



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2011

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### **MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM**

**Maine Beaches Conference July 15, 2011.** The Maine Coastal Program is a lead sponsor of the Maine Beaches Conference to be held at Southern Maine Community College on Friday, July 15. This year's event, *Coastal Places, Processes, and Partnerships: Balancing Values and Expectations*, features presentations by state scientists and regulators, discussion groups, a volunteer recognition event and a closing debate. A new website resource for homeowners will be introduced at the conference. The site provides advice to homeowners about coastal geology and helps direct them to additional resources to control erosion, elevate homes, etc. The site was developed by the Maine Geological Survey and the University of Maine Sea Grant Program with contributions from the coastal program. Since 2000, and now held every other year, the beaches conference has provided opportunities for exchange of the most current information among beach stakeholders with diverse interests, and presents the findings from the state's beach monitoring programs. For more information and to register, visit

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/marine/beach-conference/2011program.htm>

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**Mapping in the Gulf of Maine.** This week, MCP will participate in a regional discussion in Newburyport, MA to further document and understand current human uses in the Gulf of Maine. This initiative is meant to bring together efforts from other New England states and ensure compatibility with data collected, eliminate redundancy, and collaborate on methodology. MCP is currently contracting with the Island Institute of Rockland to conduct surveys and interviews of fishermen in coastal communities throughout the Maine coast in an effort to understand areas of importance for constituents, in particular commercial fishing interests, and to document uses to minimize potential future conflict.

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**Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program.** The MCP has received final reports from two of the 10 communities participating in the Shore and Harbor Planning Grant Program to date. The submission of these reports is ahead of schedule and substantial work has already been completed by the towns. The Town of Harpswell has completed a coastal waters management plan, while the Town of Sullivan has updated their harbor ordinances and planned for and conducted surveys at the access point at Gordan's Wharf in Taunton Bay.

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### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Legal training offered to CEOs.** The Code Enforcement Officer Training and Certification Program provided two basic trainings to nearly 160 CEOs this week. Durward Parkinson from the law firm of Bergen & Parkinson, LLC presented a one-day workshop on legal issues and enforcement techniques followed by another day-long training on Court Rule 80K. Both were held in Augusta. These trainings are intended to provide the knowledge a person needs in order to pass the examinations to become a certified CEO or certified in Court Rule 80K. Those already certified could attend the trainings to earn recertification contact hours. Both trainings were free to municipally appointed CEOs.

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## **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM**

**LMF Board to select finalists on July 12.** The Land for Maine's Future board is wrapping up its selection process for new land conservation projects for the \$9.25 million bond approved by voters in November 2010. The selection process started at the beginning of the year with the board issuing scoring criteria and soliciting proposals from land trusts, municipalities, state agencies, and other conservation organizations. The board received 38 proposals in April 2010 for farmland and conservation and recreation (working waterfront proposals are on a different time track) totaling close to \$12 million. Proposals underwent an intense, two-step review process, with the board's scoring committee reading and scoring them; and the nominations committee to make recommendations on funding awards. The full LMF board will meet on July 12 to hear the recommendations of the scoring and nominations committees and to select proposal finalists. Visit SPO's web site for [meeting details](#).

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