine forests, rivers & ocean provided easy transportation), advanced modern life (ice for refrigeration was 2nd largest export of the northern region of Downeast).
- Spirit of cooperation with Canada; international border communities
- Determination of American political boundaries – between Massachusetts, Maine, Canada, France; baseline for eastern seaboard counties & states
- Parameters of time & navigation – Meridien Park, Greenwich Mean Time, lighthouses
- Remote, rural island life – fishing communities, seabird research, lighthouses
- Waterfalls (geology) allowed hydro power for mills – other states shipped grain to the region, cotton from south for processing
- Shipping via railroad into Canada allowed troops & goods to be shipped to Sidney, weather stations to be manned
- Rustication & Tourism – the famous people (like in NE Harbor)
- 250 years history of direct descendants of European forebears carrying forward natural resource economy and family heritage; commercial working landscape
- Served as defense system of USA against Europe, created solid veteran culture
- Atusville, underground railroad



*Blueberry Cannery, Brooklin - The Steven & Charles Cousins blueberry cannery at Brooklin in the early 1930s. Clams, brown bread and baked beans were also canned at this factory. Photo courtesy of Sedgewick-Brooklin Historical Society.*

## Survey Results

Although the community survey only elicited 24 responses, valuable and affirming information was gathered. Survey questions were open-ended, intending to solicit unique and diverse responses.

- Describe 3-5 of the most nationally significant stories, themes, or places that unite the region.
- What 3 words or short phrases best exemplify the general personality or characteristic of DownEast Maine?
- What is the one overarching story or connecting thread between the several nationally significant stories you described - in 2-3 words?

Responses were put into word clouds to more easily examine what aspects of cultural and natural heritage people value. A word cloud is a collection, or cluster, of words depicted in different sizes. The bigger and bolder the word appears, the more often it's mentioned within a given text and the more important it is. Following are the results of this exercise.

### Q2 – Benefits of the NHA Program - Area, Tourism, Increase, Local

The word cloud for survey question #2 indicates that survey respondents consider increased tourism across the region an important community benefit of NHA designation. During public discussions some people expressed concern that becoming an NHA might bring too much tourism and degrade what we value. Another concern expressed is that program resources could favor tourism promotion over cultural education and local initiatives. Word Cloud Q2 indicates that, from a heritage preservation perspective, survey respondents prioritize **Local, Pride, Story, Culture, and People**.

see community benefit bring business industry local story tourism support  
area people increase able visitors cultural resources greater pride



*Douglass Copper Mine Blue Hill, 1880 - Copper was found along Mines Road in western Blue Hill in 1876. The quality of the ore and ease of shipping it out from the harbor sparked a major mining boom. Speculation ran rampant, fueled by visiting experts. By 1881, the companies began to fail because of an unstable market and management issues. Photo courtesy of Blue Hill Historical Society.*

## Word clouds Q4, Q5, and Q6

The following word clouds outline survey respondents' perspectives on the core heritage story of Downeast Maine.

**Q4 - What are the most nationally significant uniting stories, themes, or places that unite the DownEast and/or Acadia region? Responses: Downeast, Fishing, Maine, History, Native Americans, (wild) Blueberries.**



**Q5 - What 3-5 words or short phrases best exemplify the general personality or characteristic of the DownEast and/or Acadia region? Responses: Rugged, Land, Beauty.**



**Q6 - What is the one overarching story or connecting thread between the several nationally significant stories you described (in 3-5 words)? Responses: People, Land.**



## Overall Heritage Priorities

Collectively, priority words from the Q4, Q5, and Q6 word clouds above were combined into their own word cloud, revealing this order of heritage priorities:

- Land
- People
- Downeast
- Nature, Maine, Living, Wild
- Blueberries, History



# Proposed Downeast Maine National Heritage Area



Washington County  
Hancock County

### Featured Trails & Destinations

- Down East Acadia Biking Trail**  
Trail location and other details listed elsewhere. Visit [downeastacadia.com](http://downeastacadia.com) for details. For the latest trail signposts see [dca.com](http://dca.com) and [www.jackson.org/heritage/maine](http://www.jackson.org/heritage/maine).
- Downeast Fisheries Trail**  
Explore Maine's historical and active fisheries by following the locations online at [acadianseascapes.com](http://acadianseascapes.com).
- Maine Ice Age Trail**  
Take a self-guided tour of the glacial geology of Maine by following the online directions at [capitalmaine.com](http://capitalmaine.com).
- Maine Sculpture Trail**  
Tour the 14 sculptures spread across Downeast Maine. To see more about the artists and the pieces, visit [sculpturetrails.com](http://sculpturetrails.com).
- Chambers of Commerce and Information**
- Museum and/or Historical Site**
- Lighthouse**
- Proposed Downeast Maine National Heritage Area**
- Down East Sunrise Trail**  
27 miles of multi-use trail connecting with the East Coast Gateway from Ellsworth to Caribou. Visit [acadianseascapes.com](http://acadianseascapes.com) for more information.
- Bold Coast Scenic Byway**  
222 miles of on-road cycling through welcoming coastal communities in stunning settings. [BaldCoast.com](http://BaldCoast.com)

### Scenic Byways

- Acadia All-American Road National Scenic Byway
- Blackwoods Scenic Byway
- Bold Coast Scenic Byway
- Million Dollar Scenic Byway
- Schoodic National Scenic Byway
- Boat Launch: Carry-in
- Boat Launch: Trailer ramp
- Border Crossing: Calais, Lubec, Vanceboro, Forest City
- Camping: RV and/or tent
- Tribal Land
- Publicly Accessible Land



Source: Maine Office of GIS, United States Geological Survey, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and Wikipedia/Aerial 2010.  
Copyright © 2019, Center for Community GIS.

Proposed Downeast Maine National Heritage Area Map.



## CHAPTER 4

# Proposed Location & Introduction to the Region

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Chapter 4 evaluates Criterion 9 of the required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

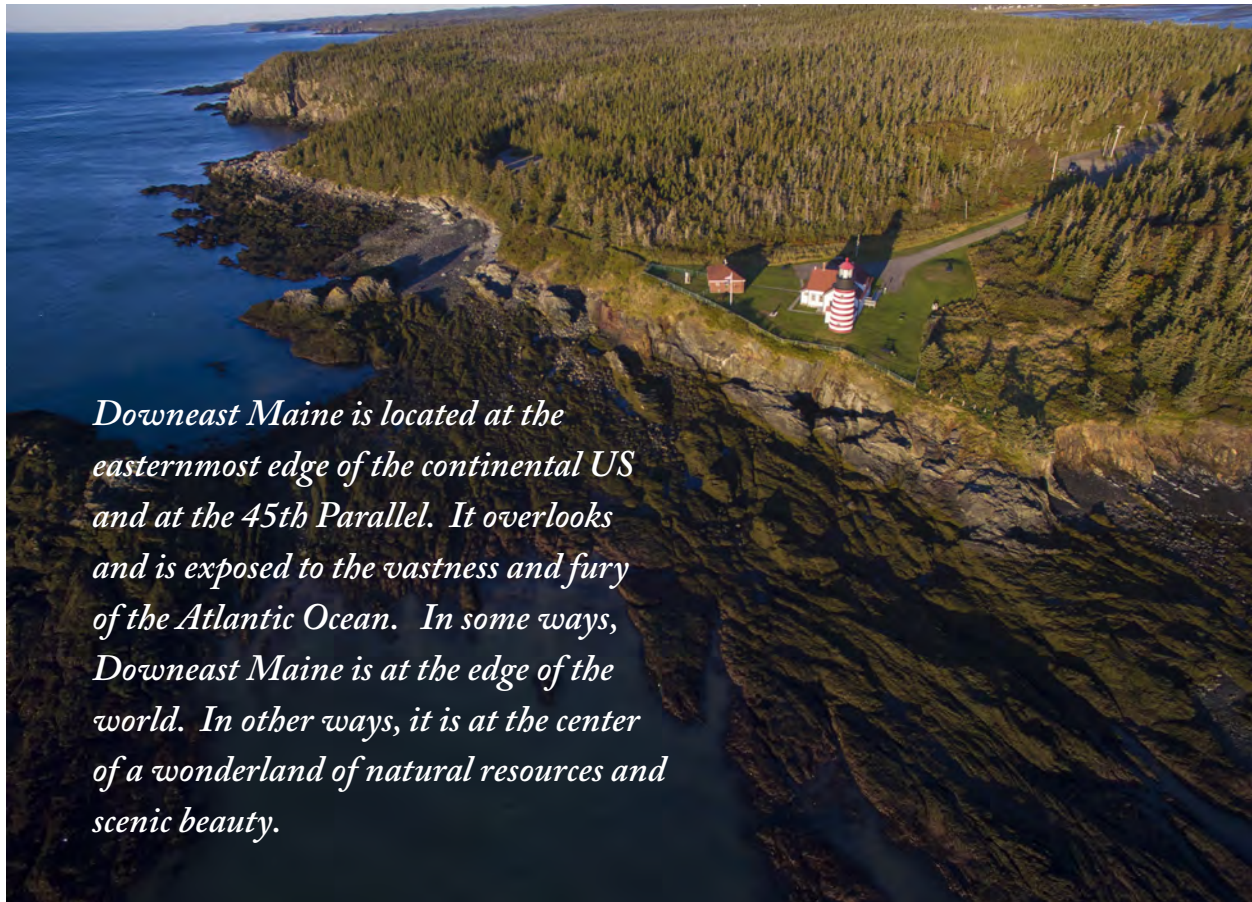
**Criterion 9 - A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.**

### Downeast Maine - What's in a Name?

#### *Location*

The term “Downeast” comes from the direction ships sailed from New York and Boston—downwind and to the east. During the late 1700’s and throughout the 1800’s, sailors used their schooners to haul goods to and from the coast of New England. While moving in a northeasterly direction, especially during the warmer months, a strong wind would often be at their backs pushing them along. This was moving “downwind” in the direction that the prevailing wind was blowing, to the East.

The two terms “down” and “east” have been combined over time as an expression of a geographic area used in reference to many coastal



*Downeast Maine is located at the easternmost edge of the continental US and at the 45th Parallel. It overlooks and is exposed to the vastness and fury of the Atlantic Ocean. In some ways, Downeast Maine is at the edge of the world. In other ways, it is at the center of a wonderland of natural resources and scenic beauty.*

geographies along the entire coast of New England and Canada's Maritime Provinces, an area that closely corresponds to the historical French territory of l'Acadie or Acadia. Nowadays the term is relational with Boston as the referent for determining what is "Downeast". In Maine, "Down East" is most often defined as the easternmost coastal section of the state, roughly between the Penobscot River and the St. Croix Rivers and encompassing Washington and Hancock Counties. And, to many, the "real Downeast" begins with the Schoodic region, at the Hancock/Sullivan bridge on Taunton Bay. This is the western edge of a more rural landscape, an economy still reliant on commercial fisheries, and a people who necessarily embody a more "rugged," resilient personality.

Above: West Quoddy Head Lighthouse - West Quoddy Head Lighthouse sits on the easternmost point of the continental US and welcomes the day's first rays of sunlight. The red and white striped lighthouse is the only "candy striped" tower in the Nation. During its lifetime the lamp has been illuminated with whale oil, lard oil, kerosene and electricity. Full automation eventually eliminated need for a resident Keeper. The first floor of the lightkeeper's residence, which housed generations of light-keeping families, is now occupied by a visitor center featuring interactive displays, historic photos and information, and a gallery of local artists. Photo by Jerry Monkman.



The geographic area proposed for designation as a National Heritage Area includes the entirety of Washington and Hancock Counties, from the St. Croix River to the Penobscot River, and from the Bold Coast to the Grand Lakes. The **Downeast Maine National Heritage Area** refers to this two-county region.

The proposed National Heritage Area spans 5,603 square miles of land and ocean between the Penobscot River and St. Croix River, from the Bold Coast to the Grand Lakes. It includes 2 counties, 78 towns, 3 cities, 49 Unorganized Territories, 19 Unincorporated Villages, and 2 Passamaquoddy Tribal Reservations.

The coastline is characterized by bold granite formations, maritime forests that harbor rare and unusual plant communities, an archipelago of islands, and ecologically rich bays and estuaries. Just inland, the forested landscape is pocked with clear kettle lakes and expanses of wild blueberry barrens. A range of bald mountains and a spider web of streams and rivers stretch across sandy glacial plains to connect the inland region and the sea. Many hundreds of miles of land and water trails on tens of thousands of conserved acres provide public access to this relatively unspoiled landscape.



*Porcupine Islands, Bar Harbor – The Porcupine Islands archipelago as seen from the top of Cadillac Mountain is one of the most photographed views in Acadia National Park. The islands reveal how the incredible weight of the Laurentide Ice Sheet sheared off the tops of land formations during its north to south migration and pushed the materials to the downside. During the French and Indian War, French gunboats hid among the Porcupines waiting to ambush British ships; in Prohibition times, rum runners frequented Rum Key on their illegal liquor forays to and from Canada. Today, the Porcupines are known among paddlers as one of the best sea kayaking spots in the United States. Photo by Traci Hosmer.*

The region abuts New Brunswick, Canada to the northeast. South and east of the region, just offshore, is a narrow band of islands, and then the Gulf of Maine, Bay of Fundy and the wide open Atlantic Ocean.

To the west and southwest are smaller cities and larger towns, traditionally bustling tourism hubs and dense service centers, connected to the rest of the nation by US Route 1 and Interstate 95.

The region is bookended to the west by Fort Knox National Historic Site, to the south by Acadia National Park, to the east by Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, and to the north by the St. Croix Island International Historic Site.

## Naming the NHA

Naming the National Heritage Area occurred through a combination of public discussion, working group discussions, and several voting sessions. Name suggestions conjured descriptions of physical place, elements of the “personality” or essence of the place, and aspects of the heritage story. A number of options were offered for a vote – of those options, public feedback and final votes revealed these preferred choices:

- Downeast Maine NHA – 15 votes
- First Light NHA – 5 votes
- Wild Downeast NHA – 4 votes
- Downeast Waters NHA – 3 votes
- Dawnland Waters NHA - 1 votes
- A different variation of these – 3 votes

Much discussion ensued about the name “Downeast NHA.” Differences of opinion about what is the “real Downeast” have occurred for generations. The term “Downeast” has been used to describe the entire coast of Maine. But people from Washington and Hancock Counties have long assumed the term Downeast as an aspect of their unique cultural identity based around the historic maritime heritage and continued economic dependence on marine resources.

Many feel the term is overused and even “adulterated” by those outside of Washington and Hancock Counties. Maine’s largest monthly magazine, which often focuses on upscale living in southern and mid-coast Maine, is titled Down East Magazine. Amtrak named its passenger train service between Boston and Brunswick, Maine the Downeaster.

Ultimately, **Downeast Maine National Heritage Area** was chosen for the following reasons:

- The name is closely associated with the area and recognizable by both visitors and locals.
- Downeast often connotes a vision of the hardy and adaptable people and the authentic, enduring fishing villages of Washington and Hancock Counties.
- Assuming the name for the National Heritage Area reinforces the region’s “claim” to the term as part of their geographic and cultural identity.

## Winds of Change

Downeast Maine is poised to explode in popularity as a destination for travelers seeking untrammelled rural living and accessible outdoor activities. Visitation trends captured by the Maine Office of Tourism and regional visitor centers have shown for years that visitors are moving away from crowded Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park in search of more



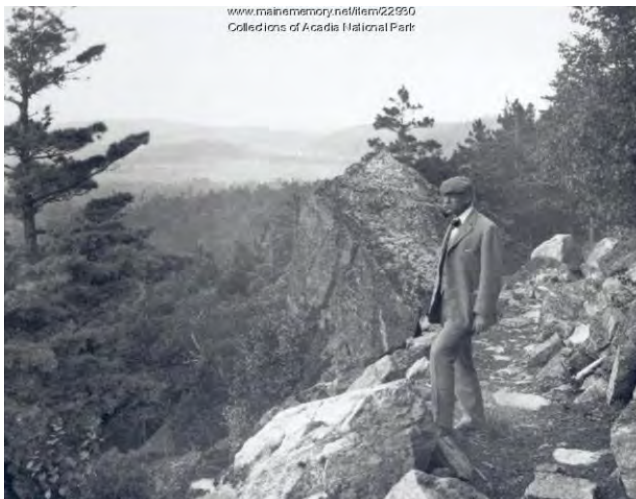
*Biking the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway - The Bold Coast National Scenic Byway skirts the easternmost edge of the United States along the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy. The Byway connects travelers with the nation’s last vestige of a natural resource-based maritime culture, where turning tides and changing seasons dictate daily survival and people have influenced the nation’s formation since glaciers receded. The Byway connects a network of public conservation lands abundant with natural resources, coastal and riverine villages with well-preserved historic districts and working waterfronts, and the people that inhabit, value, and depend upon these landscapes. Photo courtesy of BikeBoldCoast.com*

peaceful experiences in the less populated areas to the east. Visitor awareness about the area's unique and accessible natural assets, welcoming communities, and lack of crowds is growing. Development and promotion of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway, Black Woods Scenic Byway, and Bold Coast National Scenic Byway and Bikeway, and the tens of thousands of open space and recreation areas held by land trusts contribute to this change.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism is the Destination Marketing Organization charged with marketing and promoting Washington and Hancock Counties, known collectively as DownEast Acadia, one of the eight tourism regions designated by the State of Maine.

A main goal of DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, Maine Office of Tourism, and other regional destination development, destination marketing, and land management agencies across the region is to help visitors find the less-visited places. Moving visitors to underutilized places helps relieve pressure on Mount Desert Island and spread economic benefit to other parts of the region. It also helps more people to learn about and connect with the unique and often overlooked stories of Downeast Maine.

Maine Office of Tourism 2020 visitation data shows that the DownEast Acadia region experienced some of the greatest growth in visitation across Maine, despite Covid-induced travel restrictions,



*George Dorr, the “Father of Acadia National Park” – George Dorr was an American preservationist. Known as the “father of Acadia National Park, he spent most of his adult life bringing the park into being, caring for the park, and expanding it. It was Dorr’s vision and passion that ensured these lands would be set aside for preservation and protection for future generations. Acadia was the first National Park in the eastern United States, one of the first in the entire system, and its establishment helped spur the national land conservation movement. Photo courtesy of Acadia National Park.*

and perhaps because of it. Second-home owners arrived early and stayed late. Maine residents who previously weren't aware of the assets and quality of life right in their own backyards flocked to DownEast Acadia. Registered Maine Guides, wildlife boat tours, and bike/boat rentals were booked solid. Inns, rental homes, cabins, and campgrounds were full. For these businesses, increased visitation was critical to their survival. But increased visitation in natural areas brought management challenges that conservation organizations were unprepared to handle at such a rapid pace of change.

The 2020 season brought, for the first time outside of the main section of Acadia National Park, an over-extension of capacity at many recreation areas despite

the relatively large number of trails and parks dispersed across the region. State, federal, and regional land managers report increased amounts of litter, human waste around parking areas, illegal camping, trail deterioration on fragile soils, and unsafe parking along roadways. The famed Cutler Coast trail on the Bold Coast was observed to have over 100 cars parked along the gravel shoulder of the public road - the official parking lot has a true carrying capacity of 15- 20 vehicles. Trail rescues and injuries increased - most being visitors with little experience in active outdoor recreation.

Acadia National Park's Mount Desert Island (MDI) division is among the top ten most popular national parks in the United States. Visitation has surged almost 60 percent in a decade to over 3.5 million per year, leading to severe crowding and unsafe conditions. The National Park Service is developing a transportation plan and new visitor welcome center to reduce congestion and conflicts among people traveling on park roads and protect park resources.

The popularity of Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor has negatively affected various aspects of local life on MDI, even as businesses rely on the high volume of customers. Housing is scarce, and costs are out of reach for summer workers, year-round renters, and first-time home buyers. Recreation areas frequented by locals can be inaccessible during the peak season. Streets and sidewalks are congested, daily commute times increase, and restaurants are full.

Organizations and communities across the region have, for decades, collaborated in assessment of natural and cultural resources and creation of tools that promote economic and community development through connection with and continuation of heritage. Much has been learned through concerted efforts to collaboratively develop, manage, and promote what people hold dear. Regional efforts have gathered momentum in recent years, but communities suddenly find themselves required to take a large leap forward in the capacity to grow to meet a sudden surge in demand. Given the anticipated continued trend of heavy use, communities do not have the same luxury of gradual change they have traditionally worked within.

*Now more than ever it is imperative for the region to collectively guide growth and development to preserve the most important aspects of local heritage and engage residents and visitors in being good stewards of what the people most value. National Heritage Area designation will enable thoughtful, coordinated, sustainable management of the current growth trends, right when the need is most critical.*

## Mapping Boundaries

People who live in Downeast Maine are very clear that rural living is important to their identity. ***Their entire way of life is built within the context of intact natural resources, open spaces, and long-standing cultural traditions.*** The idea to form a National Heritage Area began with a group of wild blueberry farmers in Washington County committed to preserving a landscape and economic sector inherent only to this part of the world, and a lifestyle deeply valued by the people who live here. As the process ensued it became clear that wild blueberries are intricately connected to and do not stand apart from the greater story of our glacial landscape, intact natural resources, community values, and outdoor recreation resources.

People do not want their communities to become crowded and the rural aspects of life to become degraded. A common refrain across the region, especially further east, is “We don’t want to become Bar Harbor.” Another common concern in Washington County is that, as the traditional primary attraction for tourism, Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park receive the majority of attention - from visitors, developers, funders, promotion entities, and more. Because Washington and Hancock Counties are linked together as one of the eight tourism regions designated by the State of Maine, known as DownEast Acadia, even the most reliable economic information is skewed toward what happens on Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park.

Many people assume this is because of Acadia National Park and ignore the significance of a shared French history from Castine to Calais and St Croix Island. Designation of the region as the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area is designed to promote all of the two-county region and spread attention, visitors, and resources more evenly throughout.

**Washington and Hancock Counties differ greatly from each other in population density and the personal wealth of residents. However, their history, economy, landscape elements, cultural and natural resources, transportation routes, and community members are inextricably bound together. And people at both ends of the region are interested in collectively shaping the future of Downeast Maine in ways that protect these elements.**

*People at both ends of the region are interested in collectively shaping the future of Downeast Maine...*



Above: Bastille Day, Picnic en Blanc - Bastille Day in Castine pays homage every July 14th to the French roots of the community. The French National Day is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, a major event of the French Revolution, as well as the Fête de la Fédération that celebrated the unity of the French people on July 14, 1790. Photo by Susan Adams.

In October 2019 a Summit was convened to broaden the conversation with a wider group of stakeholders and to consider all the stories of Downeast Maine. The Summit was attended by 40+ participants from local businesses and non-profit organizations in both Washington and Hancock Counties. The Summit did not attempt to define a geographic scope for the proposed NHA, but participants agreed that important framing determinants for the boundary are the glacially influenced landscape, natural resources economy, and shared history.

The necessary decision about where to draw the NHA boundary raised questions about whether or not to include Mount Desert Island, or indeed any of Hancock County at all. Some people expressed adamance that doing so would rob Washington County of much needed assistance and long overdue recognition. Others strongly believed that the region's heritage is so intertwined that to draw

a line based on political boundaries or concerns over resource allocations would be a disservice to telling a cohesive and accurate story. The possibility of excluding everything west of the Schoodic region was also discussed. Ultimately, people agreed that **a National Heritage Area boundary inclusive of both counties will bring more strength to all communities to connect residents, manage visitors, and leverage opportunities.**

***During the second stage of NHA development – Management Planning – priority areas of focus for financial and other support will be identified based on locations and integrity of existing heritage resources, contributions these resources can make to the story and goals, opportunities to expand upon these resources, and the local need for assistance to do so.***



*Night Skies - With the rapid loss of dark skies to light pollution, Downeast Maine has some of the last pristine, star-filled night skies in the eastern United States. It is estimated that 99 percent of residents of the United States and Europe live under light polluted skies and nearly 80 percent of the world's population experiences skyglow at night.*





## CHAPTER 5

# Downeast Maine's Nationally Significant Heritage Story

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Chapter 5 evaluates Criterion 2 of the required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

**Criterion 2: Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.**

A proposed National Heritage Area must demonstrate its significance as a **Nationally Important Landscape** according to the National Park Service's Feasibility Study Guidelines. **Nationally Important Landscapes** are places with regional and national stories that, together with their associated natural and/or cultural resources, enable the American people to understand, preserve, and celebrate key components of the multifaceted character of the nation's heritage. This term includes an ecological and cultural context of historic and cultural sites, along with the ecosystems and human communities surrounding those sites.

A **Significance Statement** and list of **Interpretive Themes** are required as part of the Feasibility Study. A **Significance Statement** expresses why and how a proposed area is nationally important and what exceptional values or qualities it holds that demonstrate this. **Interpretive themes**

support the most important ideas or concepts within the Significance Statement and help communicate the area's significance and its relevance to people visiting or living within a National Heritage Area. Together they show how the proposed NHA meets Criterion 2, and they ultimately guide the future direction of a National Heritage Area.



*Passamaquoddy Canoe, Abbe Museum - This birchbark canoe, displayed at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, represents thousands of years of traditional Wabanaki knowledge handed down from generation to generation. It is nearly identical to the ones used to greet French visitors over four-hundred years ago.*

Downeast Maine communities have engaged in well over a decade of region-wide public outreach around heritage tourism planning and development, and more recently around National Heritage Area and Destination Development work. The significant and consistent public input and information gathered over the years underscores that the Downeast Maine study area has a unique and nationally important story beloved by many, as well as the potential and desire to better support interpretation of that story and expand on opportunities.

The Significance Statement and Interpretive Themes of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area are based on public feedback and ideas gathered over many years of regional collaborations and expressed during more recent public discussions and individual outreach, and the many Working Group committee discussions.

## Statement of Significance

*The rich natural resources of Downeast Maine enabled the Wabanahki to thrive for 12,000 years, attracted the first French settlement in the nation, sparked the first naval battle of the American Revolution, and provided vital building materials and food supplies for growing American cities. The natural resources that supported human population and helped to build the east coast and American nation remain intact and vital to the culture, environment, economy, and identity of Downeast Maine.*

Downeast Maine is a place and a people shaped by water, bedrock, and climate since the Laurentide Ice Glaciers melted away some 10,000 to 14,000 years ago. The resulting landscape, seascape, and climate have provided plentiful resources for humans to thrive for at least 10,000 years.



*Indian Days Celebration - Despite several hundred years of substantial change, Wabanaki people remain connected with their culture and continue traditions within their schools, cultural centers, and communities. The Wabanaki communities are among the few Indigenous groups on the eastern seaboard who have kept their Indigenous languages intact. The languages spoken in the Wabanaki communities are Passamaquoddy-Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, and Penobscot.*

Despite several hundred years of substantial change, Wabanaki people remain connected with their culture and continue traditions within their schools, cultural centers, and communities.

This hard, generous, enduring, resilient, and breathtakingly beautiful place has fundamentally shaped the lifestyles, industries, pastimes, beliefs and behaviors, and the way people interact with each other and with the natural splendor around them.

The rich history of this region's role in the nation's formation remains visible because of the uniquely unspoiled character of Downeast Maine, and the lightly developed open views of rivers, coastline, lakes, forests, and wild blueberry barrens. The coastline and inland waterways that provided travel routes for the Wabanaki and enabled European exploration remain navigable and abundant with wildlife. Landscape features that were key to mapping the eastern part of the nation are intact today.

Downeast Maine remained a battleground between European powers for roughly 150 years leading up to the American Revolution. Battles that defined the outcome of the Revolution and the geographic boundaries of the United States were fought here, including the first naval battle of the American Revolution. Passamaquoddy, one of the Wabanaki tribes, and European descendants of those who fought in this and other defining battles of the American Revolution live here today.

The St. Croix River flows through the middle of the Wabanaki ancestral homeland which they have occupied for at least 10,000 years. The St. Croix eventually became the international

boundary between the United States and Canada. This status, as well as being located at the easternmost edge of the continental United States, makes Downeast Maine the place where the sun, moon, and stars rise first in the nation. One of the two Passamaquoddy villages in the region is called Sipayik, which translates to “along the edge” in Passamaquoddy. The Tribal name “Wabanaki” means “people of the dawn land” in the Passamaquoddy tribal language.

Historic villages and ornate homes built in the nation’s infancy remain intact on coves and rivers where timber, shipbuilding, and fisheries industries boomed. Our granite and timber industries helped build the infrastructure of these small towns and many early eastern cities. Canning of wild blueberries and seafood thrived in most Downeast communities, feeding citizens and soldiers across the nation. Forest products, fisheries, and wild blueberries continue to drive the local economy across Downeast Maine.

*Downeast Maine remains one of the last places in this country to be highly developed.*

The land that makes up much of Acadia, the first National Park east of the Mississippi, and now one of the most popular in the nation, was donated to the public by visionary private citizens



*St. Croix paper Mill Woodland, 1910 - Sprague’s Falls on the St. Croix River was identified as an ideal location for a dam and a paper mill by a consortium of businessmen, who formed the St. Croix Paper Company. The St. Croix River enabled the region’s forestry economy to prosper since early settlers cleared the seemingly endless stretches of towering white pines. Thousands of men and horses hauled logs from inland forests and drove them downstream to nearly 140 mills in the St. Croix valley. Remnants of wharves are still visible along the river. A forest products manufacturing facility continues to operate in Woodland, supporting many Bold Coast families in the Calais area. Image courtesy of Penobscot Marine Museum.*

The region’s unparalleled natural beauty and outdoor recreation assets remain a primary draw to residents and visitors of all walks of life. Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt summered on Campobello Island, where conversations took place that fueled national and international policy. The Wabanaki summered in Bar Harbor for thousands of years. When the region became well-known by artists, socialites, and outdoor enthusiasts, they sold baskets and other art and crafts to tourists.

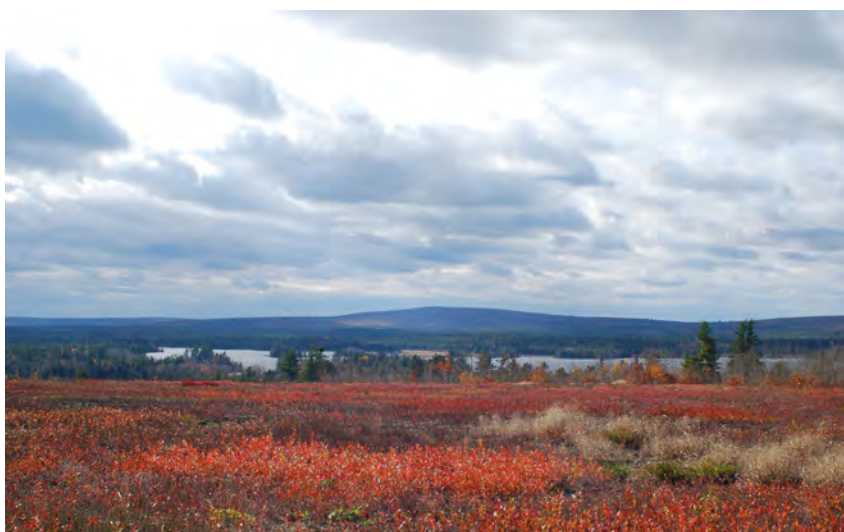
such as George B. Dorr (the founding superintendent), John D. Rockefeller (the founder of Standard Oil) and many others who were committed to securing public access to the nation's treasured lands and who recognized the threat of unfettered private development on Mount Desert Island.

The rich natural resources of Downeast Maine enabled the Wabanahki to thrive for 12,000 years, attracted the first French settlement in the nation, and later provided foundational building materials and vital food supplies for growing American cities.

Although industrial resource extraction in Downeast Maine started as far back as the 1700's, Downeast Maine remains one of the last places in this country to be highly developed. After the industrial boom periods of the 1800's and 1900's waned, industry grew more slowly here than elsewhere in the state, in New England, or even in the neighboring provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The gradual and modest level of development allows the relationship between people and land to remain strong and the landscape to retain key elements of our nation's natural and cultural stories.



*Codfish Station, SW Harbor - Cod was an ideal fish to preserve with salt, and indeed about 83% of cod was prepared by drying and curing with salt. Salt cod could be distributed overseas and far inland, lasting a year or more if kept dry. Downeast families had the pick of the best fresh and salted cod. Processors divided the rest of the salt fish into two general categories: merchantable and refuse. Photo courtesy of NOAA.*



*Crawford Lake & Blueberry Barrens - Wild blueberries grow on deep sand and gravel eskers in great swaths called barrens that turn blue with berries in summer and glow brilliant red and orange in autumn. No other landscape like this exists in the entirety of the nation, nor even the North American continent, with the exception of portions of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada. Photo courtesy of Grand Lake Stream Chamber of Commerce.*



McCurdy's Smokehouse - During the peak of the industry in the 1920s, more than 20 sardine canneries and nearly 30 herring smokehouses operated in Lubec. By the mid-1970s McCurdy's was the last smokehouse still curing herring for markets around the country. When it closed in 1991, McCurdy's was the last herring smokehouse in the U.S. still operating. Afterwards, commercial herring smoking completely vanished in the U.S. McCurdy's is one of the only remaining buildings that represent the working waterfronts of the region from this bygone era. The Historic McCurdy's Smokehouse Skinning & Packing Shed Museum preserves and shares that story today. The McCurdy Smokehouse Complex was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 due to its significance as an industrial site where a unique trade was practiced. Photo by Jerry Monkman.

*Fisheries, forest products, agriculture, wild blueberries, outdoor recreation, and tourism are the heart of the region's heritage. Dramatic changes have occurred on many levels over the last few hundred years. But the natural resources that helped to build the east coast and American nation remain intact and vital to the culture, environment, economy, and identity of Downeast Maine. The people of Downeast Maine continue to innovate and grow while fiercely protecting their way of life within the context and spirit of community, history, tradition, climate, land, and water.*

## Interpretive Themes

Four interpretive themes underpin the nationally significant story of the Downeast Maine region. The thematic framework below presents the significant stories and the natural and cultural resources that best represent those stories.

### *Ice, Water, Land, People - Our Geologic Beginnings*



A landscape formed by glaciers provided the abundant natural resources that allowed humans to survive and thrive here for over 10,000 years. The particular combination of geology, climate, and natural resources of Downeast Maine have, over millennia, created profound connections between people and place. Their fates remain intricately woven together today.

Survival for the people of Downeast Maine has always depended on the health of land and water resources, and thus is reliant on intact ecosystems. This reliance has meant that much of the landscape remains largely undeveloped even while its resources are harvested, and at times on an industrial scale. Balancing habitat conservation and resource management is vital to preserving ecosystems that support forest, farm, and ocean-based economy, including tourism. It also is vital to the highly prized rural quality

of life, including outdoor recreation and hunting, fishing, and wildcrafting. Because of this, glacial influence is preserved and evident today as eskers, rivers, kettle ponds, heaths, granite domes, and shear coastal cliffs.

Coastal Downeast Maine is a rugged, rocky, often steep coastline cut by long coves and shaped continuously by some of the highest tides in the world. The American lobster, scallops, and softshell clams thrive amongst the undersea caves, rocky and muddy bottom. Wild blueberries grow on deep sand and gravel eskers in great swaths called barrens that turn blue with berries in summer and glow brilliant red and orange in autumn. No other landscape like this exists in the entirety of the nation, nor even the north American continent with the exception of portions of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada.



*Atop Tunk Mountain - Inland Downeast Maine is a landscape of evergreen forests stretching north from the ocean. The forests are broken by a network of deep, cold lakes and rivers lined with glacial erratics and flowing to the sea. Glacial influences are preserved and evident today as eskers, rivers, kettle ponds, heaths, granite domes, and shear coastal cliffs.*

Inland Downeast Maine is a landscape of evergreen forests stretching north from the ocean. The forests are broken by a network of deep, cold lakes and rivers lined with glacial erratics and flowing to the sea. The same sand and gravel eskers that support the wild blueberry also provides a deep aquifer feeding the waterways with clean, cold water. The rivers of Downeast Maine are the last American stronghold of wild Atlantic salmon. Alewives and shellfish that have fed the Wabanaki for millennia continue to be an important part of our seasonal fishery.

Located at the 45th parallel, halfway between the equator and the north pole, this region is the interface of southern and northern limits of many species of plants and animals and supports several rare and unusual species and plant communities. The convoluted coastline with its archipelago of islands, long bays and estuaries, coves lined with deep layers of silt and clay, and clean fresh waters provide critical feeding and resting habitat for migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway.



# Abundant Natural Resources – How We Survive and Thrive

Human habitation and economies in Downeast Maine were and continue to be centered around natural resources – especially water. The land, water, and climate have created a culture of people known for their ingenuity, innovation, entrepreneurship,

and resilience - requirements for surviving in a landscape where elements beyond human control dictate choices made in daily life.

Rivers provided transportation routes for indigenous Wabanaki people, who migrated

## Strong Tides and Dangerous Currents

**Extreme tides and the Taunton River's narrow channel challenged shipping**

The outgoing waters of Taunton Bay rush through this narrow passage to meet Frenchman Bay to the south, creating fierce currents hazardous to vessels. The fresh and salt waters churn, creating an inviting spot for seals and wildlife – but a hazard to vessels trying to reach points north.

**Dynamite blasts a 40-foot shipping channel through the Tidal Falls**

Even with an improved channel, the ships serving the granite quarries, sawmills, and silver mines in the late 1800s depended on local tow boats to pull them through the changing currents. Today, mostly sightseers, picnickers, and kayakers enjoy the Reversing Falls.

**CAN YOU SPOT THE REVERSING FALLS?**  
Narrow river channel with reversing Tidal Falls: site of ship wrecks  
TIDAL FALLS PARK  
Look across the road and down the channel to your right to Tidal Falls where low tides create a fierce whitewater "falls".

**A SIDE TRIP TO TIDAL FALLS PARK**  
To visit the Frenchman Bay Nature Conservancy's 4-acre park, head south on US 1, take first left on East Side Road, and follow the signs for 1.5 miles.

**SKILLED TUG BOAT CAPTAINS** eased ships through the Taunton Thoroughfare's tricky currents.

Illustration from Schoodic National Scenic Byway Interpretive Panel.

Opposite page: Tidal Falls, Hancock – A tidal discrepancy between Frenchman Bay and the inland Taunton and Hog bays causes the Tidal Falls, which reverse direction twice each day. The area's underwater ledges constrict the tide and causes water to move in as an extended wave as the tide rises, and flow out when it falls. Twenty Native American grave sites of the Red Paint People have been excavated at Tidal Falls, dating to 5,000 years ago. In the 19th century, Tidal Falls was the first site for a railroad and ferry terminal that transported passengers to Bar Harbor. In the 1950s the Hodgkins family operated a lobster pound and later a seafood take-out restaurant at Tidal Falls. Illustration from Schoodic National Scenic Byway Interpretive Panel.



*Frontier Canning, Robbinston - Employees of the Frontier sardine cannery in Robbinston, 1929. River herring were historically harvested with a variety of different gear types, including weirs, seines, dip nets, drift nets, and set nets. Although river herring populations in Downeast Maine have been seriously impacted by human activities, many restoration efforts are underway to restore their populations to historic abundances. Photo courtesy of St. Croix Historical Society.*

seasonally between their coastal and inland homes to follow food supplies (fish and game) and other resources. Places and communities carry Wabanahki names based on landscape features and natural resources.

The eastern part of Downeast Maine is within the Bay of Fundy, home of the world's highest tides. Intense tidal flows carve the rocky ocean shores, and filter immense amounts of water through the long narrow coves such as Cobscook Bay, creating rich habitat for marine life. Fresh waterways and coastal waters fed by deep, cold sand and gravel aquifers support fish and shellfish that still feed people around the nation. Wild blueberries grow lushly on eskers left by glaciers and still provide a food resource to an extent found nowhere else in the world.

Major water-dependent industries like shipbuilding, quarrying granite, logging, and mills afforded the wealth to build vibrant and architecturally distinct villages, some of which are National Historic Districts today. The streets and buildings of Eastern cities were built on the abundant lumber and granite extracted from Downeast Maine and transported via river and ocean. The swift rivers and waterfalls enabled powering mills, tanneries, and more to process raw materials into usable goods. Tides in Downeast Maine are so significant that they have been tested for their potential to generate electrical power, reflecting how the region's natural resources continue to inspire innovation.

The natural resources that built Downeast Maine and the American nation remain vital to the current

local economy – fisheries, forest products, wild blueberries, and outdoor recreation and tourism being the most predominant. Traditional outdoor activities are still deeply ingrained in local culture including hunting, fishing, guiding, paddling, and seasonal harvests of wild plants. Strong resource management ethics support these industries today and enable our Downeast communities to continue their valued quality of life.

The region has a long-standing culture of sustainable resource management due to the economic and survival dependence on intact resources. The large scale of resource management in Downeast Maine can, and in some cases already does, serve as a model for other similarly resource dependent areas and offer leadership nationally.

Resource management initiatives include wildlife habitat and ecosystem

preservation; commercial fisheries management and access; open space, farming, and forestry management on private lands; access to land and water for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation; heritage tourism; and heritage education.

These efforts are increasingly carried out within the uncertainty of a warming climate. The Gulf of Maine, upon which commercial fisheries, habitat, and tourism are dependent, is warming faster than any other ocean on the planet. Insects, warming temperatures, drought, and other climate-related changes are affecting important forest and agricultural industries, and cultural resources. Identifying solutions to climate and landscape changes will allow people and nature to continue to thrive together for generations to come.

# Exploration and Settlement of the Northeastern United States



Downeast Acadia is the origin of French settlement in the nation. In 1604 Pierre Dugas (also known as Sieur de Monts) established the first settlement at the mouth of the St. Croix River. After that first hard winter, settlers developed relationships with the Wabanahki, who shared knowledge and resources which helped them survive. Inland and coastal waterways, long-standing transportation routes of the Wabanahki, enabled further settlement by Europeans.

Downeast communities played critical roles in settling the nation and then defending the emerging nation's independence from the British. Battles fought on the coast of Downeast Maine were key to defining

the eastern edge of the United States and international boundary with Canada. Alliances between the French and Wabanahki in defending their territory significantly affected the geography of Maine, which had been a District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Downeast Maine is of significant importance as a basepoint for early navigation, mapping, and surveying. Water routes provided the method to explore and map inland through Maine and Canada, and along the eastern seaboard. The easternmost and only remaining Geodetic Survey Baseline Road continues to be used as a primary travel route through the wild blueberry barrens. The Calais Observatory enabled the first successful transatlantic telegraphic longitude determination and helped establish worldwide longitude values, affecting all nations. A string of lighthouses marked the way for safe maritime navigation along the rocky, often fog-bound coast. Twenty-six lighthouses remain, roughly 1/3 of all lighthouses in Maine; some are accessible to the public.

*Battle of the Rim (above) - Battles fought on the coast of Downeast Maine were key to defining the eastern edge of the United States and international boundary with Canada. Alliances between the French and Wabanahki in defending their territory significantly affected the geography of Maine, which had been a District of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After the Battle of the Margarettta, Great Britain attempted to destroy Machias in revenge for the capture of HMS Margarettta. Patriots, with the aid of Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Penobscot warriors, harassed and attacked the British, forcing their retreat. A living history group in the Machias area re-enacts the Battle of the Rim, including several ancestors of actual battle participants. Photo by RJ Heller.*

# *A Culture Inspired by Nature*

Downeast Maine is known across the world as a place of rugged beauty and unspoiled wildlands, a place where people feel revitalized and inspired by nature. Arts, tools, dance, food, stories, language, ceremonies, customs, and architecture are intricately tied to the natural resources, geology, geography, and scenic beauty around them.

Skilled craftsmen use wood, stone, clay, and plants to create beautiful and utilitarian products. Artists, writers, and storytellers have memorialized the Downeast landscape in works of art and literature and continue to be inspired by the land, people, and customs of the region.

Traditional outdoor activities are still deeply ingrained in local culture which includes hunting, fishing, guiding, paddling, and seasonally harvesting forest products. Habitat conservation and resource management have been embraced by the communities. They acknowledge conservation is vital to preserving ecosystems that support their forest, farm and ocean-based economy, as well as nature-based tourism, and their highly prized rural quality of life.



*Keezer Fruit Baskets - The family of Clara Neptune Keezer was known for basketmaking for more than 200 years prior to her birth. Clara Neptune learned to make baskets from her grandmother and mother, weaving her first basket at the age of eight. She worked with the preferred materials of Maine basket weavers, split brown ash and sweetgrass, to fashion both utility and fancy baskets. Basket weaving was experiencing a decline in Maine in the 1950s, and Keezer was instrumental in revitalizing the basket weaving tradition. She created original designs that earned her recognition by the National Endowment for the Arts; she was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award in Washington, D.C., in 2002. Photo courtesy of the Abbe Museum.*

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Important community festivals (birding, wild blueberry, lobster, night sky) and special events (smelt fry, maple syrup, farming, lighthouses, lobster boats) celebrate important elements of natural resources.

Boat-building is a Downeast skill as old as the cultures on these lands and waters. Boat styles are influenced by the specific physical environments in which they are used and can dramatically differ from harbor to harbor.

The cold rough landscape and long winters have shaped the characteristics of “Downeasters,” who are known for their understated, sarcastic, witty humor and their talent for spinning

stories. The geographic remoteness of the region and obstacles this can cause have created a culture known for their ingenuity, innovation, entrepreneurship, resilience, and community service.

These are all requirements for surviving in a landscape where elements beyond human control dictate choices made in daily life, and people are often challenged to overcome hardships and assist their neighbors to do so as well.

**Frenchman's Bay What You See from here: An Ever-Changing View**

THE SAME VIEW IN 2006: How has it evolved?  
ACADIA N.P. RIDGE NAME

CALLOUTS WILL NAME ALL THE ISLANDS

IN THE MID-1800S

**What you see from here changed greatly over time**  
From freshly logged hillside [above] to open pasture, from a huge summer hotel to private homes screened by ever-bigger trees, this view is changing with nature and Sullivan's economy.

**Generations of watercraft ply the bay for business and pleasure**  
From this hillside, you could once spot passenger steamers ferrying passengers to Bar Harbor; tugs towing great sailing ships carrying granite, ore, lumber and fish; and private yachts headed to the playgrounds of the wealthy in Sorrento, Grindstone Neck or Bar Harbor. Today you are more apt to see working lobster boats, kayaks, pleasure yachts and sailboats.

then...  
TUGBOAT 1890  
SAILING SHIPS  
LOADED WITH GRANITE  
PASSENGER STEAMER 1916

...and now  
PRIVATE YACHT 1888  
FISHING BOATS  
CLASSIC LOBSTER BOAT  
Today's Kayaks  
LOBSTER BOATS  
YACHTS  
SAILING FOR PLEASURE

*Friars Bay - Boat-building is a Downeast skill as old as the cultures on these lands and waters. Boat styles are influenced by the specific physical environments in which they are used and can dramatically differ from harbor to harbor. Illustration from Schoodic National Scenic Byway Interpretive Panel.*

## Conclusion

The significant and consistent public input and information gathered over the years underscores that the Downeast Maine study area has a unique and nationally important story beloved by many, as well as the potential and desire to better support interpretation of that story and expand on opportunities.

*The significance statement and interpretive themes represent how the people, groups, and events associated with Downeast Maine have contributed to the broader national heritage and continue to contribute today. The significance statement and interpretive themes presented in this study convey the presence of a nationally distinctive landscape and provide a solid thematic framework to support a national heritage area in Downeast Maine.*



*Cutler Coast - Perched at the eastern edge of the Atlantic Ocean and North American continent, the Cutler Coast Preserve and Bog Brook Cove together comprise the 2nd largest contiguous conservation area on the Maine coast (after Acadia National Park). A unique composition of spruce-fir-larch forest and glacial influence supports raised coastal peatland and plant communities rarely found south of Canada. Nearly 200 species of birds are recorded along the Cutler Coast, some rare to Maine. Photo by Cathy Lookabaugh.*





## CHAPTER 6

# A Historical Context of Downeast Maine's National Heritage

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Chapter 6 further evaluates Criterion 2 of the required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

**Criterion 2: Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.**

### Our Geologic Beginnings

Three million years of glacial advancement and recession carved the distinct and iconic landscape of Maine. In the last 12,000+/- years since the glaciers retreated, this landscape and the climate within which it exists influenced the natural resources that exist here today - and thus inherently shaped the culture, history, and economy of the people who live here.

Downeast Maine as we know it today began with a series of ancient continents colliding together between 500 and 290 million years ago. The land continued to collide and withdraw, forming a chain of super volcanoes along the eastern shoreline of Maine, including Mount Desert Island. Over the next 200 million years, the landscape was extensively eroded by water, wind, and ice.

# A GATHERING PLACE - PESKOTOMUHKATIK



The homeland of the Passamaquoddy People

## Peskotomuhkat

Passamaquoddy person, one who spears pollock

The Passamaquoddy have been here for thousands of years. This place, and their way of life, is special to them.

*Kehsamqahk-al kis lehsikotakil, yur iyuss peskotomuhkat; kinuwikon yur eyulihitis nil-ona kinuwikon el-pomawsulihitis.*



**F**ollowing the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet about 13,000 years ago, Passamaquoddy ancestors hunted the last of the Ice Age megafauna and followed herds of migrating caribou. As the environment changed, they adapted to life in the forests along the coast and estuaries. By 3,000 years ago, Machias Bay looked much as it does today, and Passamaquoddy ancestors lived along its shores.

The Passamaquoddy people living on Machias Bay were part of extensive social and trade networks. They paddled their canoes along well-traveled routes to neighboring communities across present-day New England and eastern Canada.

## kekkom journey



## PETROGLYPHS

*amaluhikhasutik*  
in, at, to place where petroglyphs are located

For thousands of years, Passamaquoddy and other Wabanaki people created petroglyphs—pecked stone images—on rock outcrops around the bay. Machias Bay is home to perhaps the largest concentration of petroglyphs on the east coast of North America. The oldest are about 2,500 years old, and they were still being created when the first European ships arrived. Understanding and protecting the petroglyphs provides a foundation for collaboration between the Passamaquoddy Tribe, MCHT, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, archaeologists, and the surrounding towns.

Petroglyphs are extremely fragile, and are easily damaged by foot traffic. Because they are difficult to find and vulnerable, we ask that you do not visit the petroglyphs without a qualified Passamaquoddy guide.



To arrange a visit, contact the Passamaquoddy Tribal Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 159, Princeton, Maine 04668.

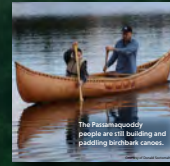
**M**achias Bay has always been a good place to live. Passamaquoddy people hunted on the land, fished the waters, and collected shellfish from the shores. They returned every year for the abundant food resources, following convenient canoe travel routes.

## oqiton canoe

**B**eginning in the 1500s, Basque, French, and English fishermen, traders, explorers, missionaries, and settlers were drawn to the region's rich resources. The Passamaquoddy and their Wabanaki neighbors—the Abenaki, Penobscot, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq—faced new challenges and formed new relationships across cultures.

## astuwi coming into contact

Thousands of Passamaquoddy people died in the centuries following the arrival of Europeans, the result of violence, disease, and the colonial taking of their land and resources. The Passamaquoddy were resilient and formed alliances with the French and English settlers. They found new ways to live in a rapidly changing world.



The Passamaquoddy people are still building and paddling birch bark canoes.

**T**oday, Passamaquoddy People are still here, living in their homeland, speaking their language, carrying on their culture and traditions.

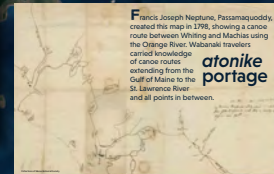


**B**ased on the Discovery Doctrine, first put forth by the Catholic Church in 1493, the French and English assumed that their religion and government were superior to the religion and self-government of Native Americans. The Doctrine also claimed that non-Christian people could not own or have control over land and resources, and that Christian nations could claim those lands as they pleased.



Wabanaki trading and social networks extended across the territory depicted in this French map from 1678.

## esunke trade



**F**rancis Joseph Neptune, Passamaquoddy, created this map in 1798, showing a canoe route between Whiting and Machias using the Change River. Wabanaki travelers carried knowledge of canoe routes extending from the Gulf of Maine to the St. Lawrence River and all points in between.

To view an enlarged version of this map, visit <https://www.mainehistory.org/whiting/1798/>.

"A Gathering Place" is one of three panels at Long Point sharing stories of rich natural resources and the people who have been drawn here for generations.

To learn more about the Passamaquoddy people, you can visit the Waponahki Museum at Pleasant Point, the Passamaquoddy Cultural Heritage Museum at Indian Township, the Wabanaki Cultural Center and Museum in Calais, the Gallery of Maine History at the University of Maine at Machias, the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine, Orono, and the St. Croix Island International Site in Robbinston.



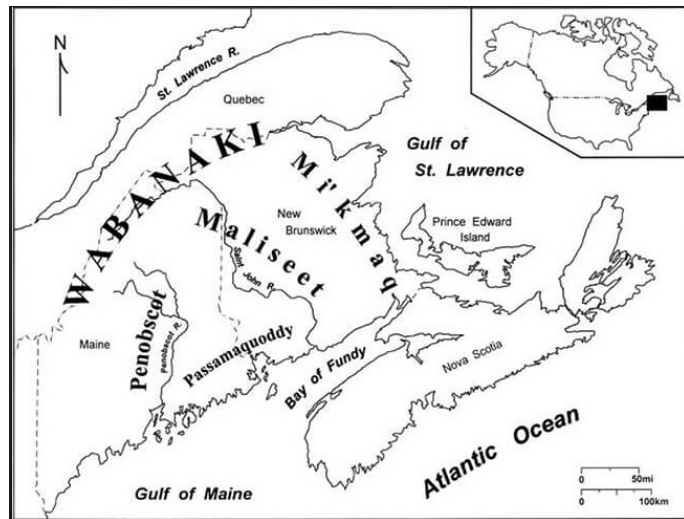
Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a statewide land conservation organization, thanks the Long Point Advisory Committee, the Machiasport Historical Society and the Passamaquoddy Historic Preservation Office for their help creating these panels.

"A Gathering Place" is one of three panels at Long Point sharing stories of rich natural resources and the people who have been drawn here for generations. To learn more about the Passamaquoddy people, visit the Waponahki Museum at Pleasant Point, the Passamaquoddy Cultural Heritage Museum at Indian Township, the Wabanaki Cultural Center and Museum in Calais, the Gallery of Maine History at the University of Maine at Machias, the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine, Orono, and the St. Croix Island International Site in Robbinston. These panels were made through a collaboration between Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a Passamaquoddy artist, the Long Point Advisory Committee, the Machiasport Historical Society and the Passamaquoddy Historic Preservation Office. Image courtesy of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Pangea eventually broke apart and separated into North America and Europe. What is known today as Downeast Maine, located at this split, was left perched at the eastern edge of the Atlantic Ocean, on the continent of North America. This activity forever influenced the geomorphology, ecology, and culture of the region.

Maine emerged from the last continental glacier as a treeless tundra that supported woolly mammoths and other large animals. Extensive inland waterways carved by glacial meltwater and the convoluted coastline provided an interconnected network of transportation routes extending from the Gulf of Maine to the St. Lawrence River. Nomadic Paleo Indians arrived in Downeast Maine 12,000+/- years ago. People lived in small groups and traveled across the landscape hunting migratory animals and gathering wild plants.

The Wabanaki Tribes are descendants of these early inhabitants of Downeast Maine and western New Brunswick. According to oral histories, the Wabanaki have lived in this area since time immemorial. The Wabanaki Confederacy includes 5 Tribes: Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet, Micmac and Abenaki. Wabanaki translates to “People of the Dawn”. The Wabanaki have many creation stories that preserve the history of people in the Dawnland. Some historic and cultural information about the



*Wabanaki Homeland, 19th Century. Image by Stephen Bicknell.*

Passamaquoddy people is recorded in petroglyphs created on rock outcrops around Machias Bay. The region is home to possibly the largest concentration of petroglyphs on the east coast of North America. The oldest are about 3,500 years old and were still being created when the first European ships arrived. Petroglyphs are physically fragile and culturally important. Although the existence of these petroglyphs is well-known, their location is not and access is restricted.

The Wabanaki Tribes, although not fully eradicated from their homeland, are now mainly relegated to living on Indian Reservations. Many Penobscot people occupy Indian Island in the Penobscot River. The Passamaquoddy are divided between Pleasant Point on Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays and Indian Township near the St. Croix River and Grand Lake system. The Aroostook Band of Micmac are located in Presque Isle, and the Maliseet Reservation is located in Houlton. These four tribes are Federally Recognized. The Abenaki, who are not, live on lands in Quebec as well as in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The Passamaquoddy Tribes on the Pleasant Point and Indian Township Reservations are the primary Tribal group highlighted in this Feasibility Study, as they still reside in the area referred to as the Downeast National Heritage Area.

## Abundant Natural Resources

The Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated and advanced several times over thousands of years, eroding earth and stone and carrying sediments over thousands of miles. Ice grinding over the land stripped away soils, revealing great swaths of granite bedrock. Sediments that dropped from the melting ice created deltas, moraines, eskers, and clay beds. Kettle ponds formed by deposits damming water outlets. Rivers were carved by meltwater. Deep sand and gravel deposits created enormous aquifers. Warming of the climate enabled northward migration of the forest.

These glacial influences “laid the ground” for the abundant and varied natural resources that have supported both Wabanaki and Euro-American people in Downeast Maine for well over a millennium.

The Passamaquoddy traditionally used coastal and inland areas and relocated between them on a seasonal basis to hunt, fish, and gather for their subsistence needs year-round. They harvested a wide variety of plants, including nuts, berries, sweetgrass, ash, birch bark, and plants as sources for medicine. They hunted and fished large and small mammals including seals and small whales, birds, amphibians, shellfish, and fin fish from salt and freshwater. Large schools of herring and salmon migrated by river and stream from inland lakes to the coast. The ocean supported large populations of fish, seals, and waterfowl. Forests were filled with immense old-growth trees. Wild blueberry barrens provided an important food source for people and animals.

Trading was extensive, and rivers and streams between inland and coastal water bodies were critical transportation routes. As colonists began extensive harvests of trees, and later dammed rivers for mills and power, Passamaquoddy hunting and fishing areas were greatly diminished, and they lost access to the coast.

Beginning in the 1500s, Basque, French, and English fishermen, traders, explorers, missionaries, and settlers were drawn to the region’s rich resources. Countless Passamaquoddy people died in the centuries following the arrival of Europeans from violence, disease, and the colonial taking of land and resources.

### *Fisheries*

The location of fish has always influenced where people lived, and the size of vessels determined where European settlers fished. These settlement patterns remain in place today, and villages continue to develop in protected harbors and at the confluence of rivers and the ocean.

Marine fish, invertebrates, shellfish, and river-run species such as alewives were, and still are, an important food source and part of the economy. Many generations of people harvested sturgeon, sculpin, bluefish, tomcod, pollock, swordfish, eels, Atlantic cod, and harbor porpoise. Runs of salmon and alewives up the rivers provided an abundance of food during migration season in the spring. The name “Passamaquoddy” is an Anglicization of the word *Peskotomuhkati*, meaning “pollock spearer” or “those of the place where pollock are plentiful”.

The Passamaquoddy hunted seals for food, tools, and other uses for many generations. Overharvesting of seals by non-native hunters led to removal of their sovereign right to harvest seals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

Clams were an important resource to the Passamaquoddy and remain an important part of the regional commercial fisheries economy and a local food source. Bar Harbor, now a well-traveled tourism destination, was an important shellfish-gathering location. The name Bar Harbor is an anglicization of the “clam-gathering place” in Passamaquoddy.

Downeast Maine became a global supplier of seafood for European countries and the slave trade – beginning with Cod. This once abundant groundfish attracted Europeans to settle the eastern seaboard of the North American continent. In the early 1600s, European explorers such as Captain John Smith, Samuel de Champlain, George Weymouth, and John Brereton reported on the abundance of codfish and other finfish species. New World cod populations presented an economic bonanza for European fish merchants who searched the world for fish species to replace those already fished out in Europe.

A century ago, Eastport was called “sardine capital of America,” one of the busiest ports in the US. Pickled river herring were shipped to Boston, New York, and the Caribbean. Wesley Raye began making mustard for tinned sardines, or herring, over 120 years ago. Maine sardines fed many American soldiers during the world wars. Approximately 75 canneries processed herring until 2010, when the last sardine factory, Stinson Seafood in Prospect Harbor closed. By then, the last commercial operation that smoked rather than canned sardines, the McCurdy Smokehouse in Lubec, had been shut down for nearly two decades. Herring has also long been used as bait by many fishermen. Lobstermen today still rely on herring and other fish for bait.

Clams were also commercially valued as bait aboard schooners in both the inshore and offshore salt-cod fishery of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The fresh clam industry became important during the Civil War in the form of clams shipped to Boston, fried, and sent to troops. As tourism increased, steamed clams became popular for clambakes and “shore dinners” and are still a local delicacy of choice to many visitors.

Technological innovations in preserving clams allowed for long-distance transport by boat and rail. In 1880 a canning plant was built in Jonesport to preserve sardines, clams, lobsters, and



*Sardine Boats, Eastport - Pickled river herring were shipped to Boston, New York, and the Caribbean. Maine sardines fed many American soldiers during the world wars. Approximately 75 canneries processed herring until 2010, when the last sardine factory, Stinson Seafood in Prospect Harbor closed. Photo courtesy of NOAA.*

other fishery products. Clams were canned in Brooklin, South Blue Hill, and Whiting. The Whiting cannery may have been the first to pack steamed clams in the US and operates today as a shellfish dealer and processor.

## Abundant Natural Resources



### #1 in the world

The lobster fishery is the number one marine resource industry in all of Maine, with Stonington and Jonesport being the largest supplier of lobster in the world.

### 10,000+ years

Wild blueberries have thrived on the sandy glacial outwash plains of Downeast Maine for 10,000+/- years.



### 420 million years old

In some areas the granite in Downeast Maine is believed to be more than 420 million years old.

### 702,654 acres

A total of 702,654 acres has been conserved in Downeast Maine. 19.6% is held in some type of conservation status.



Clamming is an important year-round source of income for many families today. Clammers dig in the deep, glacially deposited mud beds wherever clams are abundant and weather, tide, and harvesting restrictions allowed. Down East Institute in Beals, Maine's first public shellfish hatchery, was formed in the 1980s to address concerns over decreasing soft-shell clam harvests. The Institute cultivates commercially important shellfish seed to restore and create economic opportunities for harvesters, aquaculturists, and other entrepreneurs.

Atlantic salmon are an iconic species of the Northeast and were of great cultural and historical importance to the Wabanaki Tribes, as well as a source of food. Hundreds of thousands of Atlantic salmon

returned to spawn in Downeast rivers each year. These runs were severely depleted by the early 19th century and continued to decline through the first half of the 20th century. Dams and other impediments, overfishing, and pollution are significant factors. By the mid-20th century, the primary distribution of wild Atlantic Salmon in the U.S. was limited to the eastern third of Maine's coast.

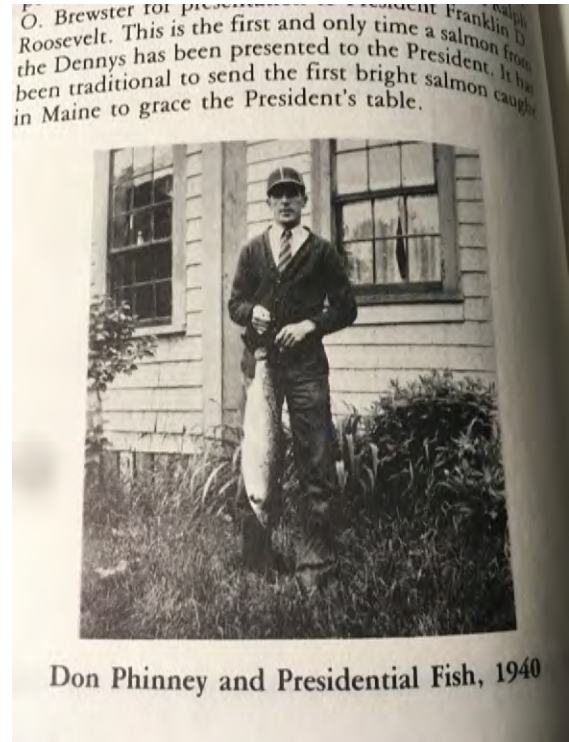
The Narraguagus River in Cherryfield was a nationally renowned wild Atlantic salmon fishing spot. A 1940s tourism brochure from the Narraguagus Fish & Game Association states that, in 1940, “Five thousand 4–6-inch Salmon were liberated in this river.” The fishery was closed in 1948.

Atlantic salmon from Maine were so highly valued that, for more than 80 years, the first one caught in the Penobscot River each spring was presented to the U.S. president. The last presidential salmon was caught in May 1992, because there were too few adult salmon to sacrifice even one.

The wild Atlantic salmon was listed as endangered in 2000. At that time, at least eight rivers in the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment still supported wild Atlantic Salmon populations; 6 of them are located in Downeast Maine.

The Downeast Salmon Federation in Columbia Falls and East Machias was established to conserve important ecological resources in eastern Maine with a focus on wild Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish and their habitats, restoring a viable recreational salmon fishery in Downeast Maine.

The people of Downeast Maine have harvested and used lobster for thousands of years. Long ago, people could pick up lobsters at low tide by hand, spear them with a gaff, or scoop them up with a net. Today, lobster is an iconic symbol of Downeast Maine, but before the 1850’s lobster was considered a “cheap food,” and served to widows, orphans, servants, and prisoners. Massachusetts enacted a law restricting lobster meals in prison to no more than two times a week. The commercial lobster fishery of Downeast Maine began around 1850. Canning companies boosted the reputation of Maine lobster throughout the Northeast and helped



*Presidential Salmon, 1940 - Atlantic salmon from Maine were so highly valued that, for more than 80 years, the first one caught in the Penobscot River each spring was presented to the U.S. president. In 1940 the first and only salmon from the Dennys River was presented to President Roosevelt. The last presidential salmon was caught in May 1992, because there were too few adult salmon to sacrifice even one. This image is from the book Salmon on the Dennys, 1786-1988: Struggle for Survival by Bartlett & Robinson. Photo by Bartlett Robinson.*



*Blueberries in Autumn - With over 6.5 million naturally evolved varieties, wild blueberry fields can contain 1,500 genetically distinct plants. From a biodiversity perspective, wild blueberries are unique in the world and are a strong influence on ecosystems in Downeast Maine. Photo by Arthur Tenan.*

develop the first nationwide markets for the product. Canned lobster became an expensive luxury item, and was shipped to Boston, New York, and other cities.

Today the lobster fishery is the number one marine resource industry in all of Maine, and the Downeast region specifically has the largest landings in the state. The fishing ports of Stonington and Jonesport boast the largest annual commercial harvest of lobster in Maine, the largest supplier of lobster in the world. Commercial fishermen also harvest eels, alewives, smelt, crabs, herring, halibut, shrimp, scallops, urchins, worms, whelks, and seaweed. Sea farming of Atlantic salmon, mussels, and seaweed is becoming more common in Downeast Maine.

The Massachusetts Colonial Ordinance of 1641-1647 established public rights to coastal resources, granting every household “free fishing and fowling as far as the tide doth ebb and flow.” In 1820, when it became a state independent of Massachusetts, Maine retained this law granting rights to residents to take seafood for personal and family use. Downeast Maine residents utilize their recreational fisheries rights today; lobster, clams, crab, and fin fish continue to be important food sources.

### *Wild Blueberries*

Downeast Maine is home to a landscape that exists nowhere else in the world – the wide-open expanses of low-bush wild blueberry fields, called “barrens”. Wild blueberries have thrived



on these sandy glacial outwash plains for 10,000+/- years. Wild blueberries cannot be planted commercially, they must be tended in their natural environment. With over 6.5 million naturally evolved varieties, wild blueberry fields can contain 1,500 genetically distinct plants. From a biodiversity perspective, wild blueberries are unique in the world and are a strong influence on ecosystems in Downeast Maine.

Indigenous people cultivated the wild blueberry as an important food source through biennial burning, a practice which continues today. They ate fresh wild blueberries late in the summer, and dried and crushed them into cakes to provide critical winter sustenance. Dried blueberries were used as a seasoning for soups and stews, and to cure meat. Wild blueberry tea was prized for its healing powers. The juice was used to dye splint baskets and served as a cough remedy.

When the settlers arrived, the Native Americans showed them how to care for the wild blueberry barrens and taught them the many uses for the wild blueberries.

Gathering blueberries on the barrens was a public privilege for more than a hundred years after the neighboring seacoast towns were first settled. Whole families came from far and near and even before the Civil War to pick blueberries for their own use and for sale.

Evidence suggests that the barrens were burned over many years before 1796 and were much smaller than they are today. Escaped forest fires and fires deliberately set to increase the blueberry area have been responsible for the addition of thousands of acres since that time.



*Blueberry Rakers, Whitneyville - The August harvest once drew a large population of migrant workers to the region, including Micmac from Canada, Hispanics, and Latinos. Migrants sent money home to their families. Generations of local youth paid for school clothes and their first cars. A permanent population of Latino residents, wild blueberry farms with roadside stands, giant tractors crawling down the road, and seasonal workers are a modern-day continuation of the long-standing history of wild blueberry production.*

During the Civil War, blueberries were harvested commercially, canned, and used to feed the Union Army. Downeast Maine has supplied roughly 90% of the world's wild blueberry supply since A.L. Stewart and Jasper Wyman began canning berries in Cherryfield in 1874. The fourth generation of the Wyman family is actively involved in the management of the company. The wild blueberry rake, first developed in the late 1800s, is unchanged today. The grandson of the original inventor now runs the company that has been manufacturing rakes since 1910.

Wild blueberries are a mainstay of the economy and culture in Downeast Maine. Generations of schoolteachers, high school students, families, loggers, and Wabanaki returned to the barrens every year along with people from all over the world, for a working vacation in August at blueberry harvest time. The August harvest once drew a large population of migrant workers to the region, including Micmac from Canada, Hispanics, and Latinos. Migrants sent money home to their families. Generations of local youth paid for school clothes and their first cars. A permanent population of Latino residents, wild blueberry farms with roadside stands, giant tractors crawling down the road, and seasonal workers are a modern-day continuation of the long-standing history of wild blueberry production.

Due to the tradition of wild blueberry farming, substrate in the barrens remains largely intact, revealing some of the best-preserved glacial features in North America.

### *Forest Products*

The forests of Maine have been a resource since the area first was inhabited by humans. The Wabanaki collected maple sap as a sweetener, harvested wild foods and medicinal plants that grow in forests, harvested tree bark for housing and canoes and ash for baskets, constructed a variety of tools, and burned logs for warmth and cooking food. People continue the annual harvests of specialty forest foods such as maple sap, mushrooms, wild berries, and fiddleheads. Many people heat their homes with wood. Local woods like birch and maple are still used for kitchen utensils and utilitarian works of art.

Early Europeans were amazed by the size, density, and sheer profusion of the North American forests.



*Forest Bounty - The forests of Maine have been a resource since the area first was inhabited by humans. People continue the annual harvests of specialty forest foods such as maple sap, mushrooms, wild berries, and fiddleheads. Photo by Tessa Ftorek.*



*Lawrence Lumber Company Mill, Jonesboro, 1915 - Timber was plentiful along the Chandler River when the first settlers arrived in Jonesboro. Jonesboro mills produced lumber, staves, shingles and box shooks (parts for unassembled boxes). Lawrence Lumber Company manufactured long and short lumber from 1900 to 1916. The building was destroyed in 1937 when a fire jumped the river, consuming houses, a store, and the mill (at that time it was the Look Brothers empty box mill). Photo courtesy of Penobscot Marine Museum.*

Seemingly endless stands of birch, spruce, oak, and white pine drew Europeans upriver and inland to measure and claim the wilderness. Seafaring and naval supremacy were so important to the island nation of Great Britain that its North American colonists were forbidden to cut down the largest trees, especially the white pine, perfect for masts, which were strictly reserved for the King's trade.

The vast pine forests and navigable rivers and coastline enabled the region's forestry economy to prosper. Wood products provided significant resources in the 17th and 18th centuries, including housing, barrels, ships, pitch, fence posts, fuel, and charcoal. After the Revolutionary War, the logging and shipbuilding industries converted mass quantities of raw timber into private wealth and commercial transport, affecting the fortunes of England and the United States.

Logging operations grew with the national demand for lumber products as the nation expanded through the 19th and 20th centuries. Thousands of men and horses hauled logs from inland forests and drove them downstream to mills, where they were processed into lumber. Many hundreds of sailing ships were built, and timber was shipped worldwide. The industry employed surveyors to identify likely stands of trees, lumbermen to cut timber, teamsters, and their draft

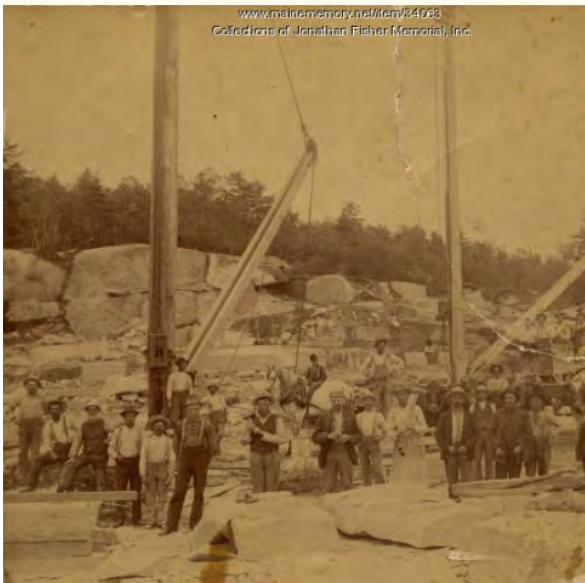
animals to haul logs, scalers to measure the timber's worth, and river drivers to float logs to the mills where sawyers converted logs into marketable products. The sheer volume of lumber moved between mills and ports created demand for Maine's first railroad.

Logging became progressively mechanized, particularly in the 20th century. Certain species were over harvested, competition emerged from the northwest and Canada, and the demand increasingly shifted away from cut lumber toward pulp for papermaking. One of the last major paper mills of Downeast Maine, in Bucksport on the Penobscot River, shut down in 2015. A tissue paper manufacturing facility continues to operate in Woodland, supporting many families in Downeast Maine.

In addition to raw and processed timber, Downeast Maine is one of the world's largest producers of balsam products. Balsam fir is used world-wide for holiday trees, wreaths, and other decorations. The industry provides an important seasonal income for many individuals and families and employs a population of migrant workers.

The uses of the forest have changed and grown – from timber for masts and shipbuilding, to sawn lumber for building, to raw material for papermaking, to a recreational resource that boosts the tourism economy. Through all the changes, Downeast Maine's forests continue to support a

viable and diverse forest-based economy due to the scale of the resource and its importance to the economy.



*Brown and McAllister Granite Quarry, Long Island, Blue Hill - Cutting granite blocks for building stones became an important industry in the 1800's. Granite was split from ledges in large sheets and extracted from deep pits, called quarries. Granite was transported down the coast in special ships called stone sloops to build many of America's landmark buildings. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Fisher Memorial.*

### *Granite*

As the earth was forming, crystallized magma cooled deep in the earth under what is now DownEast Maine and developed into granite shelves up to five miles deep. In some areas the granite is believed to be more than 420 million years old. The Laurentide Ice Sheet scraped away the soil as it receded, revealing the seemingly endless supply of granite.

Cutting granite blocks for building stones became an important industry in the 1800's. Granite was split from ledges in large sheets and extracted from deep pits, called quarries.



*The Granite Art Garden - The Granite Art Garden is A Center for Art, History, and Sustainability located at a historic quarry in Sullivan. The Garden's mission is to preserve the historic art of quarrying through demonstrations and museum exhibits focusing on the unique geology that gave rise to the booming granite quarrying industry of the 19th century. The Garden is owned and operated by Obadiah, who grew up on the quarry and was inspired to work with stone at a young age. Photo source: MaineMade.com.*

Granite was transported down the coast in special ships called stone sloops to build many of America's landmark buildings. Rockefeller Center, Chicago's Board of Trade, the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, the Boston Museum of Fine Art, and the New York Stock Exchange were built from Downeast granite. Streets in New York, New Orleans and Philadelphia were paved with custom-sized granite stones.

Downeast Maine's granite industry declined in the twentieth century as builders began using concrete and steel, and trains replaced ships as the primary form of transportation. The only commercial quarry remaining in Maine is Crotch Island Quarry off Deer Isle. At the turn of the century, Crotch was one of 33 major island quarries along the Maine coast and provided work for an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people. The Crotch Island Quarry survived because of the unique granite extracted from it.

Abandoned quarries still dot the coast of Downeast Maine. A few are open to the public for swimming, hiking, enjoyment, and learning. Two granite museums tell the history of the industry. A growing number of artists, sculptors, and builders carry on the tradition of working with granite, often utilizing traditional tools and techniques. Some even reside in former industrial quarries... during the back to the land movement of the 1970's many decommissioned quarries were turned into residential sites. In several cases the children who were raised in those quarry landscapes serve as leaders in the arts and continue to reside on and work with the granite landscape.

## *Habitat Conservation*

The people of Downeast Maine are protective of the region’s wealth of natural resources and rely on it to support their way of life. Downeast Maine’s greatest asset is its unique and dynamic natural capital: intact ecosystems, healthy watersheds, and distinctive glacial geology. Scientific studies show that the Downeast region contains many of the cleanest, most natural, and least developed watersheds and wildlife corridors on the East Coast of the United States.

Land Use		
	Washington County	Hancock County
Size – Square Miles	3,258	2,345
Land	2,563	1,587
Water	695	758
% Conserved Land	25	12
# Towns	42	36
# Cities	2	1
# Unincorporated Villages	0	19
# Unorganized Territories	34	15
# Indian Reservations	2	0

A total of 702,654 acres has been conserved in Downeast Maine as of June 2017, including national and state parks, wildlife refuges, working forests, and land trust preserves. Of the total land in the two-county area, 19.6% is held in some type of conservation status. In Hancock County, 12.5% of its 1,500,800 acres are in conserved land; in Washington County, 25% of its 2,085,120 acres are conserved.

Together the two counties have 200,000+ acres of ponds and lakes; 3,300+ miles of streams; 1,000+ river miles; and 2,700 sq miles of forest cover. Of Maine’s 87 globally significant seabird



*Camping on Donnell Pond - Donnell Pond Public Reserved Land includes 14,000 acres of mountains, pristine lakes, and remote ponds. The Tunk Lake area includes 6,215 acres of the state's Ecological Reserve System, established to protect Maine's biodiversity. A small stand of old growth red spruce, inaccessible because of surrounding steep and rocky terrain, has no evidence of human disturbance with numerous trees dating previous to 1750, including one to 1692.*

nesting islands, 54 are in Downeast Maine. The region contains thousands of acres of significant shorebird, eelgrass, eagle, wading bird, and waterfowl habitats. Downeast Maine is home to 9 significant wild Atlantic salmon watersheds. The Penobscot River is the state's largest and New England's second largest watershed.

Following is a partial listing of conservation lands that contribute to the preservation of unique habitats, offer outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and exemplify significant conservation efforts across Downeast Maine.

**Acadia National Park** was the first national park created from private lands gifted to the public through the efforts of conservation-minded citizens. These efforts led to Acadia's establishment as the first National Park in the eastern United States, and one of the first in the entire system. Establishment of Acadia contributed to the national land conservation movement. The Park remains the largest conservation easement program in the National Park System and continues to be supported by generous private philanthropy.

**Donnell Pond Public Reserved Land** includes 14,000 acres of mountains, pristine lakes, and remote ponds. The Tunk Lake area includes 6,215 acres of the state's Ecological Reserve System, established to protect Maine's biodiversity. A small stand of old growth red spruce, inaccessible because of surrounding steep and rocky terrain, has no evidence of human disturbance with numerous trees dating previous to 1750, including one to 1692.

**Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge** is a complex of islands and coastal properties managed and preserved for seabird nesting and coastal wading bird habitat and provides exemplary birdwatching vantage points. Downeast Maine forms the easternmost end of the Atlantic Flyway, critical habitat for migratory songbirds and waterfowl. During fall, over 4,000 ducks rest and feed at Petit Manan's Cranberry Flowage before migrating south.

**Great Wass Island Preserve** projects farther out to sea than any other land mass in eastern Maine. The Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy meet just east of Jonesport; their mixing produces a cool, humid oceanic climate ideal for rare plants and natural communities. Extreme conditions like constant wind, salt spray, harsh winter storms, and cool summers greatly influence the species types found here and creates unique ecosystems. The Preserve supports one of Maine's largest stands of coastal jack pine, one which has evolved to successfully reproduce without the heat of fire typically required to open seed cones. Great Wass contains maritime slope bogs and raised bogs which are unique to this part of the state.

**Machias River Waterway** supports Maine's greatest self-sustaining population of wild Atlantic salmon. Birdwatching abounds on the associated chain of inland lakes, identified by American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area. At least 180 species of birds have been documented, including 23 warblers. Over 6,000 acres, including 252 miles of river and contributing lakes and streams, are forever protected for recreation and wildlife through a monumental effort involving numerous public and private entities.



*Machias Lakes Paddle - The Machias River system supports Maine's greatest self-sustaining population of wild Atlantic salmon. The system is recognized by American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area. At least 180 species of birds have been documented, including 33 warblers. Over 6,000 acres, including 252 miles of river and contributing lakes and streams, are forever protected for recreation and wildlife through a monumental effort involving numerous public and private entities. Intrepid boaters can paddle the wild and scenic Machias River Corridor, a 76-mile back-country canoe trip from Fifth Machias Lake to downtown Machias. Primitive campsites and vehicle access points are located along the route, allowing exploration of all or part of the Corridor.*

**Cutler Coast Preserve and Bog Brook Cove** comprise the 2nd largest contiguous conservation area on the Maine coast (after Acadia National Park), thanks to a multi-organizational commitment to protect a landscape critical to protecting an economy and culture reliant on intact



natural resources. A unique composition of spruce-fir-larch forest and glacial influence supports raised coastal peatland and plant communities rarely found south of Canada. Nearly 200 species of birds are recorded along the Cutler Coast, some rare to Maine.

**Machias Seal Island** off the Cutler coast is a renowned North American birdwatching destination. The tiny, barren island is nesting grounds for a great number and variety of migratory seabirds and is the largest Puffin colony on the Maine coast, with thousands more birds than any other site. The island is designated a bird sanctuary by the U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Service.

**Cobscook Bay** derives its name from the Maliseet-Passamaquoddy tribal word for “boiling tides”. Cobscook Bay is an unusual estuary with a narrow opening to the sea; long, convoluted shoreline; and few tributaries. Twice-daily tides in the Bay average 24 feet, with occasional tides as high as 28 feet (average tides in southern Maine are 9 feet). These large tides bring nutrient-rich water from the Gulf of Maine, which stimulates phytoplankton growth that feeds a notable diversity of invertebrates, including multiple intertidal species normally found in subarctic waters. Cobscook Bay contains some of the last great scallop beds in the State of Maine. The Bay’s productive food web nourishes more than 200 bird species. Thousands of shorebirds stop over each fall to rest and forage as they migrate south from northern breeding grounds. Cobscook Bay has the highest density of nesting bald eagles in the northeastern United States and has played a key role in restoring eagle populations. During the winter, the bay’s convoluted shoreline and strong tidal flow keep it relatively free of ice, making it attractive to waterfowl such as black ducks and Canada geese. Up to 25% of Maine’s wintering black ducks can be found in Cobscook Bay.

**Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge**, one of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges in the country, comprises two divisions on the Bold Coast - Edmunds and Baring. Moosehorn is an important breeding ground and critical migratory bird stopover point on the Atlantic Flyway. Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge provides habitat to many songbirds, including neotropical migrants. Twenty-six species of migrating warblers nest on the refuge. Two viewing platforms just outside of Calais are



*Puffin at Machias Seal Island - Machias Seal Island off the Cutler coast is a renowned North American birdwatching destination. The tiny, barren island is nesting grounds for a great number and variety of migratory seabirds and is the largest Puffin colony on the Maine coast, with thousands more birds than any other site. The island is designated a bird sanctuary by the U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Service. Photo by Richard Couse.*



*Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge - Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, one of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges in the country, comprises two divisions on the Bold Coast - Edmunds and Baring. Moosehorn is an important breeding ground and critical migratory bird stopover point on the Atlantic Flyway. Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge provides habitat to many songbirds, including neotropical migrants. Twenty-six species of migrating warblers nest on the refuge.*

considered one of the best bald eagles viewing locations in Maine. Large swaths of the Wildlife Refuge are managed for woodcock habitat.

**West Grand Lake Community Forest** protects over 17 miles of lake shore and over 90 miles of stream shore. Combined with the adjacent Farm Cove Community Forest, over 55,000 acres of working forest are preserved for sustainable timber harvesting, heritage education, and outdoor recreation.

## Settlement & Exploration

From the early seventeenth century to the American War for Independence, Downeast Maine was alternately occupied, colonized, settled, or raided by the French, the English, and the Dutch. The area changed hands according to the terms of treaties negotiated in Europe between these rival powers.

## *French Occupation*

The St. Croix River, which now forms the international boundary between Maine and Canada, was called “Skutik” by the Passamaquoddy people. Prior to that it was inhabited by their ancestors. The St. Croix’s first settlers arrived nearly 12,000 years ago. The river became a major crossroads for harvesting seafood and accessing the Penobscot and Saint John River systems through the upper lakes.

Just inside the river’s mouth is St. Croix Island, site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l’Acadie. The short-lived French settlement at St. Croix Island was one of the earliest European settlements in northern North America, predating even the British colony of Jamestown.

Pierre Dugua led a group of French settlers, including Samuel Champlain, to locate the elusive China trade route and profit from trade in l’Acadie. They chose Saint Croix Island to settle on for its prime location near the confluence of two rivers and a bay. The winter of 1604-1605 was



St Croix Island International Historic Site - Pierre Dugua led a group of French settlers, including Samuel Champlain, to locate the elusive China trade route and profit from trade in l’Acadie. They chose Saint Croix Island to settle on for its prime location near the confluence of two rivers and a bay. The winter of 1604-1605 was one of the coldest on record; the settlers were unprepared for its brutality. Ice floes prevented them reaching the mainland, and food. Nearly half of them died from scurvy, malnutrition, and exposure. Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, the only International Historic Site in the world, commemorates this settlement. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River.

one of the coldest on record; the settlers were unprepared for its brutality. Ice floes prevented them reaching the mainland, and food. Nearly half of them died from scurvy, malnutrition, and exposure, and were buried in a small cemetery on Saint Croix Island. The Passamaquoddy returned to their summer home on Saint Croix Island that spring and saved the men's lives; they moved on to Port Royal, Nova Scotia.

The French built Fort Pentagöet in the 1630s in what is now Castine. Pentagöet was the name used by the French to describe the Penobscot River and its tributaries. The fort was part of the French attempt to maintain and extend their control over Acadia, the name given the region between the Kennebec and St. Croix Rivers. Fort Pentagöet changed hands several times, from the French to the English, from the English back to the French, and finally, after 1715 to the English, when it became part of the British Empire following the Treaty of Utrecht.

In 1779 the British Royal Navy sent a detachment of troops to Castine, intending to use the site as a base of operations against the American rebels. They British built Fort George during the War for



*Unity and Margaretta* - Early in the American Revolution, American merchant Ichabod Jones sailed from Boston to Machias to facilitate a trade on behalf of the British, who needed lumber, which Machias produced in abundance. The British sent the armed cutter HMS Margaretta along to ensure Jones' success. Jones demanded that Machias load their lumber before he would unload any British provisions for trade. As townspeople discussed whether or not to commence trade, the Margaretta was positioned within firing distance of town. The people of Machias eventually voted to trade, but Jones refused to do business with anyone who had opposed trade. Several local militias set out to capture Jones, and the first naval engagement of the American Revolution ensued as militiamen fought back British troops with pitchforks, axes, and hunting rifles. Photo courtesy of Maine Historical Society.



*In Front of the Burnham Tavern* – During the events leading up to the Battle of the Margaretta, the Burnham Tavern became the scene of hot debate as townspeople discussed whether or not to trade goods. As the battle ensued, the Burnham Tavern became a makeshift hospital for the wounded. Margaretta's Captain died here, supposedly leaving behind a wooden chest soaked with his blood. The Burnham Tavern is now a museum and National Historic Site, one of 21 homes in the United States deemed significant to the American Revolution. Photo by RJ Heller.

## Settlement and Exploration

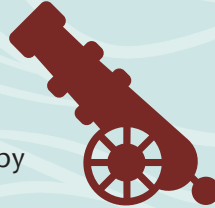


### 12,000 years ago

The St. Croix's first settlers arrived nearly 12,000 years ago.

### Changing hands

From the early seventeenth century to the American War for Independence, Downeast Maine was alternately occupied, colonized, settled, or raided by the French, the English, and the Dutch.



### Over 1/3 of lighthouses...

...in Maine are located along the Downeast coast. Lighthouses are the most technologically and architecturally significant elements in a system of navigational aids.

### Telling time across the Atlantic

In 1866, the first successful transatlantic telegraphic longitude determination occurred between the Calais Meridian and the Greenwich Meridian. This was a tremendous advance for the transfer of accurate time across the Atlantic Ocean.



American Independence, only to abandon it when the war was over. The fort is now a National Historic Site.

### *The American Revolution*

In 1775, American merchant Ichabod Jones sailed from Boston to Machias to facilitate a trade on behalf of the British, who needed lumber, which Machias produced in abundance. The British sent the armed cutter HMS *Margaretta* along to ensure Jones' success. Jones demanded that Machias load their lumber before he would unload any British provisions for trade. The Burnham tavern became the scene of hot debate as townspeople discussed whether to commence trade.

After the *Margaretta* was positioned within firing distance of town, the people of Machias eventually voted to trade; Jones refused to do business with anyone who had opposed trade. Several local militias set out to capture Jones, and the first naval engagement of the American Revolution ensued as militiamen fought back British troops with pitchforks, axes, and hunting rifles. The Burnham Tavern became a makeshift hospital for the wounded. The *Margaretta's* Captain died here, supposedly leaving behind a wooden chest soaked with his blood. The Burnham Tavern Museum in Machias is now

a National Historic Site and one of 21 homes in the United States deemed significant to the American Revolution.

Great Britain attempted to destroy Machias in revenge for the capture of HMS *Margaretta*. The Patriots, with the aid of Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Penobscot warriors, harassed and attacked the British, forcing their retreat. A living history group in the Machias area re-enacts the Battle of the Rim, including several ancestors of actual battle participants.



*Fort Knox - During the country's infancy, Maine was repeatedly involved in northeast border disputes with British Canada. The area between Castine and Bangor was invaded and occupied by the British during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Fort Knox was established in 1844 to protect the Penobscot River Valley against a possible future British naval incursion. Fort Knox is one of the best-preserved military fortifications on the New England seacoast and has many unique architectural features. Photo by Travel To Blank.*

The “Penobscot Expedition” as it is known was one of the greatest naval defeats in American history. Poor coordination, bickering commanders, inadequate training, and inexplicable delay allowed the British to defend the fort and inflict a humiliating defeat on their opponents, whose troops and ships were sent scurrying up the Penobscot River. Among those involved in the defeat was the Boston silversmith Paul Revere, whose uncooperative behavior and poor relations with the commanding officers led many to seek his censure by court martial.

The British stayed at Fort George in Castine until 1784. Up until then many Loyalists had moved here to seek the protection of the British forces, expecting that the Penobscot River would be the boundary between the new United States and British North America. However, under the treaty negotiated between Great Britain and the United States, the boundary was set at the St. Croix River, some 200 miles north. Many Loyalists dismantled their homes and transported them north on ships, where they helped to establish the town of St. Andrews in New Brunswick.

Eastport was a center of extensive two-way smuggling during the Embargo Act (1807-1809) imposed by President Thomas Jefferson. Fort Sullivan was erected atop a village hill but was captured by a British fleet under command of Sir Thomas Hardy during the War of 1812.

England claimed that Eastport was on the British side of the international border which had been determined in 1783. Eastport was returned to US control in 1818. The boundary between the U. S. and Canada remained disputed until settled by the Webster–Ashburton Treaty of 1842. In 1866, relations with Canada were threatened when hundreds of Fenians (Irish nationalists) awaited a shipment of arms to be landed at Eastport and intended for an invasion of English-ruled Canada. A U.S. military force was sent to seize the arms and successfully dispersed the group. Eastport is the location most recently occupied by a foreign country in the contiguous United States.

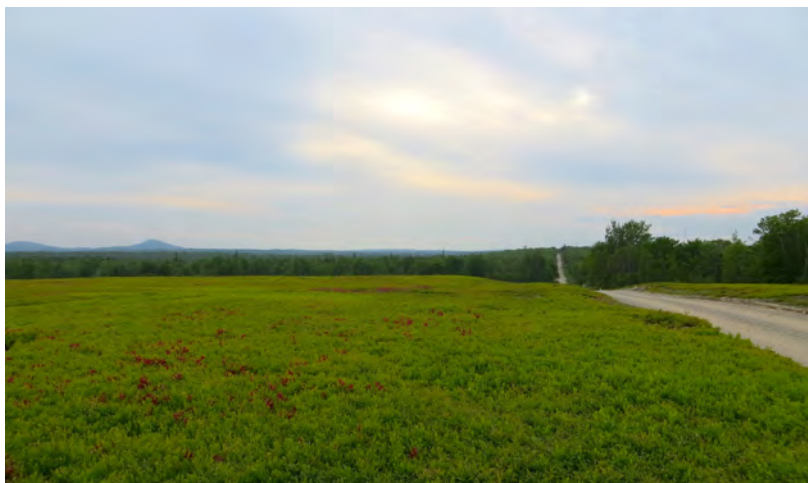
The Passamaquoddy supported Americans in the Revolutionary War based on promises and assurances made by General George Washington, which were never ratified by Congress. The state governments took Passamaquoddy lands for timber in exchange for promises to provide for the maintenance of Tribal members. By the mid-1830s, the Passamaquoddy Tribe had been deprived of almost all its traditional territory. State-appointed Indian agents exercised total control over the dispensing of food, clothing, shelter, health care, and other necessities. For many generations, the Passamaquoddy people lived at a bare subsistence level.

Two hundred years after the Revolutionary War the Federal Government finally acknowledged its obligation to the Passamaquoddy. In 1790 Congress passed legislation to curtail exploitation of Indian lands (the Indian Trade and Intercourse Act). A US District Court ruled that the Non-Intercourse Act applied to the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes and ordered the federal government to litigate a claim against the State of Maine for the illegal taking of lands. Settlement of this case resulted in the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act in 1980, which marked a critical turning point in the history of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Today, the Passamaquoddy Tribe has both the sovereign status of a federally recognized Indian tribe and a unique status within Maine law.

## *Mapping and Navigation*

### **The Baseline Road**

Shipping had increased dramatically since the American Revolution and trade was flourishing, but the accuracy of existing nautical charts was poor. In 1807 Congress authorized



*The Epping Baseline Road - The Epping Baseline was built in the wild blueberry barrens atop a wide glacial outwash delta and ancient shoreline. Because the wild blueberry barrens have remained a critical aspect of the Downeast Maine economy, most of the Epping Baseline Road remains intact; no remnants exist of the other five baselines.*

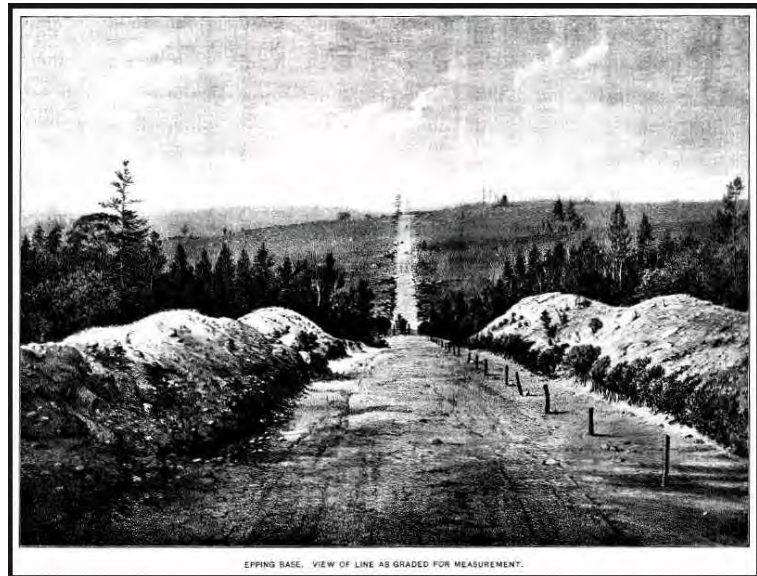
the U.S. Coast Survey to map the Atlantic seaboard from Maine to Louisiana to aid in both navigation and national defense. Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler proposed a survey based on a chain of triangles stretching from mountaintop to mountaintop down the Appalachians; he became the 1st Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Survey. Known as the Eastern Oblique Arc, the chain would serve as the framework for linking individual harbor surveys.

Six lines, measured with extreme accuracy, were built to facilitate Hassler's plan. They were in southwest Alabama, northwest

Georgia, the Chesapeake Bay area, off Long Island, NY, in Massachusetts, and Downeast Maine. In 1857, local farmers and lumbermen in Downeast Maine were hired to grade a 12-foot-wide path along the 6th and final baseline. Where necessary, the path was cut into banks or raised by stone cribbing so that the incline or decline never exceeded one foot in six meters. Benjamin Franklin's great-grandson, Alexander Dallas Bache, 2nd Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Survey, and Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, and later President of the Confederacy, arrived to visit the surveyors and oversee the measurement of the baseline.

Baseline sites were typically located on open coastal beaches because a line of about eight miles was needed, along with visibility at the ends to mountaintops. The rugged coast of Maine made it necessary to site the last baseline well inland. Because the wild blueberry barrens have remained a critical aspect of the Downeast Maine economy, most of the Epping Baseline Road remains intact; no remnants exist of the other five baselines.

The Epping Baseline was built in the wild blueberry barrens atop a wide glacial outwash delta and ancient shoreline. Stone monuments were set more than five miles apart to mark the east and west endpoints. The square granite base of one of these historic monuments is located at the Cherryfield-Narraguagus Historical Society. The marble obelisk that marked the western endpoint of the Epping Baseline is preserved in the Maine State Museum in Augusta.



*Epping Baseline Construction - In order to map the Atlantic seaboard for navigation and national defense in the early 1800's using a chain of triangles, six baselines were constructed from Maine to Louisiana, measured and built with extreme accuracy. In 1857, local farmers and lumbermen were hired to grade a 12-foot-wide path along the 6th and final baseline, located in Downeast Maine. Photo source: geocaching.com.*





*West Quoddy Head Lighthouse Keeper - West Quoddy Head Lighthouse sits on the easternmost point of the continental US and welcomes the day's first rays of sunlight during the spring and fall equinoxes. West Quoddy is one of only two still-standing U.S. lighthouses with red-and-white bands. Photo by Jerry Monkman.*

## *Lighthouses*

In the early 19th century, the explosion of maritime traffic off the Downeast coast required improved aids to navigation. Steam passenger vessels connected the coastal and larger river towns with urban areas such as Portland, Boston, and New York. The number of passenger ships and pleasure craft increased dramatically as the growth of summer resorts became a major seasonal industry.

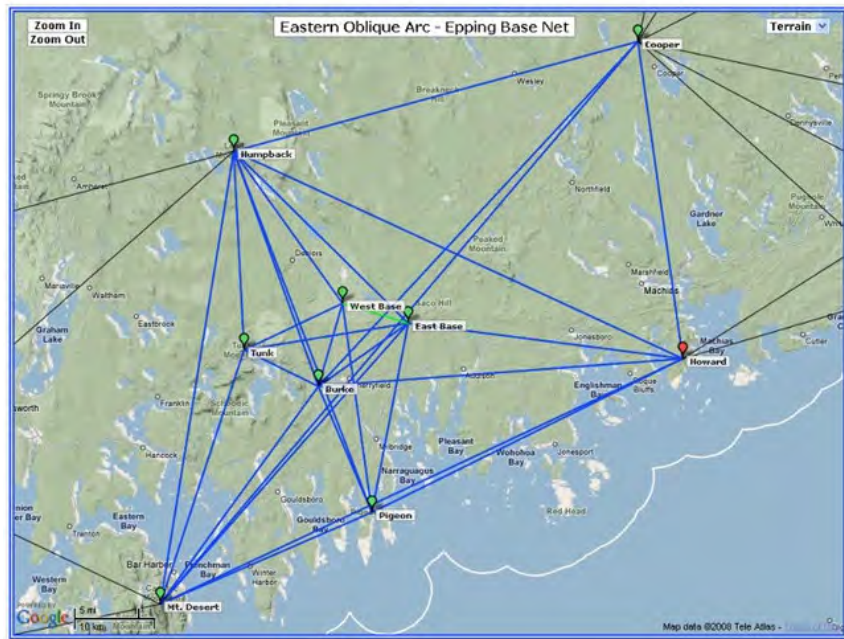
The rugged coastline and unpredictable waters of Downeast Maine demanded even more protection for seafarers. Lighthouses have lined the Bold Coast for two centuries, and the region contains 1/3 of all the lighthouses in Maine (Maine contains the most lighthouses of any coastal state of a similar size). These lighthouses remain active today and are visible by land, air, or by sea. Some are owned by the State of Maine or conservation organizations and are directly accessible to the public.

Lighthouses are the most technologically and architecturally significant elements in an extensive system of navigational aids and

played critical roles in the growth and development of the maritime transportation network. Downeast Maine's light stations embody a specialized structural form adapted to survive the often-hostile environment of the jagged coastline, open sea, violent storms, dense fog, and large tidal fluctuations.

West Quoddy Head Lighthouse sits on the easternmost point of the continental US and welcomes the day's first rays of sunlight during the spring and fall equinoxes. West Quoddy is one of only two still-standing U.S. lighthouses with red-and-white bands. Established in 1808, it was one of the first stations to be equipped with a fog bell and, later, a steam whistle. A reliable fog signal was deemed more essential than a light since fog can shroud the Downeast Maine coast for long periods of time during summer months. When approaching the bay in foggy conditions, ships would fire a signal gun to prompt the keeper to start tolling the fog bell.

Connie Small, “First Lady of Light,” was born in Lubec and spent much of her life living in lighthouses in Maine, including at West Quoddy Head, where her father was a keeper at the Quoddy Head Lifesaving Station. Connie led the nation’s lighthouse preservation movement, and later wrote “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Wife,” which describes her life as a lighthouse-keeper and exemplifies the lives of the many women who served the nation through this solitary and dangerous work.



*Eastern Oblique Arc - The Eastern Oblique Arc was an extended effort undertaken by the Coast and Geodetic Survey (formerly the Coast Survey) in the 19th century for high precision triangulation of the east coast of the United States. The Arc enabled calculation of the first precise measurement of the shape of the earth in North America. Image source: forums.groundspeak.com.*

### *Longitude, Meridien, and Greenwich Meantime*

A critical element of maritime navigation is accurate calculation of a location’s longitude. The United States established the United States Coast Survey in the 1830s to produce a consistent set of nautical charts for the nation’s coastline. Survey work extended outward from a prime reference point at Harvard College Observatory. Telegraphy enabled simultaneous exchange of time signals between distant locations to determine the difference in time between observed passage of an object in the sky at different locations. With sufficiently accurate timepieces, longitude could be determined with significant precision.

The Calais Observatory is a pair of granite stones erected in 1857 in what now Meridian Park near the Canadian border in Calais. Scientific equipment used in astronomical observations were mounted to the stone, principally for accurate calculation of Calais’s longitude related to meridians in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada; and Greenwich, England.

At the time of its longitude determination in 1866 in relation to the Greenwich Meridian, The Calais Meridian was considered one of the most precisely located places in the United States. In 1866, the first successful transatlantic telegraphic longitude determination occurred at between the Calais Meridian and the Greenwich Meridian. This was a tremendous advance for the transfer of accurate time across the Atlantic Ocean. It provided for the precise determination of longitude at the Harvard Observatory in Massachusetts, relative to Britain's Greenwich Observatory, increasing longitude accuracy throughout North America. The achievement was a major step in ultimately defining Greenwich as the zero point for the establishment of worldwide longitude values.

The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 and is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Heritage Trail program.

## Inspired by Nature

Arts, dance, music, food, stories, and customs of Downeast Maine are intricately tied to the natural resources, geology, and scenic beauty. Raw materials inspire both utilitarian products and artworks. Natural phenomena such as seasons, harvests, and celestial events inspire community events.

Contemporary Passamaquoddy artists continue to utilize long-standing techniques, although many pieces are considered art today and no longer meant for use as everyday objects.

Two examples include Molly Neptune Parker, a Passamaquoddy basket maker and National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage fellow, was the matriarch of four generations of Passamaquoddy basket makers, and Molly's grandchild, Geo Neptune, now a Master Basket maker.

The Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor is the primary venue for viewing, learning about, and purchasing Wabanahki arts. The annual Indian Market provides a forum for Indian artists and performers to connect with the community to educate about and sell their wares.

The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance is a collective that fosters the preservation of traditional basket making practices. The Alliance was created in 1993 after tribal basketmakers from the four federally recognized tribes in Maine (Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot) realized there were fewer than a dozen weavers younger than the age of 50 statewide amongst a tribal population of 6,000.

The National Park Service Tribal Preservation Program assists Indian tribes in preserving their historic properties and cultural traditions through the designation of Tribal Historic Preservation

Offices and through annual grant funding programs. Both Indian Township and Pleasant Point operate Tribal Museums.

Artists and writers have memorialized the Downeast landscape in works of art and literature and continue to be drawn here today. Maine's rough-hewn vistas of sea, forest and mountain have stirred the souls of generations of artists, who glean source material from the rugged coast and mountains; peaceful lakes and forests; dramatic tidal and seasonal fluctuations; small, tight-knit communities; the natural resources industries; maritime culture; and the steady, humble push of people going about their daily lives. For many of Maine's artists, inspiration comes from the timeless, enduring elements: the people, landscape, climate, history, and lifestyle.

By the mid to late 19th century, regular steamship service connected Portland and Boston to the west and Saint John, New Brunswick to the east. Artists from far and wide were now able to more easily frequent the area. Artists of the Hudson River school like Thomas Cole, Fitz Hugh Lane, and Frederic Church memorialized the dramatic landscape of Acadia in paintings, which caught the attention of tourists who spurred the "Rusticator" movement.

Artist Harrison Bird Brown of Portland painted a number of scenes of nearby Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick with many featuring Passamaquoddy encampments. Boston based artists Alfred Bricher, William Edward Norton and Edward Wilbor Dean Hamilton painted coastal scenes of West Quoddy Head in Maine and the summer colony at Campobello Island and Grand Manan in New Brunswick. In the 1890s, Boston based nature photographer, William Lyman Underwood, began to take excursion trips for fishing and hunting to Duck Lake in northern Washington County with Passamaquoddy guides. A number of the photographs that he took during his trips to this area appear in his subsequent books, *Wild Brother: Strangest of True Stories from the North Woods* and *Wilderness Adventures*.



*Fog off Mt. Desert Island - Artists of the Hudson River school like Thomas Cole, Fitz Hugh Lane, and Frederic Church memorialized the dramatic landscape of Acadia in paintings, which caught the attention of tourists who spurred the "Rusticator" movement. Work by Frederick Erwin Church.*



*Whippoorwill - John James Audubon studied and painted the birds of Downeast Maine. Audubon twice visited Washington County in the early 19th century, in 1831 and 1833, and created drawings and watercolors of such birds as the Hyperborean Phalarope, Harlequin Duck, and Thick Billed Murre. The Lincoln Sparrow that Audubon located in nearby Nova Scotia was named for Thomas Lincoln of Dennysville. Audubon chartered the schooner Ripley out of Eastport for his trip to Labrador in 1833. Work by John James Audobon.*

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An example of the well-known artists from the 1900's whose art was directly inspired by the land and people of Downeast Maine include George Pierce Ennis, Sandor Bernath, Winslow Homer, Stow Wengenroth, George Horne Russell, and Harrison Bird Brown. The modernist coastal paintings of John Marin who summered in Addison are in collections of major museums across the United States. In 1938, New York City based photographer, George Daniell, first came to the area on his way to neighboring Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick where he photographed the herring fisheries. Later, Daniell settled in Trenton. In the 1950s a

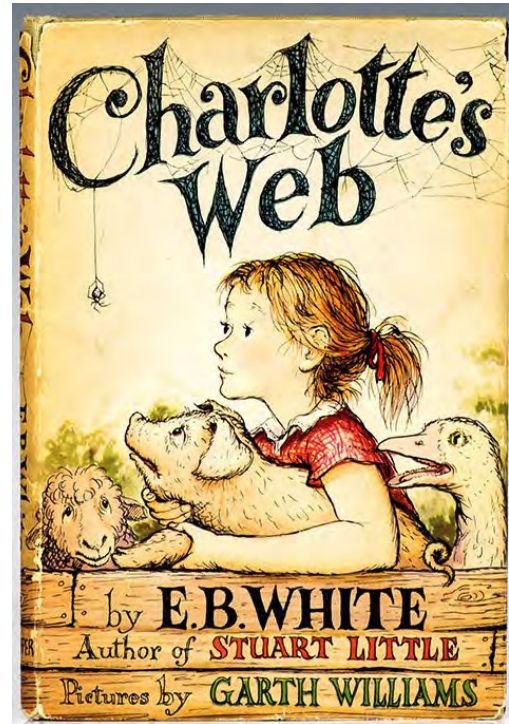
contingent of Boston based artists began to frequent Lubec each summer. They were led by artist Nina Bohlen, whose mother had married into the Pike family of Lubec and included such well known Boston artists and photographers as Hyman Bloom, Steven Trefonides, Paul Caponigro and Marie Cosindas.

The slow-paced, contemplative, often solitary Downeast life is particularly nurturing to writers. EB White was a newspaper writer for The New Yorker and Harper's, and also caught the attention of the Rusticators. The legendary fair in White's children's book Charlotte's Web is based on the annual Blue Hill Fair. Children's author Robert McKlosky wrote about life lived amongst the wild blueberries, mud flats, coastal waters, and small towns of the Blue Hill peninsula.

Roger Angell is known for his writing on baseball, has been a regular contributor to The New Yorker, including writing the annual Christmas Poem, and was its chief fiction editor for many

years. Poet Phillip Booth lived in Castine. Sanford Phippen, a prolific author with a strong handle on Downeast humor, lives in Hancock. Like Downeast Maine, Booth's landscapes can feel forbidding; his central metaphor is that of the tide. Castine was also home to the poet Robert Lowell, the novelist Elizabeth Hardwick, and novelist/activist Mary McCarthy. Helen and Scott Nearing wrote *Living the Good Life* about their self-sufficient homestead life in Cape Rosier. This book became a foundational text of the back-to-the-land movement, and the Nearing's literary and activist work has attracted generations of creatives to the Blue Hill area, which remains a hotbed of literary artists. Linda Greenlaw of Isle au Haut, was the only female swordfishing boat captain on the east coast when she wrote bestsellers *The Hungry Ocean* and *The Lobster Chronicles*.

In 2002, the Tides Institute & Museum of Art was founded in Eastport. In the 19 years since, the Tides Institute has built the first significant collections reflective of the cultural legacy of Downeast



*Charlotte's Web* - EB White was a newspaper writer for *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*, and also caught the attention of the Rusticators. The legendary fair in White's children's book *Charlotte's Web* is based on the annual Blue Hill Fair. Work by EB White and Garth Williams.



*Live Music, Lubec* – Music holds an important role in the arts and culture scene of Downeast Maine. Outdoor music events are held regularly throughout the summer at scenic seaside parks, and year-round in historic theaters and community halls. Photo courtesy of [DiscoverBoldCoast.com](http://DiscoverBoldCoast.com)

Maine with connections to neighboring Canada. Many of the artists who have worked in this area are represented in the collections. The Tides Institute has also established a community campus that preserves and repurposes eight historic buildings including three downtown commercial buildings, two early 19th century church buildings and a former GAR

Civil War Veterans hall building. In 2013, the Tides Institute established an artist-in-residence program that attracts artists from across the United States as well as abroad.

Blue Hill is home to Kneisel Hall, an internationally famous chamber music concert series in production since 1953. Paul Stookey of the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary raised his family on the Blue Hill Peninsula. The Machias Bay Chamber Concert series was founded in 1970 and continues to this day, performing each summer in the historic 1836-37 Gothic Revival style Centre Street Congregational church building in downtown Machias. The Eastport Arts Center organization (housed in the 1838 former historic Washington Street Baptist Church building) offers a music and film series, a community orchestra and student and children's arts programming. Bruce Potterton, a musician and music teacher from New Jersey, began the SummerKeys summer music program in Lubec. Weekly summer concerts are held at the historic 1820 Congregational Christian church building off Main Street high on the hill in the village center of Lubec. The Monteux School and Music Festival was founded in 1943 by internationally renowned French-born conductor Pierre Monteux and his wife Doris as a summer school for conductors and orchestra musicians in



*Fisherman Statue - Murder in Small Town X, a Fox reality TV show was filmed in Eastport in 2001. The fisherman statue was made for the show and has become a classic Eastport monument. Ángel L. Juarbe, Jr., a Bronx firefighter, was the winner of the reality show. Angel was killed in the World Trade Center on September 11, one week after the series finale, and the statue became a memorial for him.*

Hancock, inspired in part by Monteux's earlier conducting classes in France. The Monteux School is located in Hancock, Maine, in what was the permanent residence of Pierre and Doris Monteau, and Doris' childhood home.

The Downeast landscape is the set of many films, including Stephen King's *Pet Semetary*, filmed in Bangor, Bucksport, Hancock, Ellsworth, and Acadia National Park. The plot of the movie was inspired by a pet cemetery in 1978, and features a family cemetery on Hancock Point and a historic New England farmhouse. Key scenes with rocky shore and crashing waves from the Martin Scorsese film *Shutter Island* were filmed at Otter Cliffs in Acadia National Park. *The Man Without a Face*, starring Mel Gibson, was filmed in an 1896 cottage owned by landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, above the rocky coastline of Deer Isle, Maine. Scenes from *The Cider House Rules*, an Academy Award-winning film starring Charlize Theron and Toby Maguire, were filmed at Sand Beach in Acadia National Park, Thurston's Lobster Pound

in Bernard and in the village of Corea. Some scenes from Storm of the Century were filmed in Southwest Harbor. Sarah, Plain and Tall starring Glen Close and Christopher Walkin was partly filmed in Stonington.

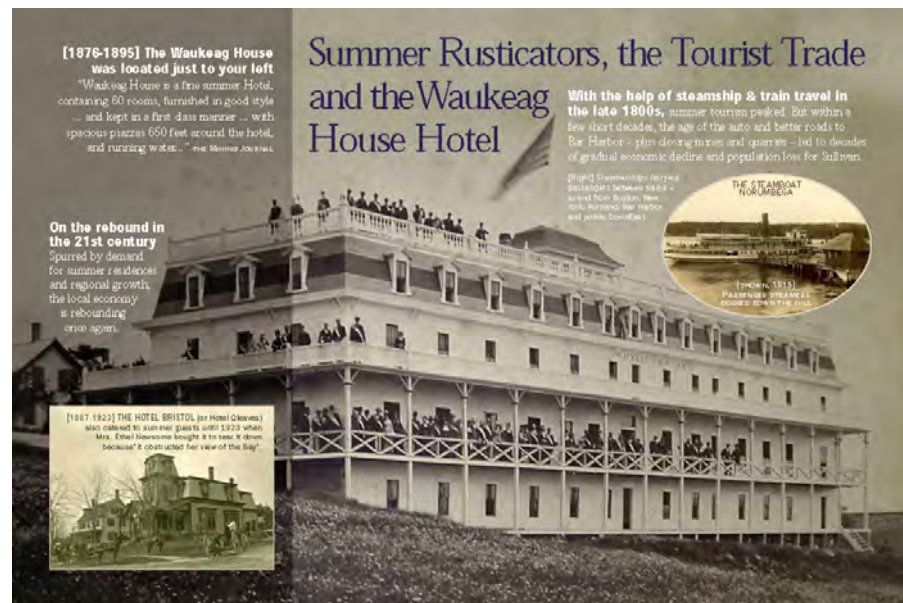
Downeast humor, which tends to use sarcasm and irony in the face of life's challenge, and pokes cheeky fun at "city folk" or "people from away." Tim Sample is an example of Downeast humorists who have captured this personality and shared it nationwide. Downeasters are also known for their talent for spinning stories – or yarns. The most legendary "yarn-spun" Downeast character, based on a real person, is "Tall Barney" Beal, now memorialized in folklore collections. Due to his folklore fame, Tall Barney's 1858 fishing log is preserved in the Smithsonian collection.

### *Tourism & Outdoor Recreation*

Downeast Maine's transformation as a tourist destination began after the Civil War and expanded rapidly into the early 20th century. A growing health consciousness and demand for outdoor experiences as antidotes to the busy urban life, sustained by the middle class with time and funds for leisure pursuits and anxiety about sedentary living, fueled tourism in Downeast Maine.

Summer visitors in the 1840s were known as the Rusticators because of their appreciation for a 'rustic' vacation experience. Rusticators enjoyed the spectacular scenery and brisk sea air, a welcome change

from the stifling summer heat of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. As wealthier Rusticators demanded more services and comfortable accommodations, boarding houses and taverns were replaced by large hotels in the villages of Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, and Southwest Harbor. Wealthy



Summer Rusticators - Summer visitors in the 1840s were known as the Rusticators because of their appreciation for a 'rustic' vacation experience. Rusticators enjoyed the spectacular scenery and brisk sea air, a welcome change from the stifling summer heat of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Illustration from Schoodic National Scenic Byway Interpretive Panel.





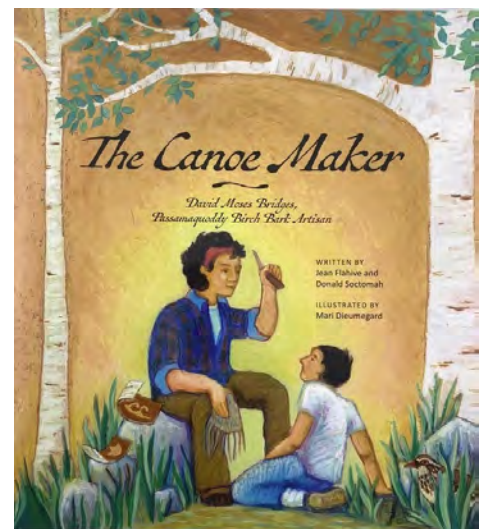
Roosevelt Family on Campobello Island - Roosevelt/Campobello International Park is the only International Park in the world. The Park was developed around President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt's summer home, where Eleanor held daily teas and inspired many political accomplishments around civil rights. The Roosevelt family descendants continue to maintain ties to the island and park. Photo courtesy of Roosevelt Campobello International Park.

capitalists socialized or devoted themselves to conservation and social causes. By 1890, the reputation of Mount Desert Island, especially Bar Harbor, as one of the most fashionable resorts in the country was firmly established.

Two of the most famous early summer residents in Downeast Maine include the Roosevelts (of Campobello Island) and the Rockefellers (of Mount Desert Island). Their passion for the natural beauty and people of Downeast Maine inspired important national political and conservation movements.

### *Watercraft - Shipbuilding*

The construction of watercraft is a Downeast skill as old as the cultures on these lands and waters and remains an important trade in Downeast Maine. Boat styles are influenced by the specific physical environments in which they are used and can dramatically differ from harbor to harbor. Jonesport and Eastport are particularly known for their distinct and enduring fishing boat styles. The Wooden Boat School in Brooklin continues to teach traditional building techniques. Hinckley Yacht on Mount Desert Island is well-known for its high quality, luxury pleasure craft. The Grand Lake canoe is the traditional watercraft of Registered Maine Guides, and has served as an emblem of Maine's rich sporting tradition and outdoor heritage for 100 years.



*The Canoe Maker* - Jean Flahive, Donald Soctomah and Mari Dieumegard tell the story of Tobias and his father, David Moses Bridges, Passamaquoddy birch bark artisan, as they seek resources from birch, spruce, and cedar trees to build a canoe according to the "old ways".

## Inspired by Nature

### The first significant collection of Downeast Maine culture

Since being founded in 2002, The Tides Institute and Museum of Art has built the first significant collection reflective of the cultural legacy of Downeast Maine with connections to neighboring Canada.



### Grand Lake Canoe

The Grand Lake canoe is the traditional watercraft of Registered Maine Guides, and has served as an emblem of Maine's rich sporting tradition and outdoor heritage for 100 years.

### Early famous summer residents

Two of the most famous early summer residents in Downeast Maine include the Roosevelts (of Campobello Island) and the Rockefellers (of Mount Desert Island).



Dugout canoes, then birchbark canoes, were important modes of transport for the Wabanahki. Passamaquoddy canoes are known today for the artistry and quality of these boats. David Moses Bridges of Pleasant Point was a celebrated Passamaquoddy Birchbark craftsman and an award-winning artist who received national attention for his work, which ranges from birch bark canoes to traditional birch bark containers.

Lumbering, shipbuilding, and shipping conjoined in Downeast

Maine during the 19th century to further the nation's industrial and trading ambitions. The harbors, forests, and riparian landscape of Downeast Maine were essential to these endeavors. Wooden sailing vessels required vast quantities of peeled and cut lumber for spars, masts, hulls, and planking. Ships often began their maiden voyages loaded with local goods for commerce along the eastern seaboard. A prominent type of sailing ship, developed in Maine in the late 1800's to carry substantially more cargo, was called a "Downeaster." "Downeasters" were typically built in Maine, and their captains often lived in Maine.

Downtown Cherryfield, located on the Narraguagus River was once a booming shipbuilding community, as were many others in the area. Over 90 ships were built and launched from Cherryfield, including the bark Belgrade which rounded Cape Horn with 56 local men during California's gold rush. As ships became larger, builders moved operations to deeper waters in Milbridge,



*Cherryfield Historic District - Downtown Cherryfield, located on the Narraguagus River, was built from the wealth of timber, fisheries, wild blueberries, shipbuilding, and maritime trades. Its architecture includes ornate nineteenth century styles - Federal, Greek and Colonial Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and a large concentration of Second Empire dwellings. The downtown is now a National Historic District with 51 contributing structures.*

at the mouth of the Narraguagus River. The ornate nineteenth century architecture - Federal, Greek and Colonial Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Second Empire - reflects the fine craftsmanship required of sailing vessels. The downtown is now a National Historic District with 51 contributing structures.



Grand Lakes Fishing – Grand Lake Stream and the surrounding East Grand area is a world-renowned fly-fishing destination. The lake system is known for its land-locked salmon. Other freshwater species include white and yellow perch, brook and lake trout, and smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Downeast Lakes Land Trust. Photo courtesy of Downeast Lakes Land Trust.



CHAPTER 7

# Local Resources, Regional Opportunity

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Open Space, Outdoor Recreation, Culture, History & Heritage  
Education Resources, Opportunities, & Integrity.

Chapter 7 addresses four of the ten criteria that must be met to  
receive National Heritage Area designation:

Criteria 1) An area has an assemblage of natural, historic,  
or cultural resources that together represent distinctive  
aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition,  
conservation, interpretation, and continuing use.

Criteria 3) Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve  
natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features.

Criteria 4) Provides outstanding recreational and  
educational opportunities.

Criteria 5) The resources important to the identified theme  
or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of  
supporting interpretation.

National importance is a key aspect in the proposed overall NHA story. Determining national importance requires an analysis of study area resources to determine whether a strategic assemblage of related resources exists that are capable of supporting and expanding upon interpretation of the region's significant stories.

A “strategic assemblage of resources” is a concentration of resources that together support the statement of significance. To comprise a strategic assemblage, these resources must be directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story. The resources must also be fully documented to confirm the resource's significance and integrity. They must be geographically close to one another in order to form a cohesive landscape, be efficiently and comprehensively managed by one coordinating entity, and enable interpretation of the area of significance.

Existing landscape elements represent and contain identifiable assemblages of resources with lasting integrity and associated with one or more of the following topics:

1. Important historical periods of the nation and its people.
2. Major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantially to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore.
3. Distinctive cultures and cultural mores.
4. Major industries and technological, business, and manufacturing innovations/practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantially to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people.
5. Transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce.
6. Social movements that substantially influenced past and present-day society.
7. American art, crafts, literature, and music.
8. Distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements.
9. Major scientific discoveries and advancements.
10. Other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage.

Chapter 6 contains a partial inventory of notable natural, historic, and cultural resources within DownEast Maine. The resources listed here (and others not listed), when woven together, will enable cohesive interpretation of the region’s National important heritage story.

Following each inventory is a list of opportunities identified by community members through surveys, community discussions, conversations at board meetings of regional partners, and one-on-one interviews. These opportunities identify ways to build upon existing resources to expand capacity, strengthen partnerships, and generally create new and more opportunities to connect with and commemorate the people and places that make up Downeast Maine. These lists are in no way exhaustive and will grow as NHA planning continues. Opportunities listed here, and those to follow, will inform the next phase of participation in the National Heritage Areas program – development and promotion of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area.

### A Partial Inventory of Important Cultural & Education Resources

Site/Program/Event	Resources
<b>Passamaquoddy Culture &amp; History</b>	
Waponahki Museum Resource Center, Sipyak	A museum and educational resource center of the Passamaquoddy Tribal culture, language, and traditions. Includes displays, dance, food, language, storytelling, and artist demonstrations.
Wabanaki Cultural Center	The Center preserves the culture and history of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Native American Tribes with artifacts, historical displays, and works of art. Additionally, there is a Touch Tank containing local sea creatures.
Passamaquoddy Cultural Heritage Museum, Motahkomikuk	A museum and educational resource center of the Passamaquoddy Tribal culture, language, and traditions. Includes displays, dance, food, language, storytelling, and artist demonstrations.
Indian Days at Sipyak & at Motahkomikuk	A celebration of traditional and modern Passamaquoddy culture. Includes dance, food, canoe paddles, traditional ceremonies, storytelling, artist demonstrations, and more.

Long Point Preserve	Three miles of trail along Machias Bay at the 180-acre Long Point Preserve. Archeological and cultural resources around Machias Bay date back thousands of years. Part of the ancestral homeland of the Passamaquoddy, Machias Bay also saw early European exploration and is the site of the first naval battle of the Revolutionary War. Hiking, beach, wildlife watching. The trail includes interpretive information about petroglyphs created by the Wabanaki.
Abbe Museum	Collections include 12,000 years of Native American culture and history in Maine. The Abbe hosts archaeological artifacts, publications, a variety of educational programs for the public, special programs for school groups, and an annual Indian Market. The Abbe has permanent and changing exhibitions, ethnographic materials from the 17th through 20th centuries, the largest and best documented collection of traditional Maine Indian basketry, and an extensive contemporary collection. The 17,000 square-foot Abbe Museum includes spacious exhibition galleries, indoor and outdoor program spaces, a research lab and state-of-the-art collections storage. Guided tours, custom tours, K-12 education, educator resources, Gift shop.
Abbe Museum Indian Market	The annual Indian Market enables indigenous artists to connect directly with the community to educate and also sell their wares. AMIM includes performances, educational programming, and the Indigenous Film Festival.
<b>Settlement History</b>	
St. Croix International Historic Site	The only International Historic Site in the world; site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l'Acadie. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River. The US Park features an interpretive trail on a small, wooded point overlooking St. Croix Island. Life-size bronze figures of the French and Passamaquoddy and displays located along the trail tell their story. The Park has a visitor center, restrooms, wi-fi, and ranger on-site to provide interpretive tours.



<p>Burnham Tavern</p>	<p>A National Historic Site and one of 21 homes in the United States designated as most significant to the American Revolution. Once a tavern, now a museum of the site of the First Naval Battle of the American Revolution. The Burnham Tavern is open during the summer, starting with Margarettta Days in June. The museum tour is guided with an historic interpreter.</p>
<p>Fort O'Brien State Historic Site</p>	<p>Also known as "Fort Machias", preserves the remains of a fort that was originally built in 1775 to protect Machias Bay, and destroyed and rebuilt three times over a 90-year period. Fort O'Brien is an open, grassed area with scenic views of Machias Bay. The Park is located behind the elementary school.</p>
<p>Margaretta Days</p>	<p>Annual celebration of the Battle of the Margarettta, the first Naval Battle of the American Revolution and beginning of the US Merchant Marines. Celebrates the Battle of the Rim, when the British returned for revenge for the Margarettta and were run off by the Patriots and their allies, the Passamaquoddy. A Friday and Saturday event held every June at the University of Maine at Machias campus. The event features period re-enactors: soldiers, musicians, trappers, timber framers, weavers etc. and with Passamaquoddy peoples. The event includes food, music, dance, children's activities, storytelling, contemporary artists and crafters, and opportunities to try one's hand at traditional crafts.</p>
<p>Machias Committee of Safety</p>	<p>A group of historical reenactors dedicated to bringing the stories of the Battle of the Margarettta and Battle of the Rim to life. Some of the reenactors are direct descendants of people who actually participated in these battles. The MCOS participates in local festivals, parades and school presentations by way of historical reenactments. They hope to build a permanent living history site, which they call Liberty Village. The village will be approximately 2 acres in size. They intend to build a blockhouse fort, a colonial homestead with a small cabin, root cellar, garden and a smokehouse; wigwams to represent the Native American culture, influence and participation in historical events of the past; open shelters for demonstrations; and picnic areas.</p>

Bastille Day	This family event takes place on the French national holiday and encourages visitors from near and far to experience our Franco-American and Native American cultures through music, food, film, lectures, and children's activities, along with kayaking, historic walking and lighthouse tours.
Fort George	A palisaded earthwork fort built in 1779 by Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War as part of an initiative to establish a new colony. Fort George was the focus of a years-long dispute among the English, French, Indians, and colonialists. The remains of the fort are on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Castine Historical Society walking tour. The Friends of Castine Fortifications has hosted history reenactment events. Fort George is open to the public as part of a state-owned and town-maintained park.
Fort Knox Historic Site	Features one of the best-preserved examples of coastal defense fortifications constructed in the mid-1800s. America's first fort named after Major General Henry Knox. The fort overlooks the city of Bucksport and the mouth of the Penobscot River. The grounds include picnic areas, benches, and short scenic trails. Shakespeare plays, military reenactments, and a haunted tour are examples of events. The Fort is maintained regularly, and preservation work is ongoing. Free interpretive guided tours provided by volunteers are available; reservations for special events (weddings, family gatherings, reunions, business retreats) and group tours may be arranged. Bus tours are welcome. A visitor center includes restrooms, information, guides, and a gift store.
<b>Industry, Villages, &amp; People</b>	
Dennysville Historic District	22 Colonial Revival and Federal style buildings on 300 acres.
Eastport Historic District	29 Italianate and Romanesque buildings.

Castine Historic District	The 18,000-acre District was at the center of colonial conflicts dating to the early 17th century, and the site of military action during the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Bypassed by the railroads, it has retained a village feel reminiscent of the early 19th century. Contains Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival architecture, later Victorian summer houses, remnants of British and American fortifications, and Dice Head Lighthouse.
Town of Cherryfield National Historic District	52 contributing and 10 non-contributing residential and commercial buildings on approximately 75 acres circling the Narraguagus River. The District exemplifies the culture of the historic lumber, shipbuilding, and canning industries. The Cherryfield/Narraguagus Historical Society created a booklet that tells a brief story of each building and its residents within the district. The Society owns the only remaining historically intact railroad station from what is now the Down East Sunrise (rail) Trail - although it was moved from its original location adjacent to Wyman's wild blueberry factory, birthplace of commercial wild blueberry production and canning. The Narraguagus River at Cable Pool Park, just outside the District, was once a world-renowned fly-fishing spot for wild Atlantic Salmon.
East Machias Historic District	Thirty-two buildings on 630 acres include religious buildings, educational structures and homes in East Machias.
Sedgwick Historic District	300 acres with two Greek Revival buildings.
Bar Harbor Historic District	17 buildings on 250 acres representing Late Victorian and Late 19th and 20th Century Revival Styles.
Blue Hill Historic District	Sixty-eight Greek Revival and Federal buildings on 800 acres.

Calais Historic Districts	Three historic districts including buildings in the Italianate, Greek Revival, Queen Ann, and Gothic Revival styles.
Somesville Historic District	Somesville's Historic District is located around Somes Harbor and its environs. There are 30 buildings on 4000 acres, many of which are in the Greek Revival and Federal Styles.
Ruggles House Museum	A museum showcasing Federal design and Adam ornament, including a flying staircase, and original furniture. The home was completed in 1820 for Judge Thomas Ruggles, a wealthy lumber dealer. The Museum is in excellent condition. It is open to the public seasonally and offers a few public events, such as a tea and an ice cream social.
Wilson Museum	A series of buildings began in 1921 to house geologic specimens from around the world. Collections include rocks and fossils from the earliest geologic times that reveal humankind's advances in tool-making from pre-history. Visitors can tour an historic colonial home, and watch craftsmen demonstrate the tools and techniques of their trades, including a woodturner and a blacksmith. The Pump House displays early firefighting history. The Museum provides learning experiences and exploration of the history and cultures of the Penobscot Bay region and world.
Jonathan Fisher House 1814 Historic House Museum	Home of the first Congregational minister of the small village of Blue Hill. Fisher was an artist, farmer, scientist, mathematician, surveyor, and writer of prose and poetry. The house contains remarkable artifacts of the Federal-era, including Fisher's artwork, furniture he built and finished for his family and others, a collection of homemade surveying instruments, a large camera obscura that he designed and built, and an extensive library. A re-creation of Fisher's 1820 orchard is in progress and incorporates a 200-year-old pear tree. Individual, group, and school tours welcome. Public events include antique auctions, history programs, and special events.

<p>Woodlawn Museum, Gardens, and Park</p>	<p>A 180-acre historic estate, home to three generations of the Black family and once a gentleman's farm. Woodlawn's collections, including the original household furnishings, were left as they were when the last member of the family died in 1928. Visitors can tour the historic Black House and formal gardens, play croquet on a championship court, picnic, and hike 2-miles of trails built as exercise tracks for the Black family's horses. Activities include afternoon teas, tours, community events and education programs for community members, school groups, and travelers.</p>
<p>Nathan Gates House</p>	<p>Built in 1810, the historic house museum contains an extensive collection of old photographs, period furniture, housewares and other memorabilia, and a genealogical library. The Marine Room highlights the area's seafaring and shipbuilding past. A model schoolroom and post office and a large collection of carpentry tools occupy the adjacent Cooper House. Offers annual public events such as a summer tea, lobster lunch, and Christmas party .</p>
<p>Sound School House Museum and Research Center</p>	<p>Built in 1892 for the children of the quarrying and farming village of Somes Sound. Served as a community center for dances, suppers, and tag sales. Includes a curatorial wing to house the Ralph W. Stanley Library and the society's collection of historic objects. The Schoolhouse is now a museum and center for scholarship and offers educational programs.</p>
<p>Dr. Job Holmes Cottage &amp; Museum</p>	<p>Home to several early doctors, the Cottage is restored in the image of the 1850 Doctor's home and office. Collections include pictures and maps; medical equipment; an 1847 daybook of calls and charges; herbs, mortar and pestle for making medicines; a traveling medicine kit complete with medicines of that time; a wooden wheelchair; and traveling dentist chair.</p>
<p>Paul Urann House, Sullivan</p>	<p>Built circa 1800 for a prominent early leader of the community. The house is located on a portion of one of the original land grants in Sullivan township. It remains mostly original with little renovation and retains several features of historical significance. Now a house-museum and educational resource maintained by the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society.</p>

<p>La Rochelle Mansion &amp; Museum</p>	<p>La Rochelle is a Georgian Revival mansion built in 1903 by architects Andrews, Jaques and Rantoul of Boston. The estate was built for George Sullivan Bowdoin, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton. The forty-one room, 13,000 square foot lavish chateaux has twelve bedrooms and nine full bathrooms. Beatrix Farrand, one of America's most celebrated landscape architects, designed and planted the original gardens, which can still be viewed to this day. The mansion is now home of the Bar Harbor Historical Society. House museum exhibits include Wabanaki waterfront history and history of life in Bar Harbor, from the grand hotels to ice harvesting. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
<p>Historical Societies</p>	<p>Most historical societies offer some type of public programs for all ages, covering many topics relevant to the history and heritage of Downeast Maine. Historical societies offer exhibits and hold print, photographic, and audio/video archives available for public viewing. Most historical societies are located in historic buildings.</p>
<p>Roosevelt/Campobello International Park</p>	<p>An international park featuring President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt's summer home, includes 2,800-acres with walking and biking trails, beaches, a visitor center. The site can easily handle bus tours. The Roosevelt home contains original furnishings and is viewable by guided tour only, no touching. An adjacent historic home includes a cafe, public gathering in the living room and on the porch, and an expansive mowed field abutting the ocean. Picnic tables and many walking paths are accessible.</p>
<p>Hillside Cemetery Tour</p>	<p>A large and well-maintained cemetery is a scenic location that contains the graves of many early settlers to the area. The cemetery itself has an interesting history of formation. The entire cemetery was moved once, and many graves within it have been moved several times. The history of the cemetery formation and early burial practices is well-documented. The self-guided cemetery tour provides detailed information and stories about the people buried at the cemetery. These stories are a deep glimpse at the greater story of life in Downeast Maine during the 1700s and 1800s.</p>

<p>The Granite Art Garden Center for Art, History, and Sustainability</p>	<p>Preserves the history and art of the granite quarrying industry, which boomed in the 19th century. Visitors can learn about the unique geology of Sullivan, traditional stone working techniques, the quarrymen’s lifestyles, and how quarrying &amp; stone working are important industries today. The Garden also preserves a family legacy and the Back-to-the-Land movement of the 1960 and 70s. Offers trails for biking, walking and skiing; demonstrations; museum exhibits; live music; art openings; classes; and tours. The Garden also offers artist-in-residence programs and internships in forestry, recreation, gardening, historic blacksmithing, woodworking, and stoneworking.</p>
<p>Granite Museum Deer Isle</p>	<p>Preserves the history, practices, and trade of traditional granite quarrying on Mount Desert Island and in Maine.</p>
<p>Maine Granite Industry Historical Society, Seal Cove</p>	<p>The Society houses hundreds of the tools used by the quarrymen, blacksmiths, stone cutters and stone carvers; over 350 historic photos, company ledgers, books, Union badges and constitutions; and the largest collection of books relating to the granite industry and family genealogy writings from the families of the men who worked the quarries.</p>
<p><b>Scenic Byways</b></p>	
<p>Bold Coast Scenic Byway</p>	<p>A 125-mile coastal route that invites visitors to explore the culture, history, wildlife, and rugged beauty of DownEast Maine, including seaside fishing villages, National Historic Districts, important sites of the American Revolution, forests, rivers, coastal cliffs and beaches, and wild blueberry barrens.</p>
<p>Black Woods Scenic Byway</p>	<p>12.5-mile route winding through rugged glacially formed lakes and erratic boulders, and provides plenty of access to fishing, swimming, paddling, and rugged hiking trails with panoramic vistas toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Maine Department of Transportation and Bureau of Parks and Lands have completed extensive upgrades to trailheads, boat launches, and camping areas along the scenic byway.</p>

<p>Schoodic National Scenic Byway</p>	<p>27 miles of commercial fishing communities, historic villages, and bold coastal scenery including lighthouses, and the Schoodic division of Acadia National Park. Public recreation access includes fishing, swimming, paddling, hiking, and biking. Interpretive panels at 7 of the Byway turnouts are specifically designed to help children and their families learn about the cultural and natural heritage of the Schoodic section of Downeast Maine.</p>
<p>Million Dollar View Scenic Byway</p>	<p>Expansive views of the Chiputneticook chain of lakes known for their recreational fishing, wildlife, and wilderness recreation. Vistas include rolling hayfields, Mount Katahdin, Peekaboo Mountain and the landscape of New Brunswick, Canada. The Byway begins in Danforth, a former lumber town in the Baskahegan River Valley. Nearby Weston is the location of an historic portage used by Native cultures and early settlers connecting Baskahegan Stream to Butterfield Landing on East Grand Lake. Travelers may continue north or east to explore scenic byways in Aroostook County or New Brunswick, Canada.</p>
<p>Acadia All American Road</p>	<p>A 40-mile route including the 27-mile-long Park Loop Road through Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. Features beaches, bicycling, foliage, hiking trails, islands, ocean views, and wildlife. Bar Harbor is a haven of historic landmarks, lodgings, eateries, village parks, and excursions like whale watching and interpretive tours. The free Island Explorer bus network connects the Park with inns, campgrounds and the island's village centers.</p>
<p><b>Maritime Culture &amp; Economy</b></p>	
<p>Downeast Fisheries Trail</p>	<p>A self-guided tour spanning Washington and Hancock Counties that connects historic and active fisheries sites to illustrate the region's maritime heritage. The Fisheries Trail map</p>
<p>East Machias Aquatic Research Center</p>	<p>A research and community outreach facility on the East Machias River that includes a fish hatchery, a flow-through fresh water experimental facility, a state certified water quality testing laboratory, a Technical Resources Center, and a small Historic Museum/Education Center. Public tours and events.</p>



<p>Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries</p>	<p>MCCF develops and implements innovative programs that provide value for today's fishermen and drive more sustainable management approaches for future fisheries, and connects the knowledge of fishermen, the findings of scientists, and the world of policy makers. Public programs include a Lunch &amp; Learn monthly talk series and Discovery Wharf with a touch tank, touch wall, and virtual reality station. Their Eastern Maine Skippers Program, implemented in 6 high schools in Downeast Maine, provides students with the core knowledge and skills needed to participate in coastal fisheries.</p>
<p>Little River Lighthouse</p>	<p>A historic lighthouse where visitors can spend the day enjoying the island, host an event, or even spend the night.</p>
<p>Great Harbor Maritime Museum</p>	<p>A former town fire station renovated into a museum that commemorates local maritime heritage. The museum has hosted events ranging from model boat regattas to lectures from notable boat builders and other prominent guests and features changing exhibits. The Museum has archived a number of historic resources on the Maine Memory Network and hosts the Mt. Desert Island Community Heritage site.</p>
<p>Swan's Island Lobster and Marine Museum</p>	<p>The Museum tells the history of fishing on Swan's Island as preserved by two brothers who recognized that it was rapidly disappearing. The museum includes models and a wide range of fisheries artifacts that tell the story of the people who depended on the sea for a livelihood. The museum grounds include nature trails and a "Life Along the Shore" ecology exhibit.</p>
<p>McCurdy's Smokehouse</p>	<p>A complex of buildings once used to smoke herring, now serving as a museum to the cultural and economic significance of the smoking and canning industry.</p>
<p>Schoodic Kids Quest</p>	<p>Seven interactive sites along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway designed to engage children and their families in the region's history, ecology and culture. Mapped sites with interpretive information, Kids Quest activity booklet in progress.</p>

West Quoddy Head Lighthouse	Located inside the 1858 Light Keepers' house adjacent to the lighthouse, the visitor center provides information about lighthouse keepers, sardine canning, and aquaculture history.
Deer Isle Lighthouse Trail	The Deer Isle Lighthouse Tour provides lighthouse enthusiasts an exciting opportunity to view 8 and receive 8 Lighthouse Passport stamps. Three of the lights are visible from the shore of Deer Isle, the other 5 lights can be viewed and/or visited by sea and all 8 can be viewed by air. Maine Open Lighthouse Day in September.
Maine Open Lighthouse Day	Annual event sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, the Maine Office of Tourism and the American Lighthouse Foundation; offers the public the rare opportunity to climb and learn about over two dozen historic Maine lights.
Lost Fishermen's Memorial Park	Built in honor of those lost at sea in pursuit of their livelihood, this memorial sculpture park is located in the heart of downtown Lubec at the picturesque mouth of the channel with intimate views of the turbulent waters of Lubec Narrows, the Roosevelt Campobello International Bridge, and Campobello Island.
Wooden Boat School	A 64-acre saltwater campus where wooden boat enthusiasts can immerse in workshops on the construction, maintenance, repair, design, seamanship and other related crafts, alongside the finest and most knowledgeable boating professionals. Publishes Wooden Boat and Professional Boatbuilder magazines.
Ferry Boats	Island communities rely on ferry boats for regular transportation to and from the mainland. Ferries also allow the public to watch wildlife, sightsee, and access the unique landscapes and culture of island communities.

Active working waterfronts towns	Several communities in Downeast Maine have prioritized preserving their working waterfronts to maintain their fisheries economy and heritage and have some form of public space on or near a working waterfront where both visitors and residents can experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a fisheries industry that is still prominent today. Stonington, Jonesport, Lubec, and Eastport are particularly notable for their commitment to working waterfront preservation and public access near the waterfront.
Lobster Boat Races	Lobster Boat Races , an annual event held in fishing communities all along the Maine coast, originated in the sheltered waters between Jonesport and Beals Island in Downeast Maine. Most competing boats are active lobster fishing vessels. The events attract crowds of locals as well as visitors who raft up on their own boats for floating barbeques or line the waterfronts to cheer the racers on. Races include other community events, such as pancake breakfasts and lobster feeds.
<b>Arts, Music, &amp; Handcrafts</b>	
Abbe Museum	Native American Festival & Basket Makers Market; Indian Market; cultural & historic exhibits, museum store and gallery; educational programs & community events.
Maine Sculpture Trail	The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposiums held over 4 years produced the Maine Sculpture Trail, a 34-piece outdoor exhibit that spans 200 miles of Downeast Maine. The large granite sculptures are located in coastal community parks and public spaces. An interactive online map and paper map guide travelers to each sculpture. The Maine Sculpture Trail is part of the International Sculpture Trail, which extends into coastal New Brunswick, Canada.
The Tides Institute & Museum of Art	A cross-border arts institution emphasizing the cultural ties between Maine and New Brunswick and New England and the Atlantic Provinces. TIMA programs include a StudioWorks Artist-in-Residence Program, an annual cultural guide online & imprint, 120 spherical panoramas, community programs, and a historical and contemporary cultural collection with a focus on art, architecture and history. TIMA also preserves historic buildings in Eastport and incorporates them into their arts programs.

Eastport Arts Center	EAC nurtures and promotes six year-round constituent groups engaged in theater, art, music, film, education and community outreach. EAC collaborates with area schools to introduce students to a variety of artistic disciplines and to foster an understanding of the creative process through hands-on experiences. EAC is a venue for special events and visiting artists and performers, and an array of workshops are offered year-round for all ages.
Lubec SummerKeys	SummerKeys is an immersion in the study and practice of a musical instrument within the context of the beauty of the Downeast Maine landscape. The program is open to all levels – from beginning students to accomplished players. Offering workshops for a wide range of instruments and in photography and public performances.
Stonington Opera House	Stonington Opera House is a multi-purpose performing arts center listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has served as a community gathering space and performing arts center for over 100 years. Programs for youth include poetry and acting. Community programs include performing arts, poetry readings, movies, music, and an artist residency.
Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School & Festival	A program that fosters the art of chamber music through teaching and performance steeped in tradition and artistic excellence. The program seeks to enrich artistic skills and cultural life in surrounding communities, and to represent the highest ideals of ensemble performance. Offers young artist, adult, and Maine student intensive programs, and public performances.
Bagaduce Chorale	Bagaduce Chorale is an auditioned chorus of 80+ singers from throughout Downeast Maine ranging in age from high schoolers to seniors. The Chorale performs both classical and contemporary choral works in concerts featuring keyboard accompaniment and musical ensembles.
The Grand Theatre	The Grand is an historically significant Art Deco theater that provides a range of arts, entertainment, and education programs, including music, performing arts, youth programs, and movies.

Grand Lake Stream Folk Festival	A 2-day family-oriented festival celebrating Grand Lake Stream's natural beauty and unique cultural heritage within the context of a beautiful natural setting. The festival includes traditional and contemporary folk art and handcrafts, history, demonstrations, live music, food, and a children's arts and crafts program.
Campobello Fog Fest	A free, annual, five-day music and art festival on Campobello Island. The event was established to raise awareness of the island's rich cultural history and natural beauty, Fog Fest offers a range of music from classical, gospel and jazz to bluegrass, folk, rock, and country. Venues range from rustic, turn-of-the-century cottages to heritage houses, restaurants, cafes, bars, beaches and parks.
Schoodic Arts for All	A community arts center offering diverse programs and activities including film; live music and performing arts; a variety of arts classes and workshops; and a week-long arts festival each summer.
Bay of Fundy International Marathon	A weekend of cross-border road races that celebrates the international connection between Campobello, New Brunswick Canada and Lubec, Maine. Includes a marathon, half-marathon, and other races.
Alexander Art Trail	AAT is the largest hand-carved outdoor sculpture collection in Maine. It was created as a collaborative effort between a non-profit organization, local landowner, various artists and volunteers. Programs include tours, exhibits, and field trips.
Criterion Theatre	An historic Art Deco theater built in 1932. Live performances, local acts, films, and community events.
North East Historic Film Archive and Alamo Theater	One of 5 historic Film Archives in the USA with the mission of preserving and making accessible the moving image of northern New England and an active town theater.
Art Studios & Galleries	Most communities have public galleries and art studios, and some have prolific arts communities (such as Eastport, Blue Hill, Mount Desert Island, and Deer Isle). Many offer classes or workshops.

Local Talent	Most communities offer live music at pubs and cafes, theaters, outside on community greens, and in community centers. Many are in historic buildings or waterfront parks.
<b>Education Facilities</b>	
Cobscook Institute	CI offers a unique path to a high school diploma through a public four-year high school program for self-motivated, outdoor-oriented, community-minded learners. River Camp is a two-week summer camp for teens interested in outdoor careers, conservation, ecology, and outdoor skill building. CI offers public classes and events around arts, music, & writing. CI hosts Downeast Spring Birding Festival.
Schoodic Institute	SI and Acadia National Park’s partner to manage the largest of 18 National Park Service Research Learning Centers in the United States. SI provides professional development for teachers and helps train a new generation of stewards who will help conserve natural and cultural treasures. Education is integrated with research programs through citizen science, public lectures, art programs, workshops, stewardship, Ranger programs, school field trips., conferences, events, and information sharing. Campus includes lodging, dining, information center, Acadia National Park Welcome Center exhibits and gift shop, classrooms, laboratories, and a modern 124-seat auditorium.
Eagle Hill Institute	The Institute is a scientific and literary organization dedicated to contributing to a greater interest in scholarly and educational pursuits, especially in the natural history sciences. It maintains a natural history and art history library, publishes several peer-reviewed scientific journals, and hosts resident scholars, chamber concerts, lectures, and discussion Forums. The Institute hosts immersive Natural History Training seminars, the annual Natural History Conference, nature retreats, and hiking trails. Art programs, workshops, residencies, and retreats focus on landscapes, nature, and natural history.

<p>Washington County Community College</p>	<p>WCCC is recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the United States for its commitment to student success and educational excellence. The college currently enrolls approximately 450 students in its Certificate, Diploma, and Associate Degree programs in 20 major areas of study. They also offer a liberal studies program where students can earn the first two years toward a baccalaureate degree.</p>
<p>Haystack Mountain School of Crafts</p>	<p>One and two-week studio workshops as well as the two-week, Open Studio Residency program, exhibitions, tours, auctions, artist presentations, and shorter workshops for Maine residents and high school students. Workshops include a variety of fields - science, literature, music, and the visual arts. Haystack publishes annual monographs and organizes a variety of conferences and symposia that examine craft in broader contexts. The award-winning campus was designed by noted American architect, Edward Larrabee Barnes. The series of modest structures perched on a granite ledge overlooking the Atlantic Ocean are built in a vernacular style with local materials and interconnected by a series of walkways that encouraged community while seeming to float above the forest floor.</p>
<p>College of the Atlantic</p>	<p>The 38-acre main campus is located on the ocean in Bar Harbor; off-campus facilities include two organic farms, and two offshore island research stations. Founded in 1969, COA was the first college in the U.S. to focus on the relationship between humans and the environment. College of the Atlantic provides a distinctive educational philosophy, human ecology, which integrates knowledge from all academic disciplines and from personal experience to investigate and improve the relationships between human beings and our social and natural communities.</p>

<p>University of Maine at Machias</p>	<p>UMM is an affordable liberal arts college and close-knit community on a 243-acre campus. The average class size is 17 students, facilitating one-on-one learning. The campus has a series of wilderness walking trails, athletic fields, student dormitories and classrooms. UMM offers ten bachelor's degree programs; three associate degree programs; twelve certificates; 25 minors; 7 degrees and 6 certificates through online, distance learning programs; and 14 certificate pathways for high school students through the UMM Early College program.</p>
<p>Maine Maritime Academy</p>	<p>A public college offering associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees in engineering, management, science, and transportation. MMA's 950+/- students benefit from hands-on education, international sea-time aboard the Training Ship State of Maine or the Schooner Bowdoin, cadet shipping aboard commercial vessels, and cooperative education assignments. Graduates become world-class mariners and engineers, supply chain managers, logistics professionals, and scientists here in Maine and beyond.</p>
<p>Public &amp; Private Elementary &amp; High Schools</p>	<p>Some schools include nature-based or outdoor recreation programs; some offer programs to connect youth with local history. The Eastern Maine Skippers Program of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries provides Downeast Maine students in 6 high schools with the core knowledge and skills needed to participate in coastal fisheries. Sumner Memorial High School's Pathways Program engages students in the design of their educational program for an alternative path to graduation. The program encourages active participation in community projects. Hancock County Technical Center partners with area high schools to offer hands-on career and technical education. Washington Academy, founded in 1792, welcomes students across the region and from around the world; students from 15+ countries currently attend the Academy.</p>
<p>Land Trust Programs</p>	<p>In addition to extensive restoration and advocacy work, Downeast Maine land trusts host education programs, community events, and volunteer events that provide experiential learning to students, the larger community, and visitors to the region.</p>



Library Programs	Most local libraries offer some type of public programs for all ages, covering many topics relevant to Downeast Maine heritage.
Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship	A co-working space and business incubator. MVCE and partners support entrepreneurs and small business owners as they create jobs and community prosperity. MVCE offers coordinated sets of start-up programs, workshops, and events to create skill development opportunities and a deeper sense of community among our small businesses. A mentor program pairs successful local business owners with start-up entrepreneurs and businesses.
<b>Agriculture &amp; Culinary</b>	
Agricultural Wild Blueberry Heritage Center and Virtual Museum	The Heritage Center preserves and shares the ecosystem, culture and history of the Maine wild lowbush blueberry in order to help sustain family farms and encourage aspirations for growth in the industry. The Heritage Center is currently developing learning opportunities for people of all ages across the globe. They hope to open the Center in summer 2021, and the virtual museum is already live.
Maine Wild Blueberry Trail	A statewide self-guided driving tour to help people experience wild blueberries in many environments. Visitors can meet growers & producers, hike trails in natural areas, enjoy wild blueberries at dining establishments, attend community events, and more.
Maine Beer Trail	A “trail” created by the Maine Brewers Guild that connects more than 100 craft breweries across Maine to promote and support Maine brewers. Brewery visitors can find tasting rooms, tours, live music, food and events, or family friendly locations. Beer Trail Passports encourage people to visit more breweries by offering tiered prizes based on number of passport stamps collected.
Maine Wine Trail	A self-guided “trail” created by the Maine Winery Guild that connects 29 wineries across Maine to promote and support Maine vintners and distillers. Winery visitors can find tasting rooms, tours, live music, food and events, or family friendly locations. Wine Trail Passports encourage people to visit more breweries by offering a prize for collecting 10 stamps.

Agritourism Businesses & Farmers Markets	Some farmers and producers in the region offer varying degrees of agritourism opportunities. These include farm stays, tours, workshops, stores, and markets; open farm days; pick-your-own; wineries; and special events. Weekly farmers markets are hosted in many communities across the region.
Machias Wild Blueberry Festival	A weekend packed with events in honor of the wild blueberry, including local blueberry farm tours and pie galore!
Great Sardine and Maple Leaf Drop	A combined Canadian/American New Year's Eve celebration with arts, music, food, and community.
Downeast Salmon Federation Smelt Fry	A rite of spring and fundraiser for wild Atlantic salmon preservation - smelt fry, music, and other activities.
Maine Maple Sunday	A day dedicated to honoring maple producers around the state; local maple farms open their doors for educational tours and maple syrup tastings.
Winter Harbor Lobster Festival	A weekend packed with events in honor of the American lobster, including lobster feeds, games, music, and much more.
Eastport Salmon & Seafood Festival	A gathering in homage to our local seafood resources, especially Atlantic salmon raised in Passamaquoddy Bay. Includes food, arts, theater, music, and more.
Maine Open Farm Day	An annual family adventure for the public to learn about the business of agriculture. Open Farm Day is a choose your own adventure with education for all ages. Farms across Maine have demonstrations, displays, farm-raised products for sale and animals and crops to experience. Activities include barn and field tours, milking, hay-rides, nature trails, tastings and refreshments.
Maine Open Creamery Day	An annual event when creameries around the state invite the public to meet the animals that make the milk, tour the grounds and creameries, learn about the tradition of Maine cheese making, and sample and purchase cheeses.

Maine Wild Blueberry Weekend	A new statewide agritourism event in 2021, initiated by the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission. Farms, restaurants, and any other business or community across the state are invited to offer wild blueberry products.
Downeast Cider + Cheese Festival	3 days of celebrating cider, a historic industry in Downeast Maine, especially Ellsworth, and it's natural companion, Maine cheeses. Tastings, orchard tours, demonstrations, farm market, music, and more.

## Opportunities To Conserve Cultural, Historic, And Scenic Features

### *Cultural*

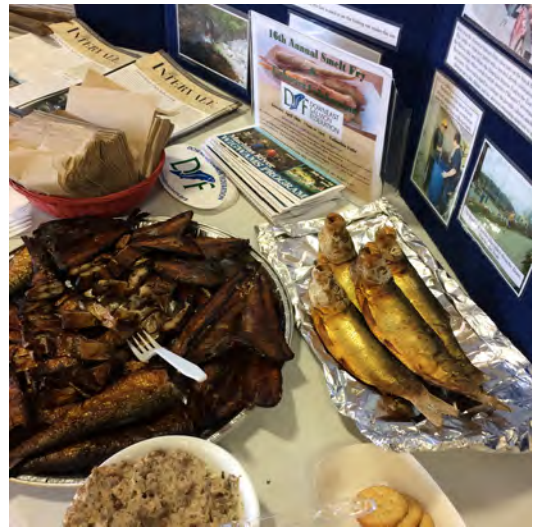
- Collaboration with Tribe, Wabanaki Cultural Center, Wabanaki Heritage Center, Passamaquoddy Museum and Abbe Museum to build capacity at the cultural centers & museum in Sipyak and Motahkomikuk to offer community programming and bring native artisan festivals to Passamaquoddy community.
- Collaboration among the region’s 36 historical societies to develop story-telling tools - walking tours, interpretive panels, audio stories, apps for storytelling, story maps, historical society programs for school and community.
- Include local history in schools, teach the truth of European settlement and treatment of native tribes.
- Offer Passamaquoddy history and language classes by and for both youth and adults. Incorporate Passamaquoddy language into regional interpretive & educational materials.
- Offer Latino history and Spanish language classes by and for both youth and adults. Incorporate Spanish language into regional interpretive & educational materials.
- Develop student and adult programs for learning the history of the place, build strong sense of “This is where I’m from”, or “this is the place I call home”.
- Create a series of historic downtown walking tours that depict a shared heritage of industry, history, culture, and more.
- Offer incentives and assistance for preservation of historic buildings that are eligible for the Historic register – private homeowners and businesses have fewer resources available for historic preservation than do non-profit organizations.
- Build “sister city” relationships with the communities where buildings, streets or other infrastructure were built with granite from Downeast Maine; develop interpretive information about the origin and history of the granite.
- Explore Cultural Planning funds with the Maine Arts Commission.

- Identify and promote a multi-days or week-long three-nation loop route between Lubec, Campobello and Grand Manan islands (Canada), St. Andrews and St. Stephen (Canada), Calais, Sipyak, and Eastport.
- Develop a regional self-guided revolutionary war historic driving tour, including sites and events such as Fort Knox, Castine, Bastille Day, Machias, Margarett Days, and Eastport.
- Utilize smaller historic sites that are open spaces, such as Fort O'Brien, as a public gathering space for community events, like outdoor concerts.
- Middle River Park & Machias River Preserve are good spots for historic interpretation of logging industry, Battle of the Margarett, and Battle of the Rim, and Atusville, a historic black community, although very little documentation on Atusville exists.
- Conduct more community events in restored historic buildings.
- Create new collections of famous artists, petroglyphs, photographers, musicians, etc.

### *Education*

- The region needs outdoor recreation outfitters and more and younger guides. Work with Washington County Community College, Cobscook Institute, and College of the Atlantic to recruit and retain guiding entrepreneurs.
- Get youth involved in community planning, advocacy at local and state levels.
- Heritage stories told by youth – create a method for youth to express what they want to tell those who come after them, their peers, and visitors about this place and what is important for heritage preservation.
- Conduct a community-assets and needs assessment from a youth perspective.
- Multi-generational learning or intergenerational exchange; family learning; mentor-based learning – youth to youth, adult to youth.
- Work with schools to develop heritage-based graduate student projects and college or high school paid internships.
- Engage new residents in volunteer or learning experiences to help them connect with their new place, take advantage of new resident curiosity and desire to build community
- Heritage education about the Revolutionary War/Machias/Wabanaki assistance; raising sheep and hogs on islands and living on islands; lighthouse keepers; ship builders, captains, cargo sea shanties; and genealogy.
- Develop more outdoor classrooms to learn and build community through nature.
- Open space education - science based collaborations with Schoodic Institute and trails, and Ice Age Trail include archaeological and geological resource areas, and Fisheries related Beals Institute, Darling Marine Center, Franklin Aquaculture, Schoodic Heath and bogs, Salmon

- Federation, Conservancies etc.
- Create education tools around marine life and ecosystem in ecologically unique or important bays like Bay of Fundy, Cobscook Bay, and Frenchman Bay.
  - Shared mobile classrooms for science and outdoor programs, similar to Downeast Salmon Federation's mobile alewife smoker.
  - Environmental education partnerships amongst Downeast Fisheries Partnership members. Partners utilize each other's programs for their own teaching and learning.
  - Integrate DFP programs into a holistic education plan toolkit that can be shared with schools and home schools. Teachers can become advocates for youth to take advantage of the programs of the organizations.
  - Introduce kids to their own backyards and outdoor world through school and extra-curricular programs from pre-k forward.
  - Work with Wooden Boat School in Brooklin to provide low-cost and scholarship or grant-funded community boat building camps to build smaller boats for a school or community group to utilize. Rowing or sailing hulls, kayaks, canoes. Learn history, techniques, and styles of DownEast heritage boatbuilding. Learn safe use of the boats and basic array of navigation skills.
  - Expand agritourism in this region to support Downeast Maine farmers and educate residents and visitors about farms and food production, and connect people with farmers, animals, history and tradition, and the land. Design agriculture programs for youth & secondary schools with the Cooperative Extension. Develop a Community Composting program. Conduct on-site agritourism field training.
  - Voluntourism - Develop opportunities to travel with a mission – match travelers with experiences that give back to communities.
  - Develop more ways to boost the local economy through shoulder season expansion.
  - Join the Realize Maine Network program for retention and attraction of young professionals (20-40 yrs. of age) through regional social, civic, and career activities.
  - Grow our population and economy from within through entrepreneurialism as focus, but also outside recruitment.



*Dried Smelts - Downeast Salmon Federation conserves important river, scenic, recreational, and ecological resources with a focus on sea-run fish. The Annual Smelt Fry is a celebration of spring and a delicious community feast. Pictured here are dried smelts for sampling at a community event promoting local foods.*

## A Partial Inventory of Important Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Resources

Site/Program/Event	Description of Resources
<b>Conservation Land - Recreation &amp; Habitat</b>	
Downeast Lakes Land Trust Recreation Trails & Community Forest	DLLT protects 370,000 acres of forest, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and lakeshores that are part of a 1.4-million-acre international wildlife corridor between Maine and New Brunswick and sustainably manages a 55,678-acre Community Forest for wildlife habitat, sustainable forest products, and public recreation. Features include campsites, mapped trails with guides, and signage, education programs and community events.
Downeast Coastal Conservancy	DCC maintains public hiking trails on 12 conservation areas across a variety of settings including coastal islands, water trails, riverside walks, beaches, and mountains on the sea. Features include water access for swimming & paddling, birdwatching, hiking trails, picnic areas, interpretive information. Trails are mapped with guides and signage.
Downeast Salmon Federation	DSF stewards over 6,000 acres of conserved land and 43 miles of river and stream, most of which is open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, or paddling. Several cabins are available for reservation by the public.
Frenchman Bay Conservancy	FBC currently protects 8,000 acres of ecosystems and traditional land uses, including forest, wetlands, coastline, mountains, an organic farm, working woodlot, wild blueberry fields, and waterfront along a wild and scenic river. FBC maintains 28+ miles of year-round public access hiking trails through conservation easements or owned preserves in 12 communities, with scenic vistas, sandy beaches, rocky coastlines and mudflats for recreation and commercial access for clam and worm harvesters.
Blue Hill Heritage Trust	BHHT protects over 10,000 acres of land for wildlife, recreation, scenic beauty, sustainable use and historical importance to sustain ecological and community health and protect traditional livelihoods. Features include mapped & signed trails, water access, interpretive information, picnic areas, and education programs & community events.

<p>Island Heritage Trust</p>	<p>IHT holds conservation easements for habitat preservation on over 771 acres of private land on Deer Isle, including 13+ miles of coastal shore, wildlife habitat, islands, and forests. IHT owns 459 acres on 18 properties with public access to hiking &amp; swimming, including Mark Island and its lighthouse, Settlement Quarry, and Causeway Beach. The DeeriNature Self-Guided Nature Trails offers a digital introduction to the plants and animals of Deer Isle. They conduct environmental education and community events, including the annual Wings, Waves, &amp; Woods birding festival each May.</p>
<p>Woodie Wheaton Land Trust</p>	<p>WWLT protects the watersheds and lands of the Chiputneticook Lakes region, a group of five lakes along the international boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. All owned lands are open to the public for nature-based tourism, traditional recreational use, and aesthetic appreciation of scenic and wildlife values. Features include water access for paddling, camping, and swimming; mapped, signed hiking trails; birdwatching; picnic areas; and one of Maine's last remaining native landlocked salmon fisheries and some of the best smallmouth bass habitat in the United States. WWLT hosts a summer speaker series and community events.</p>
<p>Crabtree Neck Land Trust</p>	<p>CNLT conserves essential wildlife habitat and corridors, scenic viewsheds, and open spaces endangered by development pressure, and to maintain the historic rural character of the Hancock peninsula. CNLT protects more than 400 acres on Crabtree Neck and created 7 miles of trails on 6 public preserves. They manage a Community Garden with 28 plots to teach people how to grow their own food, donate to food pantries, and offer garden-related educational activities.</p>
<p>Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust</p>	<p>GPMCT manages the 4,500-acre Great Pond Mountain Wildlands for wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation, including mountain biking, paddling, and hiking. They are a partner in protection of the 136-acre Nowick Farm for perpetual agricultural and forestry use. GPMCT protects the 6 Phillips Lake Islands, ranging from less than one acre to four acres in size, accessible from water only and open to the public for day use. They protect 72 forested acres with a plethora of vernal pools, including 2 of State Significance.</p>
<p>The Nature Conservancy</p>	<p>TNC protects 2.4+ million acres in Maine, including nearly 2,000 acres of coastal land in Downeast Maine with public access to hiking trails and beaches, and conservation habitat around inland waters.</p>

Maine Coast Heritage Trust	MCHT conserves coastal lands and islands for scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT holds 300+ easements and owns 120+ preserves that are free and open to the public. MCHT also addresses food insecurity by supporting farming on conserved lands. Downeast Maine is home to 35 public-access preserves (and growing) with trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, camping, water access, cabins for rent, and a community garden. Many preserves contain rare and unusual birds, habitat, and plants.
<b>State Public Lands</b>	
Donnell Pond	14,000 acres of remote forested land containing lakes, ponds, and mountains. Hiking trails, boat launches, and numerous primitive campsites on sandy beaches, accessible both by boat and by foot.
Machias River Corridor	60,000 acres of preserved land in the Machias River Watershed, 76 miles of nearly unbroken river shoreline, 252 miles of river and lake frontage, and the country's largest, self-sustaining wild Atlantic salmon run. Machias River is a popular backcountry canoe route. Amenities include remote campsites, boat launches, picnic areas, swimming beaches.
Great Heath	One of the largest peatland systems in Maine and an excellent example of a domed bog ecosystem. The state-owned portion is designated as an Ecological Reserve to protect Maine's biological diversity. Adjacent to the Pleasant River, one of the seven rivers in Maine that support Atlantic salmon. Recreation on the land consists primarily of fishing and paddling on the Pleasant River.
Duck Lake	27,000 acres of forested land with boat launches & campsites.
Rocky Lake	11,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands bordering three lakes (1,555-acre Rocky Lake, 332-acre Second Lake and 275-acre Patrick Lake). Boat launches, picnic areas, 11 primitive waterfront campsites accessible by land and water.
Holbrook Island Sanctuary	An island preserved for wildlife as a natural area. Public access is day use only, and includes a network of several short hiking trails, a boat dock, and a boat mooring.



Cutler Coast	10 miles of hiking trail, 3 remote tent sites, and 4.5 miles of ocean headlands on a 12,234-acres expanse of blueberry barrens, woodlands and peatlands overlooking the Bay of Fundy.
Wildlife Management Areas	Downeast Maine contains 12 Wildlife Management Areas held by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. WMAs provide a statewide, ecologically based system of land holdings for the protection and enhancement of important wildlife habitats and provide opportunities for all types of public recreation, including hunting, ATVing, and snowmobiling. WMAs serve as demonstration areas where the public can see and learn about wildlife and habitat management techniques and practices that could also be implemented on private lands.
<b>State Parks</b>	
Roque Bluffs	274-acres with hiking trail over cliffs and rocky shores, a picnic area, playground, and pebbled beach perfect for swimming, beach-combing, and paddling.
Quoddy Head	541-acres situated on the easternmost point of the United States, with 5 acres of trail winding through forests, bogs, and along the coastline, with the famous Quoddy Head Light and visitor center.
Cobscook Bay	The Park offers 106 campsites on an 888-acre peninsula for tenting and RVs, a boat launch, and trails. The Park is part of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge.
Shackford Head	A diverse trail system allows for easy walks to challenging terrain atop bold cliffs with beach access and scenic views. Trails near the parking area provide some access for wheelchairs.
Lamoine	62 tent & RV campsites on the shore, boat launch, playground, picnic areas, beach.
<b>National Wildlife Refuges</b>	
Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge	Spans 3,801 acres in three towns with trails through pine forests, peatlands, blueberry barrens, marshes, cedar swamps, granite shores, and cobble beaches.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge	One of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges and located in the Atlantic Flyway. 50+ miles of dirt roads and trails for biking and hiking, 3 interpretive trails, and opportunities to tour with wildlife biologists.
<b>National &amp; International Parks</b>	
Acadia National Park - Mount Desert Island	ANP protects the highest rocky headlands along the Atlantic coastline of the United States for its scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and wildlife habitat. ANP is one of the top 10 most-visited national parks in the United States. In total, the Park system includes 27 miles of historic motor roads, 158 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of carriage roads. Recreational activities include car and bus touring; hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding on carriage roads; rock climbing; kayaking and canoeing; swimming; sea kayaking and guided boat tours; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; snowmobiling; ice fishing; camping, and ranger-led programs.
Acadia National Park - Schoodic Peninsula	The Schoodic Peninsula is more secluded than the main body of the Park. It contains 2,266 acres (9 km <sup>2</sup> ), or approximately 5% of Acadia National Park, and receives approximately 10% of ANP visitors. Recreational activities include car touring; hiking; bicycling; kayaking and canoeing; cross-country skiing; snowshoeing; and camping.
Roosevelt/ Campobello International Park:	RCIP on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada is the only existing international park and serves as a memorial to Franklin Deleanor Roosevelt and as a symbol of cooperation between the U.S. and Canada. RCIP preserves Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's historic summer home on 2,800 acres of natural areas with 9 hikes and three carriage roads. Hiking, biking, beaches, picnic areas, historic home tours, Tea with Eleanor, dining, special events, and programs and tours.
St. Croix International Waterway	The St. Croix is part of the Canadian Heritage River System that recognizes important cultural, natural and historical roles rivers had, and continue to have, in shaping the country and the lives of Canadians. The river is an international boundary that divided people with a shared heritage, thus the heritage story is shared by Downeast Maine as well. Approximately 10,000 people paddle the St. Croix each year. Camping available by land or water-only. Paddling, fishing, white water, wildlife watching.

<p>St. Croix International Historic Site</p>	<p>The only International Historic Site in the world; site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l'Acadie. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River. The US Park features an interpretive trail on a small, wooded point overlooking St. Croix Island. Lifesize bronze figures of the French and Passamaquoddy and displays located along the trail tell their story. The Park has a visitor center, restrooms, wi-fi, and ranger on-site to provide interpretive tours.</p>
<p><b>Privately Owned</b></p>	
<p>Birdsacre - Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<p>The 200-acre Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary preserves the home, vision, and achievements of pioneer, ornithologist, and photographer Cordelia Stanwood. Nature trails, Nature Center, Stanwood Museum, Woodland Gardens, picnic areas.</p>
<p>Cobscook Shores</p>	<p>A system of eleven privately owned but publicly accessible parklands along the shores of Cobscook Bay. Walking trails, picnicking, hiking, biking, camping and paddling.</p>
<p><b>Birding</b></p>	
<p>Maine Birding Trail</p>	<p>A self-guided trail encompassing Washington and Hancock Counties, providing birding opportunities in diverse habitat on public lands.</p>
<p>Birding Festivals</p>	<p>Wings, Woods, and Warblers Birding Festival, Downeast Spring Birding Festival, Acadia Birding Festival: Annual birding experience during spring migration and the breeding season that include self-guided explorations, guided hikes, boat tours and presentations led by area experts.</p>
<p><b>Municipal Campgrounds</b></p>	
<p>McClellan Park</p>	<p>A 10.4-acre town park with views of open ocean, coastal cliffs and islands, a campground for tents &amp; RVs. Picnic tables &amp; grills for day use.</p>

Henry Point Campground	An RV & tent campground at the edge of a working waterfront. 20 campsites with picnic table RVs up to 45 feet, no hookups, porta potty for tent campers; water access for fishing & kayaking.
<b>Outdoor Recreation Areas &amp; Activities</b>	
Outdoor Adventure Center at Washington County Community College	The OAC offers adventure programming that brings people together to grow and collectively interact with the natural world. Programs foster collaboration among regional partners, learning, and fun for people of all ages. Ropes course, rock climbing wall, disc golf course, youth sailing & climbing, youth camps, special events, and equipment rentals.
Downeast Sunrise Trail	An 85-mile, multi-use corridor connecting eastern Maine and the head of the East Coast Greenway. Traverses numerous inland habitat types.
Maine Island Trail	A 375-mile recreational waterway that spans the entire coast of Maine and connects over 200 island and mainland sites open for day visits or overnight camping. Access by motorboat or sea kayak.
Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway	A 211-mile on-road bicycling route on quiet rural roads. Connects with the East Coast Greenway, US Bike Route 1, and the Coastal Link Trail in New Brunswick, Canada.
Dedham Trails	4 miles of trails primarily used for hiking, running, nature trips, and mountain biking, with numerous single tracks leading off of it.
East Coast Greenway	A bicycling route that connects 15 states and 450 cities and towns for 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. The northeastern gateway is in Calais at the international border crossing. The route directly connects to bicycling routes in New Brunswick, Canada. Ultimately, the entire route is intended to be off-road. The Down East Sunrise Trail is currently the longest contiguous off-road section.
Land trust group walks & paddles	Every land trust in Downeast Maine offers some degree of group walks and paddles, educational & community events, youth camps, and more.

Registered Maine Guides	Maine Guides have a long and colorful history in Maine. Grand Lake Stream boasts the largest concentration of registered guides in the state. Maine Guides are recognized around the world as the gold standard in their outdoor skills and knowledge. Guides support conservation and education efforts that ensure the future of guiding. They provide quality service, promote safety, obey all laws, cooperate with wildlife officials and landowners, and support conservation and education. Guides are certified in one or more categories: hunting, fishing, recreation, sea kayaking or whitewater rafting.
Foot Races	MDI Marathon, International Marathon, Downeast Conservation Run, Sunrise Trail Relay, Bridge the Gap, and many smaller runs
<b>Fisheries/Hatcheries</b>	
Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery	Craig Brook raises and stocks seven river specific brood stocks of Atlantic salmon for Maine waters. Public facilities include boat launch, picnic areas, nature trail with interpretive signs, an indoor Visitor Center with watershed, stewardship and historical themed displays, library and archives, Atlantic salmon fly fishing museum, conference room and meeting facilities.
Green Lake National Fish Hatchery	A large-scale cold water hatchery that raises eight river-specific strains of healthy Atlantic salmon for recovering endangered Atlantic salmon to Gulf of Maine rivers. Three out of every four Atlantic salmon returning to U.S. waters come from the Green Lake National Fish Hatchery. Tours, education programs.
Grand Lake Stream State Fish Hatchery	One of the oldest sites of fish hatchery activities in the country. Supplies the West Grand strain of landlocked salmon and provides three quarters of the salmon used in Maine's stocking program. Guided tours, education programs.
Peter Gray Hatchery	Downeast Salmon Federation operates the Peter Gray Parr project salmon conservation program, a unique project that uses world class rewilding processes and has had proven success toward the recovery of wild Atlantic salmon. Offers guided tours, citizen science and other community volunteer events.

Down East Institute	A marine research laboratory and education center featuring a large shellfish research and production hatchery that collaborates with community and industry partners to develop methods to adapt to the changing marine environment and create new opportunities.
<b>Geology &amp; Ecology</b>	
Coastal Maine Geopark	An initiative by College of the Atlantic to develop resources and promote experiences that highlight the unique geology of coastal Maine and it's influences on natural and cultural heritage, and to promote sustainable development through geo-tourism.
Maine Ice Age Trail	A self-guided driving tour with 46 of the finest and most accessible sites along the margins of the last great North American continental ice sheet. Printed & online map, downloadable iPad app. An existing map of the trail includes extensive technical information about the geologic significance of each site – available only by purchasing it through the University of Maine at Orono bookstore. The Ice-Age trail comprises many remote and difficult to find sites, some of which are on private property. The sites are not marked.
<b>Night Sky</b>	
Acadia Night Sky Festival	A 5-day event celebrating the dark, starlit skies of Downeast Maine through education, science and the arts. Workshops, internationally recognized speakers, tours, and hands-on experiences.

## Opportunities for Open Space and Outdoor Recreation

### *Natural/Open Space*

- Strengthen Downeast Maine communities by restoring a strong and resilient ecosystem and our regional fisheries economy
- Host community wide Enviro-thons for all ages, family and friends teams, business teams, etc.
- Educate community members and work with community leaders to address climate change & sea level rise related to local industry and infrastructure. Redesign downtowns to include greenspaces as floodplains.
- Recognize and honor the region's industrial past and support an industrial future within the context of natural resources heritage and coordinated with open space preservation and sustainable practices.

- Develop more community forests to connect communities with nature and utilize the resources at community level.
- Seek Wild and Scenic River status for the Machias River. Machias contains the greatest amount of juvenile-rearing habitat and has the highest estimated smolt production of the state's eight wild Atlantic salmon rivers. The river system supports a rich array of wading birds, waterfowl, neotropical migrants and grassland species. This region of Maine is considered a Globally Important Bird Area, with the occurrence of at least 180 species of birds, including 23 warblers. Create multi-sport connections between the Machias river waterway and the Grand Lakes system – bike, hike, paddle, camp.
- Develop creative interpretation for the National Wildlife Refuges geared toward locals that is engaging and timeless. Ideas from NWR staff include expanded use of social media; podcasts with shorts that are relevant to today, seasonally & site specific; install webcams at public places to view wildlife; virtual reality exhibits
- Partner with Coastal Maine Geopark to build out supporting infrastructure to guide visitors to these sites with user-friendly information, develop educational toolkits for schools. Geositemaps, itineraries, and interpretive information; further development of the Maine Ice Age Trail; sites for school & community education; self-guided scenic & educational tour.
- Expand the Acadia Night sky festival with small events across the region, coastal and inland on the lakes, in the wild blueberry barrens. Can even extend from a week to two weeks if events are staggered.

### *Outdoor Recreation*

- Address voids in recreation infrastructure by connecting trails to create more regional systems, building off the Down East Sunrise Trail.
- Expand the number of boat tour operations – kayaking, whale watching, lobster and lighthouse tours.
- Create more camping and glamping opportunities.
- Develop and map more bike routes, both



*Calais Waterfront Walkway – The Calais Waterfront Walkway, once part of the Maine Central Railroad, is a grassy riverside promenade in downtown Calais. The Walkway marks the easternmost trailhead of two national bicycling routes connecting Key West, Florida and Calais (East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1), and the 211-mile Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway connecting Calais and Milbridge. The Calais Walkway mirrors another riverside promenade and multi-use trail a stone's throw across the international St. Croix River in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada. Photo courtesy of Kristine Keeney.*

- on- and off-road; attract biking events - gravel grinds, slow rides; develop local bike clubs.
- Develop the Eastern Maine Canoe Trail
  - Improve facilities at trailheads – maps, information, toilets; upgrade existing camping, hiking, and boat launch facilities.
  - Provide information about camping, bathrooms, etc., explore creating an app in partnership with Maine trail finder.
  - Develop educational tools to help residents and visitors become better stewards of the land.
  - Connect trail users with land trusts to help them understand non-profit or private partnerships versus state and federal lands and land management.
  - Find funding and human resources to increase capacity for trail upgrades and maintenance to keep up with increased use. Nurture a recreation land management collaboration across the two counties to address increased visitation.
  - Develop “trail-running” summer positions to help identify and address or report on the growing incidences of littering, squatting, and illegal fires and camping.
  - Develop community “work parties” reminiscent of a good old-fashioned barn raising to bring people together to help develop and maintain infrastructure.
  - Assist schools to connect with or develop nearby recreation trails.
  - Leverage conservation lands to bring more value to communities – to help offset tax breaks for forest, ag, open space reductions
  - Promote area to potential new residents for outdoor recreation as quality of life.
  - Collect trail use data to back up grant applications and provide information to municipalities about the economic benefits of outdoor recreation.
  - Develop and promote winter sports events and challenges
  - Develop both introductory and immersive experiential recreation tours; engage all age groups, fitness levels, children.
  - Develop pet-friendly parks; a dog park.
  - Improve boat launches, parks, trails, and other public infrastructure in village areas to create active outdoor downtown hubs.
  - Develop East Coast Greenway & Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway gateway infrastructure & cultural information at Calais - Bike shops, bike rentals, bike storage, bike shipping @ city building, DEST brochure & map updates.
  - Develop safer and varied bicycling routes that offer routes for all skill levels to encourage fitness, community, and fun.
  - Connect the three annual Birding festivals each May and June to expand participant opportunities to engage with birding. Create incentives and opportunities for community members and school or youth groups to participate. Update DownEast Acadia Birding Trail map and build out information on DART and other websites.



- Develop community-run recreation equipment shares.
- Continue Bicycles Welcome training in partnership with Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

## Conclusion

Downeast Maine includes supporting resources, such as museum collections, archives, and organizations with interpretive and educational programs that convey the themes associated with the potential National Heritage Area. Roadside markers and interpretive signage near sites provide additional information about past events that shaped the region's history and resources that are no longer extant or publicly accessible. These educational resources support the interpretation of the study area's history and provide additional context related to the identified themes that could support any future activities or growth of a potential national heritage area.

*Given the number of resources that meet NHA criteria for direct association and integrity, the study team finds that there are enough natural, cultural, and historic resources to form a nationally significant landscape and to support the efficient management of such resources as a National Heritage Area.*

The study area has diverse resources associated with the themes associated with Downeast Maine that have a direct association with the identified nationally significant story and adequate physical integrity to support public interpretation. Additional supporting resources that also represent the distinctive aspects of Downeast Maine, such as museums and existing organizations, provide historic and natural context, contribute to visitor opportunities, and reflect the ecological and cultural landscape of the study area. Overall, the study team believes that this resources inventory meets the threshold for a “strategic assemblage of resources” needed to be eligible for NHA designation.



Stonington Harbor, Foggy Sunset – Deer Isle is the launching point for some of the most beautiful islands along the 375-mile Maine Island Trail. The Trail is a collection of over 240 wild islands and mainland sites open to the public for day use or overnight camping. Trail sites in both public and private ownership are based on a mutual commitment to coastal access and land stewardship. Therefore the sites, usage guidelines, and stewardship strategies are adjusted regularly to meet changing environmental conditions.



CHAPTER 8

# Alternatives to NHA Designation

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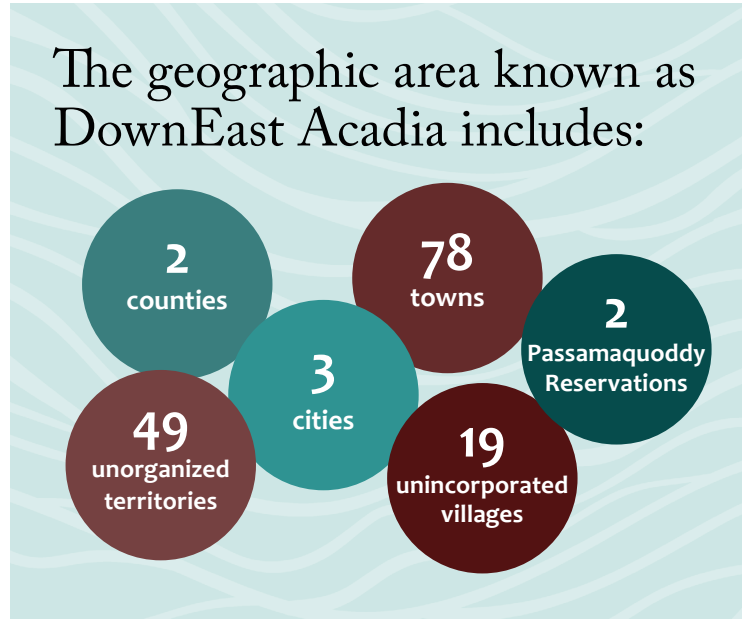
Chapter 5 outlines three possible management methods, and boundary alternatives, and assesses any anticipated or potential impacts of each. Proposed boundaries are described in detail within Chapter 1, Introduction. Management methods outlined in Chapter 5 include:

1. Status Quo continuation of existing initiatives with no change
2. Local or state operation of a heritage area without federal designation
3. Federal designation as a National Heritage Area

## Alternative 1 – Maintain Status Quo

Alternative 1 explores management of the region by continuation of the status quo with references to any known changes that may occur, including any state or local initiatives that may affect the region.

In this alternative, the existing DownEast Acadia Region remains unchanged. No additional technical assistance or funding is provided through the National Park Service for coordination, interpretation, preservation, or heritage development purposes. The current level of heritage development activities continues as a patchwork of relatively independent initiatives. Since no federal funding or technical assistance support would be assumed, all resources for heritage development would be sought from the same limited state and local sources used in the past.



The geographic area known as DownEast Acadia includes two counties, 78 towns, 3 cities, 49 Unorganized Territories, 19 Unincorporated Villages, and 2 Passamaquoddy Reservations. A great number of local governments, non-profits, and community organizations manage diverse economic and community development initiatives across this geographically large and rural region, and ultimately compete with each other for both human and financial resources. For many decades our region has experienced challenges that reduce pride in place and limit economic and cultural opportunities. Organizations and local governments have made great strides to overcome these challenges and build a better future. A fierce loyalty to history, tradition, the land, and to community fuels these advancements.

Status Quo reveals that, although public entities across the region generally recognize and embrace collaboration and partnership as the best approach to building local quality of life, manifesting this vision is a long-standing challenge. Our cultural tendency toward self-reliance and our rural geography creates many separate but parallel - and sometimes redundant - efforts. Most entities across the region are stretched to capacity. Our inability to coordinate and create

stronger cohesion across our many similar missions erodes our ability to achieve these missions. Commitment to exploring collaborative opportunities is critical if we want to preserve and build upon our core community values through the inevitable phases of cultural, economic, and environmental change. The current pattern of managing many separate efforts utilizing a limited pool of resources will not bring the results we all seek.

*Maintaining Status Quo hinders the ability of the DownEast Acadia region to reach its true potential for conservation, preservation and interpretation of the region's nationally and locally significant cultural, historic, and natural resources. It hinders citizens ability to learn about or interact with, let alone value, their heritage and the surrounding landscape that helped shape them. It limits the region's capacity to develop economically vital heritage and outdoor tourism assets. It limits capacity to create cohesive experiences that tell a full story of the people and places that make our home special. Our Status Quo does not enable us as a region to build upon and leverage our mutual heritage and visions. It does not enable us to prioritize investments and development that affects individual communities and collective communities.*

## Alternative 2 – Local or State Management as a Heritage Area

Alternative 2 explores potential for local or state operation of a heritage area, independent of a federal NHA designation. This alternative includes a description of likely funding sources and potential for resource protection, interpretive programming and other potential outcomes under state or local administration.

The state of Maine does not have a heritage tourism program or a state heritage area program. The Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD) houses the Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) and Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation. DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism works closely with both Offices to identify and promote culture and recreation unique to this region. MOT works with a Cultural Tourism Consultant and employs a Destination Development staff position. The Destination Development Specialist works with the Maine Woods Consortium to support tourism in the rural Maine Woods communities. The Bold Coast and Grand Lakes

regions of DownEast Acadia are destinations identified as priorities for state-level assistance with destination development.

Key components of state-wide marketing conducted by the Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) are outdoor recreation, scenic beauty, Maine-made products, and local culture as key components. MOT utilizes an independent contractor to assist communities and organizations in cultural heritage programs and houses a staff person dedicated to community guided Destination Development. The Maine Office of Tourism is a critical partner in marketing and promotion of the region.

The Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) manages 14 State and National Scenic Byways. The National and State Scenic Byways programs support community-guided planning to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance unique intrinsic resources to elevate economic prosperity by broadening recreational and educational experiences for travelers. They also support education, conservation, and outdoor recreation opportunities for residents.



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SCENIC BYWAYS

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The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.



*Paid advertisement by DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism, from the 2021 issue of Maine Invites You, the official visitor guide for the State of Maine.*

The DownEast Acadia region is home to five Scenic Byways, three of which are National. All of these Byways are predominantly promoted by DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism and MOT. The Bold Coast Scenic Byway was awarded National designation in February 2021. With this designation could come funds for basic infrastructure along the Bold Coast Scenic National Byway. The Schoodic National Scenic Byway has no State funds but does have good infrastructure and a solid volunteer management team able to raise minimal project funds from municipalities and foundation grants. The Black Woods Scenic Byway currently has adequate State funds for planning and some infrastructure and management. The Acadia All-American Road, Million Dollar View Scenic Byway, and Bold Coast National Scenic Byway do not currently have any planning or implementation funds.



Million Dollar View Scenic Byway – This State Scenic Byway begins in Danforth, a former lumber town in the Baskahegan River Valley. Nearby Weston is the location of an historic portage used by Native cultures and early settlers connecting Baskahegan Stream to Butterfield Landing on East Grand Lake. The Chiputneticook chain of lakes seen from the Byway are known for their recreational fishing, wildlife, and wilderness recreation. The scenic turnout provides unspoiled vistas of Mount Katahdin and Peekaboo Mountain. Photo by Meg Keay

*Maine does not have a state or national designation program beyond the Scenic Byways program. The Scenic Byways program is highly important to regional efforts to elevate DownEast Acadia as an exemplary place to visit and immerse oneself in the unique culture, history, and landscape. However, it does not alone provide the breadth and depth of technical and financial assistance needed to advance heritage preservation beyond its current status in a meaningful way.*

### Alternative 3 – National Heritage Area Designation

Alternative 3 explores management through full Congressional NHA Designation. This alternative looks at likely increases in funding and potentials for resource protection, interpretive programming and other positive or negative results of designation.

The NHA program provides resources to aid development of programs and infrastructure that highlight locally important aspects of the people, history, and landscapes. It builds collaborations across interest groups that build capacity to organize & plan regionally and achieve mutual goals.

The National Heritage Area program supports people, environment, and the economy by recognizing the nationally significant cultural & natural heritage of a place. It nurtures a long-term ethic of stewarding important heritage resources by connecting people with the place where they live. The program contributes to quality of life through engagement of residents, especially youth and families, in telling our united but separate stories.

Designation as a National Heritage Area will create the need for an organization to become the official managing entity and representative of the NHA. This managing entity would be responsible for creating and implementing the Management Plan, which guides development

# Alternatives Comparison

## Alternative 1 Maintain Status Quo

- The region remains unchanged.
- No funding provided by National Park Service for development purposes.
- Hinders the ability of the Downeast Maine to reach its true potential
- Hinders citizens ability to value their heritage and the surrounding landscape that helped shape them.

## Alternative 2 Local/State Management

- Lack of local capacity to manage yet another program without dedicated staff and funding.
- “The Maine DOT and National Scenic Byways programs do not alone provide the breadth and depth of technical and financial assistance needed to advance heritage preservation beyond its current status in a meaningful way.

## Alternative 3 NHA Designation

- Provides resources to aid development of programs and infrastructure.
- Builds collaborations across interest groups.
- A managing entity would be responsible for maintaining a relationship with the National Park Service
- Reduced competition and duplication of local efforts.

and promotion of the program. The managing entity would be responsible for maintaining a relationship with the National Park Service. Any federal funding for the NHA would come to the management entity for administration and distribution of the program activities.

The National Heritage Area would be operated locally by a collaboration of community members from organizations, municipalities, businesses, educators, and individuals. Improved coordination and collaboration between heritage groups will improve regional strategies for heritage education and preservation, reduce competition between heritage groups, and reduce duplication of efforts. Improved coordination and collaboration through co-management is an opportunity to more effectively organize and deliver programs regionally rather than just locally, and jointly rather than independently.

The NHA program is an important tool to develop a sustainable tourism industry founded in local culture and outdoor heritage. Heritage-based tourism and outdoor recreation are large and growing economic industries for Maine and for DownEast Maine. DownEast Maine already attracts people interested in outdoor recreation and small communities, and we anticipate this will continue into the future.

Designation would bring national recognition to the region’s heritage and attract more people interested in connecting with the people and the place. With NHA Designation, museums, interpretive centers, historical societies, and other heritage venues would likely attract more



visitors and grow their membership and fundraising bases. Current efforts undertaken by individual organizations could be leveraged to strengthen, align, and coordinate advocacy, heritage stewardship, and educational activities.

Coordinated interpretation of individual resources would emphasize the interconnected nature of historic sites, linking resources to each other and communicating the bigger story

in a more holistic fashion. this will increase awareness of existing resources and attractions and show how the region's stories relate to one another, enabling visitors and regional residents to easily see and travel to other sites.

National recognition, effective cooperation between diverse heritage groups, and the opportunity to promote broader regional development goals could attract funding from larger foundations, allow competition for new funding related to economic development, and provide access to granting programs that individual organizations either are not eligible for or for which they would not be competitive. New funding would support activities of the Heritage Area and support a granting program to fund local organizations working to implement NHA management goals.

*Designation as a National Heritage Area provides incentive and structure for constituent organizations to develop regional programs and priorities, identify cooperative strategies for implementation, and work in partnership with local communities, state and federal agencies, and tourism organizations. Downeast Maine is rich with organizations, local governments, community groups, business owners, and individuals who share the same values. Based on our need to develop stronger regional collaboration amongst our many existing heritage organizations, NHA designation provides the best framework and support for heritage organizations to more effectively implement our mutual and complementary goals.*

*Organizations and communities have an opportunity to proactively support development that reflects and continues important community values and livelihoods. If communities actively build upon their unique heritage stories, people will have greater awareness and understanding of our local culture and values. As people put their collective energies into protecting and sharing their stories with the world, it becomes more likely that people who visit and move to this region are aware of the personality and offerings of the place and people, and purposefully choose to be stewards of locally-important aspects of national heritage.*



*Lubec Sunrise - Lubec is a working waterfront community perched on the rugged edge of the Atlantic Ocean, and is the easternmost town on the continental United States. During the spring and fall equinoxes, the first sunrise to light up the nation occurs at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse. Photo by Jerry Monkman.*



CHAPTER 9

# Local and Regional Economic Activity

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Chapter 9 examines how the natural and cultural resources within a proposed Heritage Area might be affected by becoming a National Heritage Area.

Chapter 9 evaluates Criterion 8 of the required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

Criteria 8) The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.

Chapter 9 evaluates the following elements of

DownEast Maine:

**Data on:**

*Population and socio-economic conditions*

*Land use*

*Transportation*

*Tourism*

*Business and industry*

*Air and water quality*

## Consistency with Continued Local & Regional Economic Activity

Communities across Washington and Hancock counties share a goal to preserve and develop our natural and cultural heritage for economic stability and continuation of our unique and beloved way of life. Regional plans and programs for economic development, land use planning & zoning, preservation of wildlife and habitat, public services, workforce development, and quality of life include, as key elements of their success, preservation and expansion of our important heritage assets.

Regional and local economic and community improvement strategies highlight investment in public infrastructure and services, business and workforce expansion, development of housing, and attraction and retention of residents. Investments in natural resource protection support strategies critical to our region's heritage: fisheries, forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, outdoor recreation, hunting/fishing, nature-based tourism, wildlife habitat, ecosystem health, scenic beauty, and the arts.



*Carriage Roads - The Carriage Roads and stone bridges in Acadia National Park were financed and directed by philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr., between 1913 and 1940. The 57 miles of woodland roads were designed for use by hikers, bikers, horseback riders and carriages. Forty-five miles of road are within what is now Acadia National Park. Granite from Hall Quarry on Mount Desert Island was quarried and transported by the construction crews for road material and bridge facing. Photo by Shelley Van Camp.*

A National Heritage Area Feasibility Study must show that NHA designation and ensuing programs and projects will continue locally planned economic activity in the proposed Heritage Area. This

chapter provides information to assess the potential positive or negative implications for the following potentially “affected areas”:

- Population and socio-economic conditions
- Land use and transportation
- Tourism, business and industry

## Regional Demography, Economy, Infrastructure & Environment

### *Population and socio-economic conditions*

Demographics (per 2010 Census)	Washington County	Hancock County
Population	33,000	54,000
Population Density Per Square Mile	12	34
Most Populous Community	3,123	7,471
Median Household Income	\$34,859	\$47,533
Median Family Income	\$43,612	\$60,092
% Families Below Poverty Level	14.1	6.8
% Population Below Poverty Level	19.8	11.5
% Poverty Level for Ages 18 and Under	29.3	17.2
% Poverty Level for Ages 65 and Over	12.4	7.3

The proposed National Heritage Area incorporates parts of both Washington and Hancock Counties. The two counties share a similar heritage but have very different socio-economic and population conditions.

As of the 2010 Census, the population of Hancock County was just over 54,000, with a population density of 34 people per square mile of land. The most populous community in Hancock County is Ellsworth, with 7,471 people. The median income for a household was \$47,533 and the median income for a family was \$60,092. About 6.8% of families and 11.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 17.2% of those under age 18 and 7.3% of those age 65 or over.

At this same time, the population of Washington County was just under 33,000, with a population density of 12 people per square mile of land. The most populous community in Washington County is Calais, with 3,123 people. The median income for a household was \$34,859 and the median income for a family was \$43,612. About 14.1% of families and 19.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 29.3% of those under age 18 and 12.4% of those age 65 or over.

### *Land Use*

The DownEast Acadia region remains one of the least developed areas of Maine. Land cover includes coastline and islands, maritime spruce and mixed hardwood forests, agricultural land, wild blueberry barrens, and mountains, lakes, rivers, marshes, and wetlands. Much of the DownEast Acadia region is rural, with more compact development concentrated in downtowns



*Klondike Mountain Sunrise - This 46-acre preserve was originally owned by a local family which raised dairy cows and apples in the surrounding pasture near the base of the mountain. The name of the mountain references the intriguing story of two men who, in 1897, devised a scheme claiming that they could extract gold from the nearby seawater. These men worked as con artists who—after hiring hundreds of workers and collecting funds from investors—fled the area never to be prosecuted for their deception. Photo by Cathy Lookabaugh.*

Land Use		
	Washington County	Hancock County
Size – Square Miles	3,258	2,345
Land	2,563	1,587
Water	695	758
% Conserved Land	25	12
# Towns	42	36
# Cities	2	1
# Unincorporated Villages	0	19
# Unorganized Territories	34	15
# Indian Reservations	2	0

and villages. The most urban commercial and industrial development occurs in Bucksport, Ellsworth, Bar Harbor, Machias, Eastport, and Calais.

Hancock County comprises 36 Towns and 1 City, 19 Unincorporated Villages, and 15 Unorganized Territories. Hancock County has a total area of 2,345 square miles, of which 1,587 square miles is land and 758 square miles (32%) is water.

Washington County comprises 42 Towns and 2 Cities, 34 Unorganized Territories, and 2 Indian Reservations. Washington County has a total area of 3,258 square miles, of which 2,563 square miles is land and 695 square miles (21%) is water.

Nearly 20%, or 702,654 acres, of the entire region are held in public or private conservation status with some restrictions on development.

Over 12% of Hancock County’s total land area is conserved land; 25% of Washington County’s is conserved.

## *Municipal Planning, Zoning, and Infrastructure Development*

Very few communities in Washington County employ zoning ordinances beyond minimum Shoreland Zoning and Subdivision regulations required by the State of Maine. More towns in Hancock County employ zoning ordinances than in Washington County, but a large number do not. Those communities who do have zoning include minimal land use restrictions and design standards. Towns either have minimal or no sign standards outside of the public way.

Viewshed protection is accomplished primarily by private and municipal efforts through conservation purchases and donations. Some landowners voluntarily allow viewshed maintenance by municipalities or the Maine Department of Transportation. Scenic Byways in the region do not protect or otherwise regulate viewsheds; no community in DownEast Acadia has an open space or scenic viewshed overlay or ordinance.

Most communities within DownEast Acadia do have Comprehensive Plans, which provide the baseline for creation of land use zoning; many plans have expired and will need updating.

Many of our coastal communities have harbor management plans and work with state and federal agencies to procure lifelong access for commercial fishermen.

Some communities have downtown revitalization or bike/ped improvement plans in place and implement them as they can. Towns utilize Community Development Block Grant, Maine Coastal Program, and Recreational Planning funds for local improvements.

The Land Use Regulatory Commission governs land use in Unorganized Territories. Washington County completed a Community Guided Planning and Zoning process between 2015 and 2018. The plan lays out guidelines for land use that retains the abundant natural resources our economy depends upon while allowing for development that advances economic and community goals for the future.

## *Transportation*

The Maine Department of Transportation partners with municipal governments, the Tribes, and regional planning organizations to assess, plan for, and implement transportation improvements. DownEast Acadia is bound together through a broad heritage, which includes transportation routes for employment, family, personal, recreation, and leisure travel. Seven major collaborative, two-county transportation planning projects have been conducted and updated in the past decade - including two scenic byways and a multi-use trail.



The Downeast Coastal Corridor is the major east-west transportation network connecting US Route 1, Bangor International Airport, and Interstate 95 with the coastal regions of Hancock and Washington County. Included are US Route 1 from Bucksport to Calais, State Route 9 from Bangor to Calais, and myriad minor arterial routes. Collector routes serve as connectors and short-cuts between the major arterial highways.

US-1 and SR-9, the primary highways, carry passenger and freight traffic. US-1 carries a larger percentage of commuter and tourism traffic and serves as the main street for many corridor communities. SR-9 carries a greater percentage of freight traffic, and also serves as a major international travel connection for passenger and freight service between Canada's Maritime Provinces and the interstate I-95 corridor in Bangor.



*Down East Sunrise Trail - Active transportation routes include the 87-mile multi-use Down East Sunrise Trail, the 211-mile Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, and two bicycling routes from southern Florida to Calais – the East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1. The bicycling routes connect with international routes just across the Canadian border, and ATV/Snowmobile trails connect to northern Maine and Canada. Photo courtesy of Sunrise Trail Coalition.*

The DownEast Acadia region is served by Bangor International Airport and the Hancock County-Bar Harbor Airport. Bangor International Airport provides national and international commercial passenger and freight services, as well as civil defense operations. Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton offers chartered flights and regularly scheduled daily commuter service to Boston, Massachusetts. Car rental services are available at both airports. Several small municipal airports in each county serve private planes and emergency flights.

Minimal public transportation exists in DownEast Acadia, causing challenges to those seeking alternatives to single-passenger transportation. Downeast Transportation offers year-round bus service from Bar Harbor and Ellsworth to Bangor; West's Coastal Connection Bus Service offers daily service from Calais to Bangor. Concord Bus lines in Bangor is near the Bangor International Airport and connects with both DownEast Transportation and West's Coastal Connection. The

Island Explorer features ten seasonal bus routes linking lodging with destinations in Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island and neighboring village centers.

Bucksport is a major port for inbound fuel shipments and Eastport hosts deep-water commercial shipping for pulp, paper and other bulk commercial cargo. Numerous smaller harbors support commercial fishing, recreational boating, cruise ships, and transient yachting or sailing. Smaller cruise ships visit Bucksport and Eastport, while cruise ships of all sizes visit Bar Harbor.

Active transportation routes include the 87-mile multi-use Down East Sunrise Trail, the 211-mile Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, and two bicycling routes from southern Florida to Calais – the East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1. The bicycling routes connect with international routes just across the Canadian border, and ATV/Snowmobile trails connect to northern Maine and Canada.

### *Tourism, Business, and Industry*

For the past two-plus decades communities within DownEast Acadia have partnered locally, regionally, and with state agencies to plan and implement projects, programs, strategies, and policies that leverage cultural and natural resources as an economic and community development tool. Although the plans, policies, and programs are varied and the oversight organizations are diverse, they all share a goal of health, education, continuity, and prosperity for the human, environmental, cultural, historic, business, and scenic assets of DownEast Acadia communities.

The Aroostook/Washington Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) vision statement is that:

“Our region is a place of abundant natural resources that is reflected in the beauty of our landscape and the potential for economic and social prosperity it offers. We value the individuality and endurance of our people while recognizing the strong sense of community and place that sustains us. We will create economic growth by focusing on sectors that best leverage these assets and by working to develop policies that promote private sector investment; while at the same time, retaining the quality of life that makes the region special.”

The Eastern Maine CEDS, which includes Hancock County, offers a vision to “Improve economic opportunity and increase wealth for the EMDC region’s communities, businesses and individuals”. Concepts to achieve this include forest products economy, emerging opportunities, sustainability and growth of businesses, leveraging assets, and advancing shared goals.

Sunrise County Economic Council's five-year Strategic Plan intends to initiate and facilitate the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County. Some key goals for regional economic development are to:

- Increase business investment capital
- Support new economic development opportunities
- Improve essential transportation infrastructure
- Strengthen the local food system

Regional economic development and municipal planning entities primarily involved in coordinating this work include:

- Sunrise County Economic Council
- Hancock County Planning Commission
- Northern Maine Development Commission
- Eastern Maine Development Corporation
- DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism
- Maine Downtown Center
- Island Institute
- Maine Sea Grant
- CEI
- Maine Small Business Development Center

State agencies closely engaged in regional economic development efforts in DownEast Acadia include:

- Maine Department of Transportation
- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
- Maine Department of Economic and Community Development
- Maine Office of Tourism
- Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation
- US Department of Environmental Protection Brownfields Redevelopment

### *Tourism*

The travel and leisure industries contribute significantly to the economy of DownEast Acadia, a fact which has been mis-understood in the past but became painfully clear with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism is the officially designated Destination Marketing Organization for the region (per Maine Office of Tourism (MOT)).

DART's primary mission is to promote tourism in DownEast Acadia, Washington and Hancock Counties. DART works with organizational partners and businesses to provide opportunities for collaboration, education, product development and other programs to strengthen the position of the DownEast Acadia Region as an exemplary place to live, work, and play.

DART is composed of entities who work together to develop, manage, support and promote the best natural, recreational, and cultural assets in Washington and Hancock Counties. DART members and partners include chambers of commerce, economic development groups, regional planners, educational institutions, municipalities, professional business organizations, recreation and conservation groups, cultural/heritage groups, historical societies, business owners, state agencies, and more.

Examples of successful tourism-based, citizen-led economic development projects directly resulting from regional collaborations include:

- 5 State & National Scenic Byways
- Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway
- Downeast Fisheries Trail
- Maine Sculpture Trail
- Maine Ice Age Trail
- DownEast Acadia Birding Trail
- Down East Sunrise Trail
- A large and growing network of public access on conservation lands
- 6 Maine Downtown/Main Street America Affiliate communities

The Washington/Aroostook CEDS outlines these tourism goals:

- By 2023, increase overall dining and tourism revenues by 25%, employment by 15%, and grow non-peak season events by one a year.
- Market Aroostook and Washington County jointly to attract visitors and encourage longer stays.



*Cultural Appeal – The accoutrements of the working waterfront industry include an array of brightly colored buoys, ropes, traps, bait-buckets, barrels, and more. For many, these tools of the maritime trade evoke nostalgia at days gone by, a vision of salty fishermen plying the seas, and an innate desire for raw connection with nature. Photo by The Blessing Bucket*

- Promote adventure tourism in the region.
- Coordinate public (Aroostook County Tourism and DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism) and private marketing dollars to increase visitor interest and impact.
- Improve the quality and quantity of basic tourism information about customer demands and regional tourism products to guide improved visitation and spending.

## *Business*

Entrepreneurialism is a deep-rooted cultural value and a necessity for survival in this region where business is often greatly influenced by the seasons. Apart from education, healthcare, research, and other institutions, DownEast Acadia is served mainly by small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Employment by Occupation - % of Population (Per 2018 ACS Census)		
	Washington	Hancock
Management, Business, Science, Arts	28	34
Service	19	19
Natural Resources, Construction, Maintenance	19	15
Self Employed (unincorporated business)	16	15
Unemployed	3.5	3

Source: 2010 Decennial Census

According to 2018 ACS Census data, approximately 28% of the workforce in Washington County is employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations; 19% in service occupations; and 19% in natural resources, construction, or maintenance occupations. Approximately 16% of workers are classified as self-employed in their own unincorporated business, and 3.5% were unemployed.

According to 2018 ACS Census data, approximately 34% of the workforce in Hancock County is employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations; 19% in service occupations; 19% in sales and office occupations; and 15% natural resources, construction, or maintenance occupations. Approximately 15% of workers are classified as self-employed in their own unincorporated business, and 3% were unemployed.

Employment by Industry – % of Population (Top 3)			
Washington	27.2% Education, Health Care, Social Assistance	12.2% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining	11.6% Retail Trade
Hancock	26.7% Education, Health Care, Social Assistance	12.9% Retail Trade	11% Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, Food Service

Source: 2012 – 2016 American Communities Survey Census Bureau

Municipal and land use ordinances in most communities neither discourage nor incentivize specific development types. Comprehensive plans do outline small business as the most desired type of business development – such as leisure, entertainment, and personal services. Both Washington and Hancock Counties have small business development centers, community colleges, economic development entities, and entrepreneurial centers that provide workforce training plus technology and financial resources for small businesses.

### *Industry*

Primary employing industries in Washington County are Education, health care, and social assistance (approximately 26%); agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining (approximately 13%); and retail trade (approximately 10%).

Primary employing industries in Hancock County are Education, health care, and social assistance (approximately 26%); retail trade (approximately 13%); and professional, scientific, management, and administrative (approximately 10%).

Washington County has always been the largest producer of wild blueberries in the world and is also the largest supplier of balsam wreaths. Aquaculture – mainly growing or harvesting seaweed, pen-rearing salmon, and seeding scallops and mussels – is an expanding industry in both Washington and Hancock Counties. Timber harvesting is an important industry in northern Washington County, from the raw product to finishing at the Baileyville Tissue Mill.

Commercial fisheries are critical to the entire coast of Washington County and much of coastal Hancock County. The highest lobster landings in the country occur in Stonington (Hancock County) and Jonesport (Washington County). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the fisheries

industry has been seriously impacted. Many organizations focus specifically on supporting the fisheries industries in Maine and provide great benefit to a diversity of seafood-dependent DownEast Acadia businesses, including the restaurant industry. Additionally, several local and regional organizations focus solely on research, education, technical, and financial assistance intended to sustain a resilient, innovative seafood industry. Municipalities and conservation organizations actively partner with State and private entities to protect and preserve waterfront parcels for both commercial and recreational access into perpetuity.



*Tradition and Innovation - Woodland Pulp and affiliate companies St. Croix Tissue and St. Croix Chipping operate in Baileyville. Woodland Pulp has been an integral part of Baileyville since the early twentieth century, and today is the largest employer in Washington County, with over 300 employees. Woodland Pulp strives to promote sustainable forestry and minimize environmental impacts. They produce St. Croix Hardwood, a type of pulp made from locally sourced wood. St. Croix Tissue is a new, state-of-the-art tissue paper manufacturing company producing a full range of products for the growing national and international tissue markets. St. Croix Chipping chips 85 to 100 loads of tree length wood every 24 hours, 7 days a week. Photo source: stcroixtissue.com.*

## Conclusion

The DownEast Acadia region is strongly supported both locally, regionally, and at the state and national levels in economic development through industries that reflect local values. Engaging residents and potential residents around shared values to explore the benefits and opportunities that exist in the region will help attract and retain a sustainable population and demographic. Awareness of and interaction with heritage stories will strengthen pride-of-place and nurture stewards of our cultural and natural heritage – which in turn strengthens the economy and communities founded so deeply upon our unique heritage.

*A National Heritage Area designation in DownEast Acadia will support continued economic development that celebrates and supports the people who live, work, and play here.*



*Lunch Break - Commercial fisheries are critical to the entire coast of Washington County and much of coastal Hancock County. The highest lobster landings in the country occur in Stonington (Hancock County) and Jonesport (Washington County). Many organizations focus specifically on supporting the fisheries industries in Maine and provide great benefit to a diversity of seafood-dependent DownEast Acadia businesses, including the restaurant industry. Additionally, several local and regional organizations focus solely on research, education, technical, and financial assistance intended to sustain a resilient, innovative seafood industry. Municipalities and conservation organizations actively partner with State and private entities to protect and preserve waterfront parcels for both commercial and recreational access into perpetuity. Photo by Gina Mazza.*





CHAPTER 10

# Long-Term Management & Funding of the Downeast Maine NHA

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Chapter 9 evaluates three of the ten required criteria for National Heritage Area designation.

Criterion #6 - Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.

Criterion #7 - The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

Criterion #10 - The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

## Commitment to Partnership to Develop the NHA


Organizations in DownEast Maine are quite familiar with the need to work together, and that a collective vision for the well-being of communities is more effectively achieved when separate missions coordinate tasks. Downeast Maine is a rural region with a small population and a finite pool of human resources. The Boards or Committees of community-based, volunteer-run groups are typically composed of individuals who represent a variety of interests. Staff of organizations and local governments sit on various Boards to maintain and strengthen networks, capacity, and effectiveness.

Because of this need to “wear multiple hats” in small communities, organizations often work together on numerous programs initiated by different organizations. In this way, their collective commitment to the well-being of Downeast Maine is a tightly woven network, if not always the well-oiled machine it strives to be. The history of this initiative to conduct a Feasibility Study and establish the region as a National Heritage Area is an example of these long-standing, inter-woven relationships and commitment to regional collaboration.

The local Management Entity will have full responsibility for developing and implementing the management plan for the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area. Balanced representation of all stakeholder and partner interests will continue to be a priority.

### *Feasibility Planning Partners*

Following is a brief statement of the organizations most directly involved in early NHA planning and the Feasibility Study, and their anticipated continued roles.

Partner Organization	Mission	Role in NHA Planning & Management
 <p><b>Wild Blueberry Heritage Museum</b></p>	<p>WBHM educates the public about the natural history, science, and culture of the wild blueberry’s bio-diverse ecosystem with a goal of fostering ecological resilience and building capacity and prosperity for farmers.</p>	<p>Conducted initial research, outreach, and convenings to explore UNESCO Biosphere designation and then NHA designation. Will represent the natural and cultural heritage of the native wild blueberry.</p>



**Sunrise County Economic Council**

SCEC initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County by working with a consortium of community-minded businesses, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and citizens within and outside of Washington County.

Conducted initial convenings to determine community support. Secured and matched funding and provided staff to conduct the Feasibility Study. SCEC is a candidate to serve as Fiscal Agent for the NHA Management Entity and to provide staff for planning, development and management.



**DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism**

DART supports the economic and cultural health of Washington and Hancock Counties through marketing and promotion of DownEast Acadia as an exemplary tourism destination.

DART served on the Feasibility Study Working Team to represent the promotion and management of heritage tourism in Downeast Maine. DART will be the primary marketing and promotion arm of the National Heritage Area, with special emphasis on outdoor recreation and cultural heritage.



**Hancock County Planning Commission**

HCPC provides planning and related government-support assistance to Hancock County municipalities. Services include Comprehensive and transportation planning, support for healthy communities, and housing and community development.

HCPC represents municipal interests across the Hancock County portion of Downeast Maine. HCPC will serve as the primary liaison between municipal governments and municipal infrastructure projects.



**Maine Sea Grant**

MSG supports coastal communities through work in healthy ecosystems, resilient economies, sustainable seafood, preparing for climate change, environmental literacy, and workforce development.

Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to represent the fisheries and aquaculture economy, including commercial fisheries, community development, and tourism



**Heart of Ellsworth**

H of E promotes artistic, economic, educational, environmental, cultural, and historic activities in the Downtown area of the city of Ellsworth.

Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to represent small business owners and downtown revitalization interests

 <p><b>Wild Blueberry Commission</b></p>	<p>WBC conserves and promotes the prosperity and welfare of the wild blueberry industry of Maine, supports wild blueberry growers/processors to foster research and Extension, funds promotion and marketing, and pursues policies that benefit the industry.</p>	<p>Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to represent interests of the wild blueberry industry, especially small farmers.</p>
 <p><b>College of the Atlantic/Coastal Maine Geo- Park</b></p>	<p>COA's educational philosophy investigates relationships between human beings and our social and natural communities. The Maine Geo-Park explores how geology influences the region's natural and cultural heritage and seeks to promote sustainable development for rural coastal Maine communities through geo-tourism.</p>	<p>Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to partner on geo-heritage programs including education and interpretive infrastructure.</p>
 <p><b>Downeast Salmon Federation</b></p>	<p>DSF conserves important river, scenic, recreational, and ecological resources in eastern Maine with a focus on wild Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish.</p>	<p>Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to represent preservation of sea-run fish and their habitat and conservation/recreation management.</p>
 <p><b>Maine Coast Heritage Trust</b></p>	<p>MCHT conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being.</p>	<p>Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group, will continue to represent conservation/recreation management, and historic/cultural preservation &amp; interpretation.</p>
 <p><b>St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce</b></p>	<p>The CoC operates as a networking support system for merchants in the greater Calais area and develops opportunities to collaborate on projects and share local resources.</p>	<p>Member of the Feasibility Study Working Group.</p>

## Long-Term Management

No Heritage Area will succeed without a strong and well-coordinated Management Entity and organizational partners guiding it. Given the many challenges inherent in establishing and maintaining a National Heritage Area, the stability or capacity of the Management Entity itself should not be in question. The Entity must have a proven track record of effectiveness in setting and achieving program goals in a collaborative environment and responsible management of large amounts of federal and other funds. The Management Entity must be a 501c3 organization or operate in partnership with one.

The makeup of a sustainable, effective, representative Management Entity is informed by the following considerations:

Appropriate role—what are the anticipated activities of the Management Entity, and how will it relate to the work of existing organizations?

Representative governance—how will stakeholders have a voice in governing the Management Entity?

Financial sustainability—how much funding will be required for the operation of a Management Entity, and where will it come from?

The Management Entity should be neutral and broadly representative of the diverse community stakeholders, jurisdictions, and interests across the National Heritage Area. The Entity must be able to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between numerous stakeholders and local jurisdictions to establish cohesive goals, themes, initiatives, and programs for the National Heritage Area.

The Management Entity must communicate regularly within their team, and with community members, heritage organizations, Tribal leaders, local government officials, and statewide organizations to effectively implement programs and achieve the goals of the National Heritage Area.

Management Entity representatives must collectively have skills in a variety of disciplines, such as tourism promotion, heritage preservation, program development, resource interpretation, education, conservation & recreation management, team-building, volunteer coordination, fundraising, grant programs, and financial management.

## *Role of the Management Entity*

A Management Entity performs numerous critical and complex tasks in direct partnership with a broad range of other public and private entities. Highly skilled and deeply committed partners are required to make this happen.

One critical task is to lead collaborations amongst local, regional, and state partners, and in our case across a large rural region. Another is to develop and maintain policies and procedures that meet the vision and mission of the NHA and its enabling legislation. A third is to ensure that a broad spectrum of strong, positive public engagement is maintained.

### **Core tasks of any structure of Management Entity include (but are definitely not limited to):**

- Maintain a Board or Steering Committee composed of professional organizations and community representatives with significant expertise related to all aspects of the heritage story and management components.
- Develop and maintain Management, Funding, and Marketing Plans to implement the NHA vision.
- Adopt standard operating procedures for program management, partner commitments, and matching grants.
- Manage finances for the Department of Interior and matching funds - maintain fiscal records, submit state and federal reporting documents, review and approve annual budgets.
- Raise funds to support sufficient staffing and organizational overhead.
- Oversee staff person(s) who implement the NHA Management and Marketing Plans
- Develop and strengthen relationships with local non-profit and governmental organizations, citizen groups, and businesses.
- Periodically review and update Management and Marketing strategies and priorities.

## *Functions of the Management Entity*

- **Administration and facilitation:** These are baseline functions for Management Entity staff. Tasks include financial tracking and reporting; coordination of projects and programs; grant-making and management; coordination with the National Park Service; and regular communications with constituent organizations. During the startup phase this activity includes development of the Management Plan and extensive community engagement.
- **Marketing and communications:** Create public awareness about the Heritage Area. Activities include development and maintenance of a website and development of brochures, maps, interpretive materials, and other interactive tools. It includes media relations and

coordination with constituent organizations to develop cohesive experiences and messaging.

- **Pass-through funding:** Develop and operate an internal grants program to benefit constituent non-profit organizations and community groups.
- **Sustainability:** Fundraising, grant writing, planning, and collaboration-building for long-term financial and organizational stability, long-term management of heritage resources, and long-term maintenance of infrastructure and programs created by the Management Entity.

## Options for Management Entity Structure

Two possible scenarios for structuring an NHA Management Entity to successfully carry out core program tasks are described below.

### *Option 1 – Develop a New 501c3 to Manage the NHA*

In this scenario, a new 501c3 entity is created for the sole purpose of managing all aspects of NHA programs, including staffing and fiscal oversight. This model would require NHA management partners to commit to work with an additional regional entity on top of their many existing, overlapping organizational partnerships, missions, funding sources, and human resources. An existing entity would need to commit resources to establish and coordinate a Board of Directors to develop this new organization until federal planning funds are released. Maine, and particularly Downeast Maine, both have a high number of existing 501c3 organizations that already partner together in numerous collaborations and serve on each other's Boards. Development of yet another 501c3 in the region would further stretch and divide both financial and human resources.

### *Option 2 – Collaborative Board of Existing Organizations & 501c3 Fiscal Sponsor*

In this scenario, a formal Board is established through a partnership of equals committed to the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area program, rather than as an individual entity overseeing it. The Board is a collaboration of representatives of existing organizations with missions and goals that are compatible or parallel with the heritage priorities of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area. Organization partners sign a Memorandum of Understanding and commit some staff time, technical assistance, and funds to support the NHA program. Board members

collectively make decisions about funding and implementation of all aspects of the NHA program by consensus.

The Board works in direct fiscal partnership with a 501c3 organization, but the management structure and fiscal agency remain separate. The Fiscal Agent receives federal and cash match funds, does the accounting, writes checks, maintains documents required for reporting, manages IRS and State reporting, and includes the NHA program in their annual Audit. The partner 501c3 organization also provides a staff person dedicated to management of the NHA program – the Program Director.

The NHA Board works with the Program Director to coordinate with partners, make decisions about community grants for heritage projects, and manage NHA funds and reporting. Department of Interior funds pass through the National Park Service to the 501c3 fiscal partner. Funding is distributed to heritage projects and programs according to the NHA Board and their Program Director, who are guided by priorities established through community planning. The Management Planning phase will help inform decisions about the specific composition and procedures of the Board and structure of local grant-making programs.

### **Recommended Management Entity Structure**

Downeast Maine already contains many 501c3 organizations whose missions complement each other and frequently overlap. They serve on each other's Boards and committees, partner on projects & programs, and seek funding from the same sources. Adding another 501c3 to the region would create further competition for volunteers, committed Board members, and funding. Start-up nonprofits can struggle to raise adequate cash-match in the first years. Further aligning the missions and boosting the capacity of heritage-related organizations and community groups is a primary goal for joining the NHA program. Partnering with an established 501c3 allows the Management Entity, the Downeast Maine NHA Board, to focus on its mission to preserve and build upon the region's valued heritage. Therefore, Option 2, Collaborative Board of Existing Organizations & 501c3 Fiscal Sponsor, is the recommended management structure.

### **Candidates for 501c3 Fiscal & Staffing Partner**

Very few existing entities in Downeast Maine have broad enough missions to represent the full intent of the National Heritage Area Program, and very few have the staff or other resources to dedicate to managing the program to the extent necessary. The Sunrise County Economic Council has provided fiscal sponsorship and staff to convene the public and complete the Feasibility Study and is willing and able to continue to support the Downeast National Heritage Area program. The mission, programs, and regional coverage of SCEC and their direct partners align with National Heritage Area priorities and regional heritage goals.



SCEC is a nationally registered 501c3 that initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity with economic, workforce, infrastructure, health and wellness, and leadership development as primary themes. SCEC is a growing organization that currently maintains a staff of 18 persons, including a finance department of 2 persons.

SCEC works with a consortium of community-minded businesses, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and citizens to achieve this mission. Newly formed and expanded SCEC program

## SCEC Guiding Principles for Supporting Development

The Sunrise County Economic Council's mission is to promote prosperity through investment and job creation in Washington County. Diversifying the commercial and industrial base will help sustain our region's economy. SCEC is often called on to help promote development of projects in the region. This may be in the form of advising on financing packages, technical assistance, business support resources, site location, testing workforce availability, providing project management or other assistance as necessary to support a particular project.

When SCEC is called on to take an active role on a project such as support, advocacy, endorsement, or project management assistance, the following serve as guidelines to assist the Board in advancing our mission by becoming involved in a project:

- 1. Economic Impact:** The number and quality of jobs created should be consistent with the scale of the development. Business planning should demonstrate a workforce is on hand, or can be made available with necessary training, and that the jobs are sustainable over the projected life of the project.
- 2. Community Impact:** The project's net impact on the region's natural resources, public infrastructure and community institutions will be positive or neutral. This can be achieved through project planning, mitigation, net gains in tax revenue, and other means.
- 3. Technical Feasibility:** The project should have a high likelihood of success, evidenced by technical expertise, management capabilities, and financial capacity for development and operation.
- 4. Stakeholder Involvement:** The project's principals must demonstrate their commitment to Washington County by working with community-based constituencies to maximize the positive impact of the project on the region.

partners include the Maine Department of Transportation; Maine Department of Economic & Community Development; Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; and the Northern Border Regional Commission.

SCEC programs include a diversity of partner organizations and funding sources from local to federal. Partners currently engage in a broad range of projects and programs that align with educational, economic, community, recreation, and open space goals of the NHA. Several of SCEC's existing partners are committed to and actively participate in assessing the feasibility of joining the National Heritage Area Program. These relationships will be carried forward into the NHA Management Entity.

### **Composition of the Management Entity**

The Board should be representative both geographically and thematically of the entire National Heritage Area, while remaining small enough to function effectively. Individual members of the Management Entity should represent a diverse skill set to support the extensive work required. Fundraising, outreach, program development, and planning are key skill sets needed. Individual members of the community will be welcomed – Board members do not have to be affiliated with any Organization but should bring skills and knowledge that fill NHA Program needs.

**Ideally, the Management Entity would include current Working Team partners and any additional representation needed to cover each of the following categories:**

- History
- Arts & Culture
- Small farmers
- Tourism
- Education – all ages
- Forest Products
- Geo-heritage
- Registered Maine Guides
- Municipal Government
- Economic & Business Development
- Small Business community
- Tribal – Passamaquoddy & Penobscot
- Habitat & wildlife preservation
- Outdoor Recreation lands managers
- Fisheries – restoration, recreation, & economic opportunity



**The Management Entity should also include an advisory (non-voting) team of state and federal representatives, such as:**

- Maine Office of Tourism
- Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Maine Historic Preservation Commission
- Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Maine Department of Transportation – Scenic Byways Program
- National Park Service – Acadia National Park
- Maine Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Charlotte County Regional Tourism, New Brunswick, Canada

A much larger spectrum of organizations, individuals, and interest groups will participate as partners and advisors in specific projects and programs outlined in the Management Plan. These entities are described in the Conceptual Financial & Community Partner Plan.

## **Conceptual Financial Plan & Community Partners**

Success for the NHA program over such a large region requires coordinated partnerships amongst all involved. Partners in NHA planning have expressed their commitment to continued collaboration with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to develop the heritage area (see letters of support and endorsements in Chapter 10). Most projects will be undertaken by partner organizations with the Management Entity providing technical assistance, coordination, promotion, and grant funds for appropriate projects. The Management Entity will make decisions about and facilitate priority regional projects & programs. Units of government and organizations directly or indirectly supporting the designation will contribute through projects that fit their priorities and also advance NHA goals.

The Department of the Interior currently provides up to \$400,000 annually in funds to each National Heritage Area through the federal budget for Heritage Partnership Programs (this amount can vary). Department of the Interior funding passes through the National Park Service to the designated local NHA program management entity. Federal funds must be matched 1:1 by national heritage partners to accomplish projects identified in an annual work plan and budget. Match can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

National Heritage Area Management Entities vary widely in the number of staff and types of programming, and therefore have a wide range of budgets and varying contributions from different revenue sources. The need for staff and other resources is tied directly to the goals and priorities of the particular NHA. Resource commitment required by the Management Entity can range in degree from member and partner coordination, communication to the broader public, resources interpretation, heritage tourism promotion, grant-making, and program or project development.

**The Downeast Maine National Heritage Area Management Entity will focus initial efforts on these foundational tasks:**

- Establish minimum staffing needs - 1 full-time position
- Draft the Management Plan
- Establish mechanisms for ongoing coordination and communication among members
- Develop an NHA website, map, and supporting materials to connect existing information and facilitate cohesive heritage experiences and promotion of the NHA.
- Establish funding sources and in-kind commitments as needed for the startup phase of program implementation

**Over the longer-term, funding needs for NHA program management will include:**

- Administration and facilitation: Directing the NHA program will require the work of a full-time employee, along with associated expenses and overhead costs. A target budget of \$150,000 annually would allow for staff and related expenses such as travel and public meetings, any fiscal sponsor fees, and administrative overhead.
- Marketing and communications: A target budget of \$100,000 annually would fund a diverse program of web site management, digital advertising, printed collateral, and public relations. DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism and the Maine Office of Tourism will provide some cash match and in-kind support. Local and regional partners would support NHA promotion through their own marketing plans (social media, website, paid advertising).
- Pass-through funding to local organizations: This activity will be funded at whatever levels are possible for each budget year. To be meaningful, a good target is minimum funding of \$300,000 annually. Pass-through funds are sub-grants made by the NHA Management Entity to eligible heritage projects in Downeast Maine (eligibility is based on priorities defined by the community during the Management Planning phase, and by granting procedures set by the Management Entity). Cash and in-kind match required for sub-grantees would meet or exceed a 1:1 ratio of grant funds, at least \$300,000 annually.

- Long-term local and regional cash and in-kind match: The Management Entity will strive to raise at least enough local match to secure the maximum available federal dollars, while the region is eligible, to achieve the most benefit for regional heritage initiatives. Goals could range from \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually.

**Potential sources for funding the Heritage Area include:**

- Federal funding sources for historic & heritage preservation, National Scenic Byways, rural economic development
- Maine State grant programs for recreation, conservation, education, transportation, economic development, infrastructure, and tourism
- Grants from foundations, charitable organizations, local financial institutions
- In-kind & cash match from projects implemented by community organizations and municipalities directly related to NHA priorities

Following is a conceptual plan that outlines a preliminary list of potential partners that the NHA Management Entity hopes to engage during the near term and future phases of NHA development, promotion, and management. Seeking additional commitments is an inherent, ongoing task of the Management Entity. The outline of roles and conceptual financial plan is based on this NHA Feasibility study and the expressions of participation and support from a wide range of partners. Details of the partnership arrangements and commitments will be defined during development of the long-term NHA Management Plan. The following conceptual plan does not specify the breakdown of cash or in-kind match support. Support from local partners includes cash match from heritage program grant recipients.

Partner	Role in NHA Program Management & Implementation
Abbe Museum	Promote & educate visitors & residents around Wabanahki culture; expand cultural programs & events with partners further downeast.
Black Woods Scenic Byway Committee	Promote Black Woods region heritage experience, engagement of residents & visitors through events & programs; funding & implementation of infrastructure; partner on Cherryfield info center/gateway development
Bold Coast National Scenic Byway Committee	Promote Bold Coast region heritage experience, engagement of residents & visitors through events & programs; funding & implementation of infrastructure; partner on Cherryfield & Machias info center/gateway development
Charlotte County Regional Tourism Association and Campobello Tourism Association, New Brunswick, Canada	Partner with NHA to develop, promote & market international heritage experiences & history
Community Health & Wellness Organizations	Partner with NHA to educate the public and connect the health and wellness of people with active outdoor recreation assets and opportunities.
Down East Sunrise Trail	Promote active transportation & outdoor recreation; develop railroad history interpretation; partner on Cherryfield & Machias info center/gateway development
DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism	Regional promotion & marketing in Maine, nationally/internationally; community engagement; partner to develop heritage tourism experiences for visitors; partner in visitor education and visitor management

Partner	Role in NHA Program Management & Implementation
Downeast Conservation Network	Provide engaging educational experiences for visitors & residents around land conservation for habitat & recreation; partner with NHA to develop interpretive sites for historic & ecological aspects of open space parcels
Downeast Fisheries Partnership	Provide engaging educational experiences for visitors & residents around fisheries habitat, biology, & economy; partner with NHA to develop interpretive sites, school & citizen science programs
Downtown Revitalization Groups	Partner with NHA to plan and implement long-term Destination Development efforts, including community planning, development, promotion, and maintenance.
Economic Development Organizations - Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Northern Maine Development Commission, Four Directions Development Corporation, Small Business Development Center of Maine, CEI	Partner with NHA to bring resources and opportunities to businesses and entrepreneurs that advance national heritage priorities and goals, including developing a thriving small business base and regional economy.
Elementary & High Schools	Partner with NHA to create hands-on, community-based learning opportunities around local history, community planning, civic engagement, arts and science, and other heritage topics. Actively engage students in telling the regional heritage story and in planning for the region's future.
Fisheries Restoration & Research Institutions	Partner with NHA to develop heritage education activities & programs around historic & current fisheries, and restoration efforts.

Partner	Role in NHA Program Management & Implementation
Hancock County Planning Commission	Serve as liaison between NHA program and municipalities in Hancock County; provide technical assistance to municipalities to secure funds for heritage-related projects like recreation & transportation infrastructure or coastal resiliency planning.
Higher Education Institutions	Partner with NHA to engage faculty and students in active, hands-on, community based learning opportunities that contribute to and advance local and regional heritage, education, and economic goals.
Historical societies, historic sites, museums, libraries	Partner with NHA to develop and promote heritage education activities & programs around historically important people, places, and events, and to provide engaging and relevant opportunities for people to interact with regional history.
Island Institute	Technical assistance – infrastructure & program planning/development/outreach
Land Trusts	Partner with NHA to educate visitors and residents about the many ways to actively and responsibly enjoy outdoor assets, and develop educational programs about the history of conserved lands and their previous land uses, the biology and importance of wild lands and their inhabitants; improve accessibility to and awareness of local outdoor opportunities; and to develop and maintain key trails and facilities.
Machias Valley Entrepreneurial Center	Partner to plan & implement natural resources and outdoor recreation training & development for entrepreneurs



Partner	Role in NHA Program Management & Implementation
Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands	Partner with BPL to promote responsible use of public lands; seek funds for developing new and expanding recreational trails, especially off-road biking & backpacking
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry	Technical assistance to municipalities in coastal resilience planning
Maine Department of Economic & Community Development	Technical assistance to municipalities and businesses to secure CDBG funds for community infrastructure
Maine Department of Transportation Scenic Byways Program	Technical assistance to plan for and fund safe transportation ways for all users, including bike/ped; Advisor; partner with NHA to plan for & develop infrastructure along Scenic Byways within Downeast Maine
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	Partner with NHA to promote recreational fishing & responsible outdoor recreation practices; partner with NHA to develop heritage education activities & programs around subsistence hunting & fishing
Maine Downtown Center	Technical assistance to downtown revitalization committees, connect with potential funding sources
Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation	Technical assistance, networking, developing partnerships with state & national outdoor recreation entities
Maine Office of Tourism	Promotion & marketing nationally/internationally
Maine Sea Grant	Partner to plan & implement tourism training & development for coastal businesses & communities; develop education and promotion of fisheries heritage through Downeast Fisheries Trail.

Partner	Role in NHA Program Management & Implementation
Municipal and County Governments	Partner with NHA to bring infrastructure and resources to communities related to parks & recreation, working waterfront, active transportation, broadband, and more.
National Park Service	Technical assistance, Advisor; partner with NHA to connect Acadia National Park (ANP) visitors with larger DownEast Acadia region - distribute economic benefits, reduce overuse at ANP, coordinate recreation assets outside of ANP
National Wildlife Refuge System	Partner with NHA to promote wildlife watching activities on NWR lands
Roosevelt-Campobello International Park	Partner with NHA to develop, promote & market the nationally and internationally important work that was conducted by the Roosevelts and their many important guests at the Roosevelt summer home on Campobello Island.
Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee	Promote Schoodic region heritage experience, engagement of residents & visitors through events & programs
Sunrise County Economic Council	Provide staffing, fiscal management, and technical assistance
Wabanaki Tribal Communities	Partner with and guide NHA to plan and implement long-term heritage efforts related to Wabanaki culture.







APPENDIX A

# Community Discussions & Invitations for Feedback

## Sunrise County Economic Council

Contact:

Crystal Hitchings, Program Director

- Community Infrastructure and Promotion
- DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism

[chitchings@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:chitchings@sunrisecounty.org), 207-707-2057

August 25, 2020

For Immediate Release

### A National Heritage Area for DownEast Acadia?

**National Heritage Areas** are **working landscapes** where the unique interplay of human activity and natural features have influenced each other and co-evolved over time in a manner that both reflects our collective National heritage.

The **National Heritage Area** program directly engages residents and visitors in preserving and experiencing the unique, place-based stories of cultures, traditions, landscapes, history, and people who occupy that place.

**Sunrise county Economic Council** is coordinating a **Feasibility Study** across the region to determine if the DownEast Acadia region has the community interest and capacity necessary to support a **National Heritage Area** (NHA) designation for the long term.

A **Feasibility Study** identifies cultural and landscape resources that exemplify a region's unique story and national significance, and determines if a region has the community support and commitment needed to support a successful long-term NHA program.

The **National Heritage Area** Program intends to:

- Foster **Community-driven, heritage-based** conservation and economic development
- **Create collaboration** amongst citizens and **long-term commitment** to pro-actively shaping the future of their communities
- **Inspire stewardship of heritage resources** by community members through increased awareness of our natural environment and cultural experience
- Provide a platform for **heritage-based economic development** by attracting visitors and new residents

NHA's are designated by Congress, and 1:1 matching funds for heritage projects are provided to NHA communities from the Department of the Interior. **An NHA is not a unit of, nor is any land owned or managed by the National Park Service or any other federal or state entity.** NHA management is conducted at the local level by a nonprofit organization or collaboration and managing committee, including residents, businesses, community organizations, municipal representatives, and community leaders.

**We'd like to know what you think!** Please visit [sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program/](http://sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program/) to learn more about the NHA program and provide your input.



Sunrise County  
Economic Council

## National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Update

Please Join us for a Community Discussion

February 3rd, 10am-12pm

OR

February 4th, 2pm-4pm

Registration & Program Information at  
[sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area](http://sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area)



**DO WE HAVE THE COMMUNITY INTEREST,  
RESOURCES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY TO  
SUPPORT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION?**

**ASK QUESTIONS, PROVIDE FEEDBACK, AND LEARN HOW THE NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA PROGRAM COULD BENEFIT OUR BUSINESSES,  
COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

**Choose from one of two options to join this  
public Zoom discussion.**

Click here to register for **FEBRUARY 3, 10AM-12PM**

Click here to register for **FEBRUARY 4, 2PM-4PM**

**Registration is limited to 30 participants for  
each date.**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Connect with Sunrise County Economic Council



January 20, 2021

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PROGRAM PROPOSAL

**FROM: Sunrise County Economic Council; Charles Rudelitch, Executive Director**

TO: Wabanaki Tribal Chiefs

Chief William Nicholas, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township

Chief Maggie Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

Chief Peter Paul, Aroostook Band of Micmac

Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Chief Kirk C. Francis, Penobscot Nation

Dear Tribal Chiefs,

I am writing to you from Sunrise County Economic Council. We are applying to the Federal Government to designate the area between the Penobscot and St. Croix Rivers as a National Heritage Area. This designation would identify the significant contributions of our unique regional history and culture. It would also bring funds for planning and development of heritage-related projects to our region. The National Heritage Area (NHA) is a federal program managed by the National Park Service and funded by the Department of the Interior. The program encourages communities to collaboratively plan a future where our history and the current state of affairs can educate and engage local residents, youth and visitors to the region. A key goal of the NHA program is to help citizens strengthen local pride in place and stewardship of our natural and cultural heritage.

A group of regional representatives are conducting a National Heritage Area Feasibility Study to submit to Congress in the April 2021. The Feasibility Study outlines how our human relationship with the natural world has shaped both our culture and the landscape and how our regional heritage contributes to national heritage. In general, the Feasibility Study describes our early histories, arts & culture, traditional uses of natural resources, and our adaptations to a changing landscape.

As the first inhabitants of this region, your story is critical to tell. Our working group is looking for Tribal collaboration and input as we move ahead with this application. Specifically, we think it important for the Tribal voice to be heard when talking about the Wabanaki people and culture from “time immemorial” up to the present. Other stories that need to be told include the part the Wabanaki Tribes played in the American Revolution and the importance of the travel routes that link the interior with the coastline.

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Community College

Brian Frutchey

The By “US” Company

Ardis Brown

Town of Danforth

**Ex-Officio**

Betsy Fitzgerald

**Secretary**

Washington County

Commissioners

Representative Will Tuell

Washington County

Legislative Delegation

Main Office: 7 Ames Way, Machias, ME 04654 \* Calais Office: 1 College Drive, Room 51, Calais, ME 04619  
Tel: 207.255.0983 \* Fax: 207.255.4987 \* [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)



We hope that you will consider collaborating on this project. We realize that this is not the greatest timing with the pandemic and Tribal/ State relation work. Our advisory committee currently meets by Zoom. We invite you to be part of this committee or commit to be part of the project once we have the NHA designation. Once we are awarded the designation there will be funds to plan and execute this project.

The immediate project timeline is as follows:

- Progress update and community discussions on February 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> - **we hope you will join us** (Follow this link to register - <https://sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program/>).
- Draft the heritage stories that support the National significance of our region – February & March (**this is where we hope you can help this winter**)
- Public review of Feasibility Study in mid-March
- Submission of final documents to our Federal delegation by end of April.

Once an NHA designation is provided by Congress, management planning funds are provided from the Department of the Interior. *We especially hope you will participate in this second, most critical phase of planning that guides future heritage program funding and implementation.* Finally, upon completion of a Management Plan, federal matching funds are provided to support community projects that focus on natural and cultural heritage preservation.

Feel free to contact Crystal Hitchings, project coordinator, by phone – (207) 707-2057, or e-mail [hitchings@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:hitchings@sunrisecounty.org) if you have questions or would like to join a meeting of the Working Group. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles Rudelitch  
Executive Director  
Sunrise County Economic Council

January 21, 2021

**Board of Directors**

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**Chair**  
Sunrise Opportunities

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**Vice Chair**  
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Town of Danforth

**Ex-Officio**

Betsy Fitzgerald  
**Secretary**  
Washington County  
Commissioners

Representative Will Tuell  
Washington County  
Legislative Delegation

**To:** Local and Regional Delegates of Washington and Hancock Counties  
**From:** Sunrise County Economic Council, Crystal Hitchings  
**Regarding:** Establishment of a National Heritage Area in DownEast Acadia

Dear Delegates of Washington and Hancock Counties,

I am writing to share information with you about a local initiative to establish a National Heritage Area in parts of Washington and Hancock counties.

The idea was introduced by wild blueberry growers as a tool to bring national attention to the locally unique and important wild blueberry. People across the region gathered several times in 2019 with State Delegates and State and Federal agencies to explore this possibility. Community members voiced support and also the need to tell our heritage story around broader natural resource-based topics, including our diverse fisheries, forest products, and tourism industries past and present.

Several donors funded the cost of conducting a Feasibility Study, coordinated by Sunrise County Economic Council. The Feasibility Study is the required first step of the process. It identifies cultural and natural resources that exemplify a region's unique story and national significance. The study also determines if we have the community support and commitment needed to sustain a successful National Heritage Area program.

The National Heritage Area Program (NHA) is a Federal program funded by Department of the Interior, supported by the National Park Service, and managed by a local collaboration. Designation as an NHA is awarded through Congressional legislation proposed by our State delegates.

A National Heritage Area is NOT a unit of the National Park Service, but the NPS does provide technical support to the local managing entity. NHAs do NOT affect any local land use rights or local land use laws and are NOT intended as tools to influence local land use decisions. An NHA does NOT hold ownership of any land. The NHA designation refers to an area within a conceptual boundary that defines where our heritage story is best told.

National Heritage Areas are places where the unique interplay of human activity and natural features have influenced each other and co-evolved over time in a manner that reflects our collective heritage as a nation. NHAs are places where that relationship between people and place is alive today, and the natural and cultural heritage remains intact.

Sunrise County Economic Council \* 7 Ames Way, Machias, ME 04654  
Tel: 207.255.0983 \* [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)

An underlying goal of the NHA program is to support communities & economy by providing tools for community guided planning that supports community priorities. Another goal is to strengthen community pride and stewardship through education and engagement in cultural and natural heritage. The program helps communities to build collaborations across interest groups, build their capacity, and expand opportunities. Finally, the program hopes to help communities develop a sustainable tourism industry that values and preserves our heritage stories, past and present.

NHA designation brings federal dollars to match local dollars 1:1. That money is distributed in the region via a grant program planned and administered by the local management collaboration. These funds allow organizations and communities to receive matching funds to advance education, conservation, and outdoor recreation projects that highlight local heritage and local priorities.

Establishing a National Heritage Area includes four phases. First is the Feasibility Study, which establishes regional capacity and commitment for the long term. Next is developing a Management Plan to lay out regional priorities for heritage preservation and education programs and infrastructure. Management planning is funded by the Department of the Interior for up to three years. The third phase is implementing the Management Plan; this process is overseen by a collaboration of local organizations, municipalities, business owners, and interested citizens. The final stage is developing long-term program sustainability to eventually become independent of federal funding.

The Feasibility Study is led by a team of 13 representatives of our collective heritage stories. Wild blueberries, fisheries, forestry, habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism, economic development, history and culture are all represented. This team has met since September 2020 to guide development of the Study and conduct extensive outreach within their communities. **A public update on outcomes of the Feasibility Study to date is scheduled for February 3 and 4.** This event is an important opportunity for the public to provide their input and to address any concerns or uncertainties people may express.

I welcome and encourage your participation in one of the two events. If these times are not compatible with your schedule, I also welcome and encourage your questions, comments, ideas, and more. I'm happy to set up a Zoom call, talk on the phone, or communicate by email at your convenience. I also welcome and encourage you to share information about the National Heritage Area initiative with anyone you feel should be aware of it or who might want to directly participate in the process.

**Here is a link to register for these events** (both will be the same, but with different participants) and find more information about the process: <https://sunrisecounty.org/national-heritage-area-program/>

Thank you for your time, and I do hope to talk with you again soon.

Sincerely,



Crystal Hitchings,  
Sunrise County Economic Council – Community Infrastructure and Promotion  
DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism – Programs & Grants Coordinator

W-207-255-0983  
C-207-707-2057  
7 Ames Way, Machias, ME 04654

January 27, 2021

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Sincerely,



Crystal Hitchings,  
Sunrise County Economic Council – Community Infrastructure and Promotion  
DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism – Programs & Grants Coordinator

W-207-255-0983  
C-207-707-2057  
7 Ames Way, Machias, ME 04654





APPENDIX B

# Letters of Support

Gary Jacobson, LCSW, CASAC  
6 Walnut Lane  
Rosendale, NY  
12472  
845-389-7273  
[gary.jacobson57@gmail.com](mailto:gary.jacobson57@gmail.com)

May 24, 2021

Greetings,

My association with the group in Downeast Maine seeking to establish a National Heritage Area is as a volunteer working to establish The Bold Scenic Bikeway which resides within the envisioned National Heritage Area boundaries.

Through that experience it became clear to me that a lot of good could come from establishing an entity with a purpose of unifying efforts of the many organizations with similar values and goals. It was a struggle to conceptualize how such an entity could be established and maintained. Discussions took place between some like-minded people and organizations. They yielded little more than an agreement that it would be good and important for our region to continue to explore this further.

In short time we learned that funding was available to study and work on establishing a National Heritage Area in our region. We learned that a NHA could essentially be what we had earlier envisioned, and that others in our region had already been thinking about a NHA. This confluence of events, and my interests and experience led to my participation on the Feasibility Study Committee.

My learning about the National Heritage program and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area where I reside, has resulted in an even greater appreciation and pride for the region that is my first home. Similarly residents and visitors to a future NHA in our Downeast Maine will be inspired by it and see their home here or from where they traveled from in a new way.



Gary Jacobson



# TOWN OF BUCKSPORT, MAINE

Incorporated June 25, 1792



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

P.O. Drawer X  
Bucksport, Maine 04416

Phone (207) 469-7368  
Fax (207) 469-7369

June 28, 2021

RE: Designation of Down East Maine as a National Heritage Area

To Whom It May Concern

Bucksport is a resilient community at the mouth of the Penobscot River and head of Penobscot Bay. We are seeking ways to diversify our economy to meet the needs of residents, newcomers and the global economy. Designating Down East Maine as a National Heritage Area will promote economic development in Bucksport and throughout the region.

Historic Fort Knox is directly across the river, reached by the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory, the tallest bridge observatory in the world and Gateway to Down East Maine. We are visited by the American Cruise Line, and the destination of ocean-going tankers providing fuel to Down East and Central Maine. Recreational watercraft moor at our marina and float at our moorings. The Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, and cities of Ellsworth, Bangor, and Belfast are just 30 minutes away. Our farmer's market flourishes from May through October.

Outdoor recreation with hiking, birding, and mountain biking is available on our town trails and nearby Orland Wildlands. Hunting and fishing are popular with visitors and locals in our streams, lakes, ponds, and woods. Admiral Peary's ship "Roosevelt", with which he discovered the North Pole, was built on Verona Island and a Narwhal Tusk from his expedition is in our historical society. We are the home of the Alamo Theater and Northeast Historic Films, an active movie theater and film archive for families, universities, and newsrooms throughout northern New England. Our mile-long waterfront walkway hosts walkers and events from Spring through Halloween directly across the river from historic Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory.

Designation as a National Heritage area will promote our history, increase town pride, and encourage economic development. It will enable us to leverage increased funding from individuals, private donors, state, and federal sources. Most importantly, it will support development of Bucksport as a healthy community in which to recreate, work, and live.

Sincerely,  
  
Susan Lessard, Town Manager



April 16, 2021

The Castine Historical Society is excited to support the DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area for Hancock and Washington Counties in Maine. The DownEast Acadia region is rich in cultural and natural heritage which attracts visitors to our rural region.

The National Heritage designation would help support heritage preservation and educational initiatives that matter to our communities. Funding would help us develop programs and projects that will create vibrant communities which will in turn impact locals as well as tourists.

Castine serves as the entry port for the Penobscot River and sits at the southern tip of the DownEast Acadia region. Home to the Maine Maritime Academy and its training ship, *The State of Maine*, the town is rich in history. Beautifully preserved with a history going back to 1629, visitors marvel at the historic architecture and pristine coastal setting. The town boasts two museums, an active waterfront with a marina and kayak business, miles of trails in Witherle Woods, and the remains of several forts from the American Revolution and War of 1812.

During the American Revolution, the town was occupied by the British who built Fort George as a supply base, to protect against colonial incursion into New Brunswick, and as a safe haven for Loyalists who began settling here under British protection. American naval and militia forces attacked the Fort in 1779 as it was being built. The ensuing naval and land battle is known as the Penobscot Expedition. The resulting and surprising loss by the Americans is considered the country's worst naval defeat up until Pearl Harbor. The British retained control of the Fort until 1783 when the soldiers and loyalists were evacuated to New Brunswick.

While the remains of the Fort are open to visitors, the town desires to increase knowledge of this nationally important battle and increase visitation by tourists interested in historic tourism. The DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area would help the town develop this historic site, as well as interpret and market it to the public.

We fully support the DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area and the many benefits it would supply to our community.

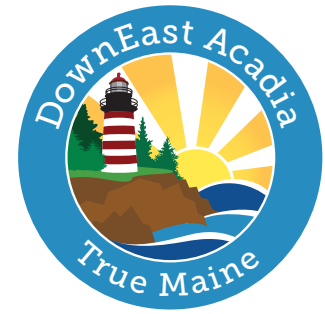
Sincerely,

Lisa Simpson Lutts  
Executive Director

13 & 17 School Street - P.O. Box 238-Castine, ME- 04421  
[www.castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org)    [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org) (207) 326-4118



DOWNEAST ACADIA REGIONAL TOURISM  
PO BOX 235  
MILBRIDGE, ME 04658  
207-546-3600  
info@DownEastAcadia.com  
DownEastAcadia.com  
DownEastAcadiaRegionalTourism.org



National Heritage Feasibility Study Letter of Support

21 July 2021

National Heritage Area Designation for DownEast Maine will promote collaboration, preservation, and economic development throughout the region, neighboring counties, and State of Maine. DownEast Maine is a viable landscape, ecosystem, and culture shaped by glaciers and repopulated by plants, animals, and people. The Passamaquoddy people were our allies in our war for independence, resisted assimilation, and still live here, honoring ancient traditions.

DownEast Maine is a living reflection of the history and culture of New England and the Northern Arboreal Forest. Machias is the site of the first naval engagement of the Revolutionary War, Castine was once the capital of Acadia and Eastport was the last American city occupied by the British in the war of 1812. While ice harvesting was replaced by refrigeration and granite yielded to concrete, we still have working quarries in Stonington and Mt Desert Island. Traditional industries such as boatbuilding, forest products, agriculture, and fishing remain viable and employ hundreds of people. Fresh lobster is available at numerous coastal restaurants, Machias hosts an annual wild blueberry festival, 24 lighthouses mark our coast, town historical societies preserve local history, and farm markets flourish.

Hunting and fishing are popular with visitors and locals, supported by savvy Maine Guides. Other forms of outdoor recreation, from birding, walking, hiking, and paddling sports to bicycling, motorcycling, and ATV riding are increasingly popular. Cultural events and outdoor recreation, important to residents and visitors alike, are the attractions that help support our hospitality and tourism businesses.

Designation as a National Heritage area will promote local history, increase community pride, encourage collaboration between local organizations, help preserve our heritage and environment, promote economic development, and attract new residents. It will enable us to leverage increased funding from individuals, private donors, local, state, and federal sources. More importantly, it will support historic and healthy communities in DownEast Maine.

Sincerely,

Alvion R. Kimball, Chairperson, DownEast Acadia Tourism Board of Directors

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism

[www.DownEastAcadia.com](http://www.DownEastAcadia.com)

C:(207) 902-2240



Downeast Fisheries Partnership

August 18, 2021

Re: Establishment of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

To whom it may concern:

Downeast Maine is a unique region where the economy, heritage, and human spirit are closely linked with a natural landscape shaped by glacial advance and retreat, the industrial harvesting of our natural resources, and by the tidal and erosive powers of the sea.

Making a living from wild blueberries, timber, and fisheries has meant that the region has often been buffeted by environmental, political, and economic forces they could not control. And so, the story of this place is one of national significance, as it is a tale of hard working and resourceful communities that have successfully met changes over time like those that face our country today.

Establishment of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area would help strengthen our communities by helping them to share and take pride in the story of their heritage. It would also support tourism to this economically distressed region as climate changes continue to impact our natural resources economy. Perhaps most importantly, a Downeast Maine NHA would help to support the region's next generation to learn more about the effective stewardship of the unique habitats and natural resources this region still offers. That next generation will need that background as they confront future threats to the nation's wild blueberry barrens, work to protect its last remaining spawning habitat for the endangered Atlantic Salmon, as they strive to develop sustainable aquaculture opportunities that will help support their communities and provide food for the world's growing population.

As a nonprofit collaborative of nine separate nonprofit and educational institutions working in Downeast Maine to ensure that our fisheries support our communities and our communities support their fisheries, ***the Downeast Fisheries Partnership (DFP) is a strong advocate for the establishment of Downeast Maine National Heritage Area and we are committed to continuing our work with community leaders, citizens, and other organizations to support it in the decades to come.***

Sincerely,

Robert Wood  
Downeast Fisheries Partnership Director



5-26-2021

To Whom it May Concern,

The Downeast Salmon Federation supports the creation of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area. The Downeast Salmon Federation's mission is to conserve wild Atlantic salmon, other sea-run fish and their habitats, restore a viable recreational salmon fishery, and protect other important river, scenic, recreational, and ecological resources in eastern Maine. Just as a healthy salmon population cannot be separated from its habitat, so the Downeast Salmon Federation is interconnected with and supports both the natural and human ecology of this region.

We feel a national heritage area designation in DownEast Acadia will support the community and our goals. This is a region that culturally was and continues to be dominated by the landscape of forest pocked with clear kettle lakes, vast gravel deposits and cold, clear spider webs of streams and rivers tumbling into the sea. The glacially influenced topography at the ecotone between Eastern Deciduous hardwoods and boreal forest harbor rare and unusual plant communities, providing critical habitat for America's last Atlantic salmon and is a critical stretch of the Atlantic Flyway.

The unique geography and geology of the region has dominated the human culture of this region since the Laurentide Ice sheet retreated 14,000 years ago. Although DownEast Acadia was the first part of the nation to be settled by Europeans and has been continually subjected to resource extraction, it is also one of the last to be highly developed. A large portion of the population still gains some or all of their income following the seasons and the tides, hunting, trapping, fishing, timbering, raking blueberries and gathering balsam fir tips for Christmas wreaths. The lack of intensive development has allowed the relationship between people and land to remain strong.

Downeast Salmon Federation feels the goals of the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area are well aligned with our own. We feel a national heritage area would support the ecologically and culturally unique region we seek to protect and conserve.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dunroon', is written in a cursive style.

Executive Director  
Downeast Salmon Federation



KEEP  
THE  
COAST  
MAINE

To Whom it may concern,

August 12, 2021

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) enthusiastically supports the designation of Hancock and Washington Counties as a National Heritage Area. The NHA program and the goals and aspirations laid out in the proposal for the Downeast Maine NHA align well with MCHT's goals and aspiration in the region.

**Our Mission Statement:** Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT provides statewide conservation leadership through its work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners.

MCHT has significant land holdings in Washington and Hancock counties and has played a lead role in supporting partnerships that enhance the visitor experience here. We have identified the need for a larger, more wholistic look at the region in regard to tourism planning and local community engagement in the nature and culture of this special place.

MCHT staff have been actively involved in the NHA feasibility study advisory committee and we are committed to staying involved in the management planning and implementation of the Downeast Maine NHA.

The NHA designation represents a great opportunity to promote this amazing landscape and provide economic opportunities while protecting the unique history, culture and way of life in Downeast Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacob van de Sande", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Jacob van de Sande

Project Manager



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Kathy L. Downes**

P.O. Box 59  
Bucksport, ME 04416  
Phone: (207) 949-3593  
Kathy.Downes@legislature.maine.gov

August 26, 2021

RE: Designation of DownEast Maine as a National Heritage Area

To Whom It May Concern,

The Town of Bucksport is a historic town located in Hancock County at the mouth of the Penobscot River and head of Penobscot Bay. Designating Hancock and Washington Counties in DownEast Maine as a National Heritage Area will provide Bucksport with the technical and financial resources needed to support community guided programs and projects that highlight our values, traditions and history. The positive impacts of a National Heritage Area will extend far beyond the DownEast Maine Region.

DownEast Maine is a landscape and ecosystem sculpted by glaciers and repopulated by flora and fauna over the last 13,000 years. The region's culture was shaped by the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes who are descendants of Native American peoples who inhabited Maine well before recorded history. The Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes' ancient traditions and contributions to the region remain a constant to this day.

DownEast Maine is a living reflection of the history and culture of Maine and New England. Industries such as forest products, agriculture, fishing and shipbuilding are generational and viable.

Outdoor recreation, scenic tours and cultural events support our local businesses and enable us to tell our story and create a greater awareness of our local culture and values. Sportsmen enjoy hunting, fishing and birding while fitness enthusiasts take pleasure in walking, hiking, cycling paddling and swimming. Tours of historic Fort Knox and Penobscot Narrow Bridge Observatory are popular outings. Cultural events and our farmer's market flourish May through October.

Designation as a National Heritage Area will promote our region's history and culture. Most importantly, it will support the development of our region as a community for all to thrive.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kathy L. Downes in cursive.

Kathy L. Downes  
State Representative

**Greater East Grand Economic Council**  
**PO Box 465**  
**Danforth, ME 04424**

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April 19, 2021

Sunrise Economic Council  
National Heritage Area Initiative  
Machias, ME

To Whom It May Concern:

The Greater East Grand Economic Council represents a remarkable region in Eastern Maine that supports and looks forward to becoming an active part of the planning for and creating an important national heritage area for the United States.

The Greater East Grand Region is a compendium of diverse landscapes, combined to form a highly unique area of over 500,000 acres in size - a landscape which includes the eastern portions of the watersheds of the Middle and Lower Mattawamkeag River, nearly all of the Baskahegan River drainage and most of the Upper St. Croix River watershed including its internationally controlled waters and adjacent shore lands in western New Brunswick.

The forests and wetlands of the Mattawamkeag, the ridges overlooking the valley of the Baskahegan, and the highlands, lakes and tributaries of the Upper St. Croix comprise a region of peoples united through heritage, determined in purpose, and heavily endowed with nature. Its original Wabanaki inhabitants first traveled by this international area by paddle and foot and continue to live in and utilize the landscape to this day. Around 200 years ago it was discovered by Americans of European descent, immigrants seeking a new beginning in a land rich with waterways and hundreds of square miles of valuable timber.

It was about the year 1820, early settlers, lumbermen by trade and farmers by necessity, began to carve homesteads from the forests and establish communities along the Mattawamkeag, Baskahegan and St. Croix Rivers. US Route 2A (the Military Road) was constructed thru the western portion of the region as a stage and military supply route between Bangor and Houlton in 1832. US Route 1, the Houlton-Calais Road, situated on the high land along the St. Croix and within the eastern part of the Baskahegan valley had been surveyed by 1826, with actual construction languishing for some time thereafter.

It was not until 1871, following the pioneering of the North American and European railroad thru the central part of the Region, that the area truly experienced population growth and an economic boom with a forest industry that supplied lumber far and wide for the nation's expansion.

The Town of Danforth, strategically situated on the Baskahegan River, serviced by the railroad and US Route 1 become a major service center for the area. While the Town today has grown much smaller, it remains as strategically important as the only service center within the entire Greater East Grand Region.

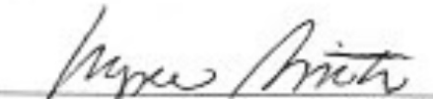
The attached photograph of an interpretive sign currently being developed illustrates the contribution of this region to the state's and country's history. As citizens of once flourishing settlements of loggers, farmers and entrepreneurs, we are reclaiming our rural heritage and true sense of community.



As new-found pioneers we are striving to build local and far-reaching partnerships in education and economic vitality. We are engaging area citizens in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, building on existing momentum, utilizing community area assets, and most importantly capturing the entrepreneurial spirit of area youth to strengthen and inspire all communities within the Greater East Grand Region.

The Greater East Grand Region and its Economic Council look forward to participating in the work ahead to create a vibrant national heritage area in Downeast Maine.

Sincerely,



Wayne Smith  
Board President  
Greater East Grand Economic Council

Photograph courtesy of Elbridge Cleaves


## A Depiction of the History of the Baskahegan Valley

Themes from the book *Forest for the Trees* by Roger Milliken Jr.

### 1600's to Early 1800's

**WABANAKI (INDIAN) INHABITANTS**

Once the Wabanaki occupied major portions of both sides of the Baskahegan River (Psemmacousy Passikowak, "the joining of places"), became a crossroads to a sophisticated trade and communications network that stretched throughout the State, and from what is now New Hampshire to New Brunswick.



**ADVENT OF EUROPEANS**

From the earliest contact, European traders, explorers, and missionaries followed the route of the Malisee from the Penobscot to the St. John River, and they up the Malisee/Kennebec River to the future site of the valley.


The French, in contrast to the British, were content to trade among the Indians. They did not seek to settle in the area, but rather to trade with the Indians. They did not seek to settle in the area, but rather to trade with the Indians. They did not seek to settle in the area, but rather to trade with the Indians.

**FIRST LUMBERING & SETTLEMENT**

The lumbermen who first entered this small territory traveled up rivers streams on the water for a level of success, as an end in itself. They not only took and only those trees that could be taken down the river in a short time, but they also took the best quality timber they could get.

### The Baskahegan Valley

**150,000 ACRES**



**GREATER EAST GRAND REGION**  
An Assembly of Community Areas  
Defined by Landscape - United Through Heritage

### 1820's to Early 1900's

**THE SAWLOG ERA**

Blackburn helped to, as evidenced by a local sawmill built in 1820 for the purpose of sawing lumber. His larger saw mill was built in 1825. It was one of the first sawmills in the valley.

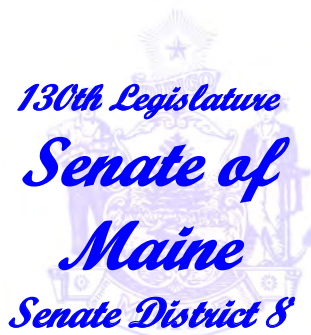
**HEMLOCK**

Lumber production of the Baskahegan Valley began in 1820. A great depression also began in 1820. Many people moved from the valley to other parts of the state.

**THE RISE OF DANFORTH**

By the 1820's the lumbermen had moved to the Baskahegan Valley. The rise of Danforth was a result of the lumbermen's activities in the valley.

**GREATER EAST GRAND REGION**  
An Assembly of Community Areas  
Defined by Landscape - United Through Heritage



**Senator Kimberley C. Rosen**

*3 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*

*(207) 287-1505*

*Kimberley.Rosen@legislature.maine.gov*

**State and Local Government Committee**

*Ranking Member*

**Marine Resources Committee**

*Ranking Member*

May 28, 2021

National Heritage Feasibility Study  
Sunrise County Economic Council  
7 Ames Way  
Machias, Maine 04654

It is a pleasure to write this letter to express my support of a National Heritage Area Designation for DownEast Maine. This unique designation will indicate to all that Maine's Washington and Hancock Counties have a distinctive story that should be shared with not only the visitors who flock to the area but to the entire world.

The resources to support heritage preservation and education initiatives provided by the National Heritage Area would be wisely used and greatly impact the local communities with initiatives such as tours, downtown infrastructure and events, conservation of natural resources – all reflecting the cherished community values, livelihoods and traditions. The provision of matching technical and financial resources is a tremendous supplement that would enable the region to develop infrastructure that would highlight and promote its vast resources and offerings.

I encourage the positive consideration of this endeavor. DownEast Maine is a treasured gem that should be preserved and its interesting history promoted far and wide.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberley C. Rosen".

Kimberley Rosen  
State Senator



*Senator Louis Luchini*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*(207) 287-1515*  
*Louis.Luchini@legislature.maine.gov*

To Whom it May Concern:

June 10, 2021

I am writing in support of a National Heritage Area designation for Down East Maine in Hancock and Washington Counties. As the state senator representing most of Hancock County, I can attest to the value NHA designation will have to increase collaboration between different organizations and promote preservation, recreation, and economic development throughout the region.

Ellsworth is “The Crossroads of Down East Maine” and contains the Woodlawn Museum, Gardens, and Park; Bird’s Acre, the home of Ornithologist Cordelia Stanwood; the Down East Scenic Railroad, and the entry to the Down East Sunrise Trail, a multi-use trail that is the longest off-road section of the East Coast Greenway from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine. These are just a few of the rich natural and cultural assets that extend from Stonington and Deer Isle to the Canadian Border. We are a living reflection of the history and culture of Maine and New England

Machias is the site of the first naval engagement of the Revolutionary War, Castine was once the capital of French Acadia, Eastport was the last American city occupied by the British in the war of 1812, and our canneries provided wild blueberries and sardines to Union troops during the Civil War. Stonington and Mount Desert Island still have active granite quarries, Machias hosts an annual Wild Blueberry Festival, and traditional industries such as boatbuilding, forest products, agriculture, and fishing are viable and employ hundreds of people. Fresh lobster is available at numerous restaurants, farmer’s markets flourish in our towns, and 24 lighthouses guard our coast.

Down East Maine is a truly unique geographic area with long historic roots. Designation as a National Heritage Area will increase community pride and enable us to leverage increased funding from private donors, local, state, and federal sources. More importantly, it will support historic and healthy communities in Down East Maine.

Sincerely,

Louis Luchini



**Lynne A. Williams**

13 Albert Meadow

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Phone: (207) 266-6327

[Lynne.Williams@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Lynne.Williams@legislature.maine.gov)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 28, 2021

National Heritage Feasibility Study  
County Economic Council  
7 Ames Way  
Machias, ME 04654

RE: National Heritage Area in DownEast Maine

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of a National Heritage Area (NHA) in DownEast Maine.

I am the State Representative from House District 135, which includes the Towns of Bar Harbor, Lamoine and Mount Desert. With Acadia National Park as my backyard, I see first hand the benefits that tourism brings to my Town and to the surrounding communities. Over the years, I have seen an increasing number of folks visiting Mount Desert Island who want to know where they should go next. I am always pleased to direct them to go to the heart of the DownEast Region. I direct them to Eastport to wander around town, to Lubec to take the ferry to Campobello Island, to Cutler to walk the trail along the water.

But the designation of an NHA in this region would add so much. First, as someone who has done tours on MDI, I know that people are drawn to history, of the people and of the land. An NHA would present and preserve multiple aspects of our regional history, especially the stories of how we became who we are and how our landscape has evolved.

This land is the land of the Passamaquoddy and bringing more visitors to the DownEast Region will bring more attention to their history and artistic and creative skills, such as their unequaled skills at basketmaking. And the lobsters, the blueberries, and the fish that can be found throughout the region are part of the culinary masterpieces available to visitors.

Preserving our DownEast heritage is of utmost importance, as is economic development in Washington County. We get the visitors here on Mount Desert Island. Now we want to send them on their way to an unparalleled experience throughout the entire DownEast Maine region.

Thank you for your consideration of a National Heritage Area Designation for DownEast Maine, and I am willing to assist in any way possible to make such a designation a success.

Sincerely,

*Lynne Williams*



August 12, 2021

**RE: Designation of Downeast Maine as a National Heritage Area**

To Whom it Concerns:

It is a pleasure to express my support of a National Heritage Area designation for Downeast Maine. Since 2020, the Entrepreneurship Program of Sunrise County Economic Council has connected with and supported over 300 business students, entrepreneurs, and small business owners across Maine (45 percent of which are from Washington and Hancock Counties) and it has become increasingly clear that tourism is imperative to the success of our small-business majority.

The Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship partners with over 40 individual partners across 21 regional, state, and national entities to deliver accredited startup incubator and accelerator programs that promote entrepreneurship and small business ownership and provide on-the-spot training, coaching, and technical assistance. Our partners represent regional tourism, tribal community initiatives, government contract procurement, community college and university learning institutions, small business owners, community lenders, and business advisors.

A national designation would align with many of the goals and long-term objectives for the region and lead to increased tourism and pride of place--all of which have a positive and direct impact on the business ecosystem of Rural Downeast Maine. Downeast Maine offers a rich, blended heritage of culture, land, and sea that needs to be shared far and near. The heritage preservation resources and support would lead to greater awareness and celebration of this coalescence in a collaborative and impactful way.

On behalf of the Machias Valley Center for Entrepreneurship and direct program partners, thank you for your consideration of Downeast Maine as a National Heritage Area designation.

Sincerely,

DENISE L. CILLEY  
Entrepreneurship Program Director  
Sunrise County Economic Council



May 25, 2021

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries enthusiastically supports the DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area for Hancock and Washington Counties in Maine. The DownEast Acadia region has a long history in commercial fishing that is dependent on the natural geography of the area and has resulted in rich cultural heritage.

Hancock and Washington Counties are the most fisheries dependent counties on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Maine's iconic lobster fishery is currently centered in eastern Maine with the port of Stonington, located in Hancock County, being the largest landing port for lobster in the world. Thousands of fishermen work out of dozens of working harbors along the shores of DownEast Maine and provide a strong economic engine for the seafood economy of Maine.

Fisheries in this region have required diverse social dimensions influencing the population and demographics of these fishing communities, which over centuries, has resulted in the unique cultural heritage in DownEast Maine. Travelers across the country have become more interested in food systems and locally produced food products. Seafood provides excellent opportunities for visitors to learn about the natural and cultural systems while enjoying wholesome and healthy locally produced food. MCCF is one of various institutions in this region that are part of the DownEast Fisheries Trail ([www.downeastfisheriestrail.org](http://www.downeastfisheriestrail.org)), which will be an excellent resource for the National Heritage Area.

The National Heritage designation would help support heritage preservation and educational initiatives that matter to our communities. Funding would help us develop programs and projects that will create vibrant communities, which will in turn impact locals as well as tourists.

We fully support the DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area and the many benefits it would supply to our coastal fishing communities.

Sincerely,



Paul S. Anderson  
Executive Director

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**Paul Anderson, Executive Director**

**Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries Board of Directors**

James Chesney, Chair • Jane Osborne, Vice Chair • Charles Rudelitch, Treasurer • Thomas Urmy, Secretary  
Marsden Brewer • Ted Hoskins • Elizabeth Jewett • Nancy Knowlton • Walter Kumiega • James Markos  
Brent Oliver • Joan Sorensen • David Tarr • Dave Thomas • Susan Toder • Carl Wilson



July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

RE: Designation of Downeast Maine as a National Heritage Area

To Whom it Concerns

Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) is the regional planning organization (RPO) for Hancock County, and we also support communities in Knox and Washington Counties. We provide a range of services from comprehensive, environmental, and transportation planning to economic development and tourism planning support.

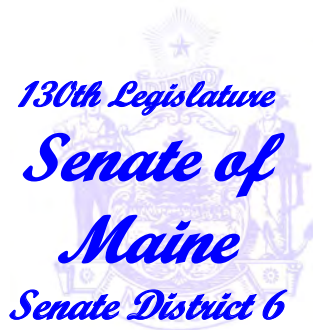
HCPC works closely with regional partners, towns, and agencies to foster sustainable and equitable tourism for our region. A national designation would align with many of the goals and long term objectives for our region and HCPC would be able to provide technical assistance in the future to ensure that the spirit of a National Heritage Area designation is met. HCPC works closely with DART and SCEC to support their mission of economic development and regional destination development in Downeast Maine.

If you have any questions of HCPC's mission, and our involvement in providing technical assistance concerning this project, please reach out anytime.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jarod Farn-Guillette,  
Executive Director,  
Hancock County Planning Commission



**Senator Marianne Moore**  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003  
(207) 287-1505

*Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov*

**Health & Human Services Committee**  
Ranking Member

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Washington County and DownEast Maine are seeking ways to enrich and diversify our communities to meet the needs of residents, newcomers, and the global economy. The creation of a DownEast Maine National Heritage Area in Washington and Hancock Counties to preserve and promote our natural and cultural heritage will help us do just that.

DownEast Maine has many characteristics making it unique on our national stage. We share Passamaquoddy Bay with our Canadian neighbors in New Brunswick and are home to the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Pleasant Point and Indian Township, regional occupants long before Europeans came to our shores. The first French settlement in North America was on the St. Croix Island in 1604, just downriver from Calais. Machias is the site of the capture of the Margareta, the first naval engagement of the Revolutionary War, and Eastport was the last city occupied by British troops after the War of 1812. Our fledgling canning industry nourished the Union Army with Wild DownEast Blueberries and herring during the Civil War. Our granite paved streets and built buildings along the east coast. As sailing ships gave way to motor vessels, concrete and steel replaced granite, and refrigeration eliminated the need for winter ice, we persevered. The logging industry transitioned from lumber and shingles to pulp and paper production, wild blueberries originally harvested by Native Americans became a healthy component of American diets, and lobsters became the mainstay of DownEast fishing. People worked together in towns and churches; almost every town has a Grange Hall, Odd Fellows Building, or Masonic Temple. Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt made their summer home just across from Lubec on Campobello Island, now a heralded international park.

We are a national destination for outdoor recreation and home to five scenic byways. The DownEast Sunrise Trail is the longest off-road section of the East Coast Greenway from Maine to Florida. U.S. Bicycle Route 1 runs from Key West, Fl. to its northern terminus in Calais, Maine. Our communities, fisheries, farms, and woodlands are dealing with a changing climate as we create alternative energy sources from woodchips, wind, solar, and tidal. To meet the increased demand for rural living, we are developing reliable broadband service to support both a seasonal and year-round population.

Designation as a National Heritage Area will enhance collaboration and increase opportunities for private, local, state, and federal coordination aiding preservation, attract new residents, and help build and sustain healthy communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marianne Moore".

Fax: (207) 287-1527 \* TTY (207) 287-1583 \* Message Service 1-800-423-6900 \* Web Site: [legislature.maine.gov/senate](http://legislature.maine.gov/senate)



5/27/21

Dear NHA feasibility study review team,

Maine Sea Grant is pleased to write this letter in support of National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in the Downeast Maine region. A Natural Heritage Area designation will help businesses, communities and initiatives in the Downeast Maine region thrive in the face of the many changes afoot in our natural-resource based economy.

Downeast Maine is a nationally significant region that includes two of the nation's counties (Washington and Hancock) that are among the most dependent on marine resources. Our lobster fishery is renowned around world, and our history as a critical cod fishing ground is legendary. Our communities have been reliant on the sea for generations, and the growth of aquaculture in the region illustrates how this connection to the sea will persist. Time and again, surveys show that our tourists are enthralled by our still-active natural resource-based economy and that they want experiences that bring them closer to the people who live off the land and the sea. And yet, warming waters and other challenges are triggering change that could alter a century's old way of life.

Maine Sea Grant envisions a future in which Maine's coast and inland regions are resilient to challenges and changes—resilient communities continually gather the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources (human and physical) to plan for, cope with, and thrive in the face of both predicted and unexpected change. An NHA designation would bring critical skills, knowledge and resources to the region.

Our staff have been active on the Downeast NHA feasibility study advisory committee, helping represent the perspectives of the many stakeholders we serve in the region, including fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and working waterfront industries. We find widespread support for the concept of NHA designation in the region among our industry stakeholders as well as the municipalities and non-profits with whom we collaborate in various community and economic development initiatives, such as the Downeast Fisheries Trail and the Downeast Fisheries Partnership.

We are committed to remaining active through the development of this process by contributing our time to this important initiative, supporting the development of the management structure, and offering timely information about regional and national research and economic development opportunities that would complement the National Heritage Area designation.

Thank you,



Gayle Zydlewski, Maine Sea Grant Director



Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant staff on NHA feasibility study committee





# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

**Nicole Grohoski**

PO Box 1732

Ellsworth, ME 04605

Cell Phone: (207) 358-8333

[Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov)

26 May 2021

To whom it may concern:

National Heritage Area designation for the easternmost two counties in the United States will build community pride, help preserve our cultural and natural heritage, and bring national attention to our unique attributes. Our natural assets include wild blueberry barrens, anadromous fish runs, the highest tides on the East Coast, the largest whirlpool in the Western Hemisphere, and the earliest sunrise in the conterminous US states. This region is the home of the Passamaquoddy people who were allies in the war for independence and have resisted assimilation.

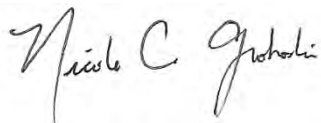
The first French settlement in North America was at St. Croix Island near Calais, Castine was once the capital of French Acadia, and Samuel D. Champlain gave Mount Desert Island its name, since anglicized. Machias is the site of the capture of the Margareta, 11-12 June 1775, the first naval battle of the American Revolution, still celebrated every June by descendants. In 1779, the British routed the Penobscot Expedition from Castine in the biggest Naval defeat in US history prior to Pearl Harbor, and Eastport was the last American city occupied by the British in the War of 1812.

Down East Maine is a living reflection of the history and culture of New England. Our towns still retain many 19<sup>th</sup> century structures built during the heyday of sailing ships, ice and forest harvesting, and granite quarrying. Traditional industries such as boatbuilding, forest products, agriculture, and fishing are viable today employing hundreds of people. Machias hosts the Wild Blueberry Festival, Winter Harbor has their Lobster Festival, Lobster Boat races are run in coastal towns, Castine celebrates Bastille Day with a “Picnic en Blanc” on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and 24 lighthouses dot our rugged coast between Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Bays.

Hunting and fishing are popular with visitors and locals, supported by savvy Maine Guides. The Down East Sunrise Trail is the longest off-road section of the East Coast Greenway between Key West, FL and Calais, ME. History and outdoor recreation, treasured by residents and visitors alike, are important to our economy and support our hospitality and tourism businesses.

Designation as a National Heritage area will enable us to leverage increased funding from private donors, local, state, and federal sources. This will improve the collaboration necessary to preserve our heritage and environment, attract new residents, and grow healthy communities in Down East Maine. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole C. Grohoski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a distinct 'C'.

Representative Nicole Grohoski



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

**Sarah Pebworth**

PO Box 347

Blue Hill, ME 04614

Cell Phone: (207) 479-4741

[Sarah.Pebworth@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Sarah.Pebworth@legislature.maine.gov)

May 24, 2021

I am writing to illustrate my strong support of the designation of a DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area for Hancock and Washington Counties.

I came to appreciate the heritage of DownEast Maine through my purchase of a small business in 2007—an 1830s inn in the historic district of Blue Hill. With the help of the local historical society, I was able to trace the history of the inn and see her place in the community, filling a binder of details, photographs, and stories to share with guests. Inn bookshelves featured local authors such as Mary Ellen Chase and E.B. White and *about* local authors such as the first minister, renaissance man Jonathan Fisher, and early businesses such as Rowantrees Pottery.

Looking to increase the autumn “shoulder” season of our tourist activity and celebrate the history and future of our writers, I helped start a literary arts festival, Word ([wordfestival.org](http://wordfestival.org)). This October, in a covid-delayed Maine bicentennial event, Word hosts a community theater production of a commissioned work based on Mary Ellen Chase’s life. This year’s festival also includes Maine’s poet laureate and a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

A community group of boat builders, historians, and singers have created the Blue Hill Maritime History Festival ([bhmhf.org](http://bhmhf.org)), which takes place on the town dock, with boat building demonstrations, traditional boats on display, and boat rides. Historians in period clothing and musicians offering sea shanties and fiddle tunes add to the atmosphere. This all takes place on a working waterfront, graced by "The Window of the Sea Wind" sculpture by Hitoshi Tanaka, one of 34 outdoor exhibits of the Maine Sculpture Trail ([schoodicsculpture.org](http://schoodicsculpture.org)). The Shaw Institute ([shawinstitute.org](http://shawinstitute.org)) participates with scientific research of Blue Hill Bay. The Historical Society’s Holt House offers an exhibit on lives of sea captains and Blue Hill Public Library supplies historic films and lectures on local maritime history. This festival is truly a collaborative celebration of DownEast Maine.

For me as a state representative, one of the most exciting developments is the restoration of our alewife fishery. Brooksville, Sedgwick, and Penobscot, in collaboration with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries ([coastalfisheries.org](http://coastalfisheries.org)) among others, are improving the fishways in and the health of the Bagaduce River watershed. Alewives are an important food source for freshwater and marine life—including as bait for lobster and halibut—but numerous areas of their spawning routes had been destroyed over the years by mills and culverts and their numbers were depleted. Last year, the third of five projects, located on Walker Pond, at the former location of a mill at the head of the Bagaduce River, was completed. The groups involved restored the fishway that runs around the dam, created public access and education, stabilized the dam, and added a hydrant for the Brooksville and Sedgwick fire departments. These efforts are highlighting a heritage fishery with economic implications, improving the ecosystem of the whole area, and offering citizen scientists a chance to support the restoration efforts of a species that has been in Maine waters for thousands of years.

Efforts such as these—just the tip of the iceberg with which I have personal experience in the last few years—show that this area is ripe for a National Heritage Area designation.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Schoodic National Scenic Byway  
Committee

July 25, 2021

RE: Designation of Downeast Maine as a National  
Heritage Area

To whom it concerns:

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway is a grass roots organization. This organization was awarded State and National status in the year of 2000. It begins in Sullivan on Route 1 and continues to Route 186 in Goldsboro through Winter Harbor and includes the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park. The total length is 27 miles, which ends in Prospect Harbor. We have been active over 20 years working with historical societies, environmental groups, municipals, Maine DOT and other local organizations.

The Byway committee is very interested in promoting the local heritage along the coast in Downeast Maine. It is known for its granite quarries, fishing and lumber industries as well as entrepreneurs. Our coastline is one of our best assets in Maine with generations of local historic stories to be told and shared. We work with DART and Sunrise County Economic Council with similar objectives and goals, such as preserving Maine's heritage. We hope you will approve the designation of Downeast Maine as a National Heritage area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shanahan  
Chairperson,  
Schoodic National Scenic Byway



July 27, 2021

The Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society (S-SHS) is pleased to support the effort to have DownEast Acadia region designated as a National Heritage Area for Hancock and Washington Counties Maine. The DownEast Acadia region has a rich cultural and natural history. That history and it's spectacular natural features attract visitors to our rural region.

The National Heritage designation would help support ongoing preservation and educational efforts that are important to the quality of life of local folks and to attract visitors to the area. The Heritage Area designation will help with project funding for local communities and non-profits as well as customers for local business and industry.

Sullivan and Sorrento are in the middle of the "Schoodic" region, which sits on the North side of Frenchman Bay. Our history evolved around the sea. Fishing and farming, lumbering, shipbuilding, granite and mining contributed to our development. Some of these continue today, augmented by tourism and more modern industries. We had an active militia during the revolution, whose commander was captured by the British and imprisoned in New York harbor.

Our society is one of five in the Schoodic area. All of which would contribute to the importance of a Heritage area and would benefit by that designation.

We fully support the DownEast Acadia National Heritage Area and the many benefits it would supply to the region.

Sincerely,

Gary Edwards, President

P.O. Box 44 Sullivan, ME 04664-0044  
Web Site [www.sullivansorrentohistory.org](http://www.sullivansorrentohistory.org)  
E-mail [info@sullivansorrentohistory.org](mailto:info@sullivansorrentohistory.org)



**Genevieve McDonald**

P.O. Box 253

Stonington, ME 04681

Phone: (207) 266-5113

[Genevieve.McDonald@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Genevieve.McDonald@legislature.maine.gov)

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

July 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in strong support of the designation of a National Heritage Area in Downeast Maine. As a member of the Maine House of Representatives and a commercial fisherman, I know firsthand how important it is to promote and preserve the Downeast Acadia region, from its world-renowned working waterfront to its natural beauty to its rich and complicated history.

Creating a National Heritage Area here will promote closer collaboration between towns, departments of government and organizations with similar interest in preservation, economic development, and resource conservation. It will have a positive impact that extends far beyond Hancock and Washington Counties and will have positive ripple effects across rural Maine.

The district I represent includes coastal areas containing shell middens created by Native Americans and islands that were first used by European fishermen to dry fish long before their compatriots began to settle the mainland. We have a landscape and ecosystem shaped by glaciers the effect of which is visible to this day. The Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes were our allies in America's war for independence and live nearby, honoring ancient traditions.

Deer Isle provided the crews for the first sailing ships to win the America's Cup. We still harvest wild blueberries, build boats, quarry granite, and catch fish, especially lobster. Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory serve as the Gateway to Downeast Maine and prepare people to cross the Deer Isle bridge on their journey to the islands of East Penobscot Bay. Our islands are part of the Maine Island Trail supported by public lands and private owners. Instead of cars, we race lobster boats. Cultural events and outdoor recreation support local businesses and tell our story to visitors.

A National Heritage designation for Downeast Maine will help us address climate change on a local and regional basis. It will help us promote history, increase community pride, and welcome new residents. Most importantly, it will support economic development and promote healthy communities here.

On behalf of my constituents, I strongly urge you to move forward on this, and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Genevieve McDonald".

Genevieve McDonald  
State Representative

District 134 Cranberry Isles, Deer Isle, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, North Haven, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swans Island, Tremont and Vinalhaven, plus the unorganized territory of Marshall Island Township



# *Wild Blueberry Commission* OF MAINE

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5784 York Complex, Suite 52, Orono, Maine 04469-5784

TEL: 207-581-1475

FAX: 207-581-3499

July 6, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

We enthusiastically support the designation of the Downeast region as the first National Heritage Area (NHA) in Maine. The Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine's (Commission) goal is conserving and promoting the welfare of Maine and the wild blueberry agricultural industry. Over our 70-year history of promotion and research and development of Maine's native berry crop we have identified the wild blueberry as globally unique in promotional advantages and sustainable practices.

Maine growers and processors produce ~ 70 million pounds of berries annually (5 year average 2016-20 USDA-NASS) but a market oversupply of cultivated blueberries and U.S. imports from Canada drove prices down and did little to alleviate production costs outpacing grower income. With the NHA designation we expect national recognition of the history and culture of wild blueberries in Maine and added support for the industry to differentiate wild blueberries in the marketplace and in the eyes of the consumer.

Developing a NHA in Downeast Maine has the potential to greatly accelerate agritourism and economic activities while benefitting a region that is central to the sustainability and heritage of wild blueberry agriculture. From 2012 to 2017, dollars on Maine farms generated by direct sales increased 53% from \$24.7 million to \$38.7 million, while dollars generated from other agritourism activities grew 268% from \$1.8 million to \$6.6 million (2017 USDA Census of Agriculture). Maine's wild blueberry farms are just beginning to reap the benefits of agritourism. With the launch of the 2021 Wild Blueberry Weekend promotion, farms are offering opportunities that include on farm tours, U-Pick, and overnight farm stays. Some farms report that in down years, revenue from agritourism exceeds that from harvest.

A NHA will create a network of significant geographic, ecological, historical and natural landmarks that will enhance the community and the economy by educating Maine and visitors about one of few wild native crops that is commercially grown in the US. This differentiation of Maine's wild indigenous blueberry from cultivated blueberries grown worldwide is critically important to the viability of Maine's economy.



It is critically important to pursue and support regional, state and national efforts to conserve the value of this significant landscape, as well as the human history, culture and conservation of the region.

The Commission supports efforts on behalf of Wild Blueberry growers and processors to promote this iconic and valuable Maine crop. On behalf of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine we strongly support this designation and look forward to successful establishment of the ***Downeast National Heritage Area***.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kontur  
Program Director

cc: Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine



## *St. Croix District*

September 10, 2021

National Heritage Feasibility Study  
Sunrise County Economic Council  
7 Ames Way  
Machias, ME 04654

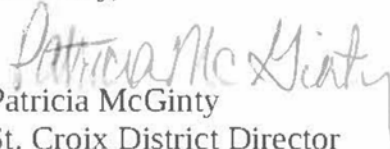
To Whom it May Concern,

As the District Director for the St. Croix District of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, which encompasses both Hancock and Washington Counties, I am in full support of establishing a National Heritage Area Designation for DownEast Maine. The conservation pledge which our clubs adhere to state we “pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education as we may become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land and wildlife”.

The NHA program with its financial resources would help bring recognition of DownEast Maine and all of its beauty, while assisting in coordinated efforts to preserve and protect our soil, water and forests.

I urge you to consider establishing a National Heritage Area in DownEast Maine.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia McGinty  
St. Croix District Director

RE: Collaborations in DownEast Maine

On Sun, Apr 11, 2021 at 9:53 PM Alvion Kimball <[ACKimball1995@msn.com](mailto:ACKimball1995@msn.com)> wrote:

Landon,

Thank you for the recent activity update. I hope you are well, have your vaccinations, and business is picking up. I need your help promoting history, culture and the economy in Hancock and Washington Counties. I'm working on a feasibility study to establish a National Heritage Area, NHA, in DownEast Acadia and would very much appreciate your endorsement as one of the professionally run Land Trusts in the region.

There are currently 55 NHA's in the Country. We'd be the first in Maine and the only one in Northern New England exclusively in one state. If we can establish one it would mean increased collaboration to promote history, culture, outdoor recreation and economic development in the region along with 1:1 matching Federal funds to support same. Sunrise County Economic Council has the lead and is collaborating with other groups in Hancock and Washington Counties. I've attached a brief synopsis of what a National Heritage is and can offer. Preservation and conservation are central tenets.

Is this something you'd like us to pursue and can you send me an endorsement? (This week?) Please call me if you have questions or need more information. Thank you. (And Happy Spring).

Cheers, Alvion C: 207 902-2240 [www.DownEastAcadia.com](http://www.DownEastAcadia.com)

Links to National Heritage Areas: [www.nationalheritageareas.us/find-your-nha](http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/find-your-nha)

**From:** Landon Fake <[landon@greatpondtrust.org](mailto:landon@greatpondtrust.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 12:37 PM

**To:** Alvion Kimball <[ACKimball1995@msn.com](mailto:ACKimball1995@msn.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Collaborations in DownEast Maine

Hi Alvion,

I'm happy to endorse your pursuit of National Heritage Area designation. As the owners of the 4900-acre Wildlands preserve, which is open to the public for human-powered recreation, we have an abiding interest in the health and viability of local communities. The preserve protects the natural and cultural heritage of the land, which is open to traditional uses of hunting and fishing and managed in part for sustainable logging. Water routes through the preserve were used by native peoples 5000 years ago, by lumbermen 150 years ago to move saw logs, and in the past century as a source of water for the local mills. We welcome about 20,000 visitors annually, most of them visitors to the area. With bald peaks within a few miles of the coast, 25 miles of trails, and much of the preserve dedicated to protection of wildlife habitat, we are a valuable asset to the area. Using this asset to better serve the community and its visitors, as well as expanding our protection to key parts of the landscape could be aided by NHA designation.

Thank you for your work on this.

Landon Fake  
Executive Director  
Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust  
207-469-6929  
[landon@greatpondtrust.org](mailto:landon@greatpondtrust.org)  
[www.greatpondtrust.org](http://www.greatpondtrust.org)

