

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Status of Casco Bay Plan Implementation
(as of January 2012)

Last Updated January 2012

	Casco Bay Plan Action Item 2006 Update	Type of Action	CBEP Direct role 2010–2011	Other Significant CBEP Partner Organization Activities	Partners	Status
Stormwater Actions	1. Provide Training in Stormwater Best Management Practices to Appropriate Target Audiences	Technical Assistance	CBEP provides ongoing funding to support a variety of training opportunities, including CCSWCD / DEP programs for training septic tank installers. CBEP also provides support through grants for Maine NEMO and recently sponsored NEMO University. CBEP staff also gives presentations to a variety of audiences on stormwater-related topics.	CBEP partners provide numerous training opportunities around the region.	DEP, CCSWCD, SPO, ISWG, Maine NEMO	Fully implemented
	2. Promote Subwatershed Management, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	CBEP supports several local watershed organizations, including Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, New Meadows Watershed Partnership. CBEP leads the Presumpscot Land Conservation Vision Project. CBEP funded development of a Pleasant River Watershed Management Plan. CBEP provides water quality monitoring equipment to support data collection, especially in urban streams. CBEP Director Bohlen serves not eh Board of the Long Creek Watershed Management District.	CBEP local partners often lead watershed planning efforts. Some efforts are more formal than others. CCSWCD has historically been especially active raising money for and completing development of watershed plans.	PRWC, PRW, FOPR, CCSWCD, USFWS, FOCB, LCWMD, ISWG, municipalities, citizens, Maine DEP, and others	Fully implemented
	3. Monitor Progress of Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction Plans in Portland, South Portland and Westbrook	Regulatory / Enforcement	CBEP staff continues to participate in stakeholder meetings on Portland's CSO elimination program. Director Bohlen serves on the city's Sustainable Stormwater Funding taskforce, which in part is looking at ways to fund the City's CSO remediation obligations. In 2011, CBEP funded development of an outreach plan by the city to facilitate discussions with area businesses and the general public about alternative ways to fund stormwater management and CSO remediation.		DEP, Cities of Portland and South Portland, EPA, FOCB	Fully implemented
	4. Assist Interlocal Stormwater Working Group and municipalities with Meeting Requirements in Maine's Stormwater Management Law and Federally-Mandated MEPDES Stormwater Program	Regulatory / Enforcement	CBEP continues to meet regularly with the ISWG. We loan water quality monitoring equipment to interested IWG municipalities, share data with ISWG communities regarding fish passage and other issues at road-stream crossings (culverts). We provide technical and financial assistance to ISWG and to member communities on a project - by project (grant) basis. Discussions in 2011 have focused on assisting ISWG with watershed planning and prioritization.	CCSWCD provides staffing for ISWG and runs educational and outreach programs on behalf of the organization. A footrace, the "Urban Runoff" is scheduled for April 21, 2012 in Portland as a fundraiser for community stormwater education programs.	ISWG member communities, CCSWCD, DEP, Maine NEMO, EPA, SPO	Fully implemented

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	5.Promote the Use of Vegetated Buffers and other Low Impact Development Technologies to Reduce Stormwater Runoff	New Action	CBEP has recently scaled back its general stormwater grants program, as available funds were too small to support significant LID projects and the need for small scale pilot projects has declined in recent years. Last year , CBEP funded development of an on-line "how-to" manual on stormwater management and "LID" technologies that was developed for and is now housed on the South Portland municipal web site. CBEP staff are closely involved with Long Creek Watershed Management District, which has become a significant test-bed for innovative solutions to restoration of urban watersheds.		DEP, EPA, NEMO, CCSWCD, ISWG, EFC, SPO	Fully implemented

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Clam Flats and Swimming Beaches Actions	1. Provide Technical Assistance to Help Re-Open and Manage Shellfish Areas	Technical Assistance	CBEP commissioned a study in 2011 by Normandeau Associates, to look at condition of clam flats and other shellfish resources throughout Casco Bay. Similar studies have been completed twice before. A portion of this study will discuss ways to monitor coastal streams so that closures of clam flats impacted by suburban runoff can be based on reliable data and robust science. CBEP staff serve on the state's Shellfish Advisory Committee.		Municipalities, clam diggers, DMR, FOCB, etc.	Fully implemented
	2. Provide Technical Assistance to Monitor and Open Swimming Beaches	Technical Assistance	CBEP staff provide limited support to the state's Clean Beaches program, and report results of bacterial monitoring at beaches in our State of the Bay reports.		DEP, EPA, municipalities	Fully implemented
	3. Train Installers and Pumpers of Septic Systems	Technical Assistance	CBEP provides partial funding for annual training events managed by CCSWCD and DEP.		CCSWCD, DEP	Fully implemented
	4. Support Compliance with the Pumpout Law	Regulatory / Enforcement	CBEP annually commits to providing partial funding for the FOCB pumpout boat. In recent years, the Portland Water District has provide those funds to CBEP, so they have not had to be drawn from Section 320 funds.		FOCB, DEP	Fully implemented
	5. Support Efforts to Prevent Septic System Malfunction through Voluntary Inspection Programs during Property Transfers and Education of Key Stakeholder Groups	Regulatory / Enforcement		Now implemented via existing state rules.	DHHS, DEP, SPO	Fully Implemented / Inactive
	6. Expand Cooperative Programs between Commercial Pumpers and Installers and Municipalities to Protect Shellfish Areas from Septic System Discharge	Planning / Assessment		Maine DEP runs periodic training events, usually one or two annually in the Casco Bay region. Nevertheless, increased suburban development along the Casco Bay shoreline poses a growing threat to sustainable shellfisheries in the region.	SPO, municipalities	Fully implemented

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Habitat Actions	1. Provide Technical Assistance Necessary for Habitat Protection	Technical Assistance	CBEP has led a three year effort to identify regional land conservation priorities in the lower Presumpscot River watershed. CBEP provides funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program Office both to maintain a regional database of protected lands and to provide technical assistance to land trusts and municipalities in the form of GIS services and habitat analyses. CBEP has also worked with area land trusts in support of climate adaptation planning.		Beginning with Habitat, USFWS, land trusts, municipalities	Fully implemented
	2. Develop and Implement Plans to Restore Degraded Habitat in Casco Bay	Planning & Assessment	CBEP, in association with several partners, recently completed a survey of over 1400 potential fish passage barriers (especially road-stream crossings and dams) around the Casco Bay watershed. Results of the survey are now being used to identify potential restoration projects. Results are being shared with environmental groups like Trout Unlimited as well as with municipal officials. CBEP has identified over 125 tidal restrictions around Casco Bay, and we are working on identifying the best opportunities to restore full tidal flow to these sites.		SPO, DEP, USFWS, FOCB, NOAA	Fully implemented
	3. Continue a Grant Program to Support Local Habitat Protection and Restoration Activities	Planning & Assessment	CBEP continues to provide funds for habitat protection through the Habitat Protection Fund. CBEP grants supported permanent protection of well over 500 acres of in 2010 and 2011. CBEP provided habitat restoration grants and direct funding in support of fish passage restoration on Sweet Brook, and salt marsh restoration at Thomas Cove Marsh, in Brunswick. CBEP's available restoration funding is generally too small to support significant restoration projects alone. CBEP is thus especially interested in tapping our National Estuary Program funds to support project development or design work that will facilitate efforts to find funding from other sources.		MCHT, USFWS, SPO, DEP, NOAA	Fully implemented
	4. Participate in Efforts to Address the Impacts of Invasive Marine Organisms in Casco Bay	New Action	CBEP staff continues to support the efforts of the Maine Invasive Species Working Group, recently renamed the Maine Invasive Species Coalition. CBEP staff have supported several years of data collection on the abundance of the invasive tunicate, <i>Didemnum</i> , in the waters of Maine. CBEP was also a partial funder of the 2010 Gulf of Maine Marine Invasive Species Rapid Assessment.		Maine Marine Invasives Working Group, EPA, Sea Grant (ME, NH, MA)	Fully implemented

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Toxics Actions	1. Support efforts to develop a Comprehensive Management Strategy for Dredged Material.	Planning & Assessment		This effort has largely been on hold in the absence of significant federal funding to support creation of a "CAD Cell" dredged material disposal site.	EPA, Waterfront Alliance, FOCB, EPA	Inactive
	2. Develop Biological Indicators for Marine Waters	Planning & Assessment	CBEP supports collection of several related long-term data sets and participates in regional discussions on biological indicators and related topics. CBEP continues to look for ways to incorporate better biological data into our Monitoring Program and to look for ways to use biological data to provide insight into the condition of Casco Bay.	No existing program collects biological data of a sophistication and frequency to support for indicator development. Prospects for significant new data collection efforts are not good.	DEP, EPA, GOMC	Inactive
	3. Develop Sediment Quality Thresholds for Assessment of Contaminated Sediments	Planning & Assessment	CBEP was lead implementer for EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment in 2010. In 2010 and 2011, CBEP funded collection of sediment samples from throughout Casco Bay. Samples were analyzed for presence of a variety of persistent anthropogenic toxic compounds. Data analysis and generation of one or more reports based on the data is expected to begin in 2012.		DEP, EPA	Dropped
	4. Research the Feasibility of and Best Approach to Monitoring New Environmental Analytes.	Planning & Assessment	Biodiversity Research Institute, with financial support from CBEP, continues to study toxics "of emerging concern" such as flame retardants and stain repellants in Casco Bay osprey.		DEP, EPA, BRI, research scientists	Fully implemented

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Stewardship Actions	1. Support K-12 Educational Activities Related to Casco Bay	Public Education	CBEP provides funding each year for a variety of environmental education programs, including the Children's Water Festival, Envirothon Competitions, and classroom environmental education programs.	Significant environmental education programs are run by several CBEP partners, including CCSWCD, FOCB, and PWD	CCSWCD, DEP, EPA, area middle and high schools	Fully implemented
	2. Focus Post-Secondary Educational Programs on Casco Bay	Public Education	CBEP has been working hard to strengthen relationships with faculty at area colleges. CBEP annually hires student interns through USM's Muskie School of Public Service, and in recent years, CBEP has issued small undergraduate student research grants in support of projects of interest to the CBEP community. CBEP staff are frequent guest lecturer for college and university classes.		University of Southern Maine; University of Maine School of Law, Bowdoin, Bates	Fully implemented
	3. Support Educational Campaigns to Promote Sound Household Practices	Public Education	CBEP installed interpretive and educational signs on the Portland waterfront in July of 2011. We provided partial funding in support of development of the "Ducky II" ad campaign by the Think Blue Maine Partnership, and we provided support for an effort at the Baltimore aquarium to develop a moveable interpretive display that focuses on the National Estuary Programs and on household practices to reduce water pollution.	ISWG communities fund significant public outreach and education efforts through CCSWCD and the "Think Blue" Partnership. FOCB continues its "Bayscaping" program, and the Maine Board of Pesticides Control runs a related "Yardscaping" program.	FOCB, DEP, Cooperative Extension, CCSWCD, Maine Bureau of Pesticides Control, ISWG	Fully implemented
	4. Hold "State of the Bay" Conferences	Public Education	Last held in 2010; ~ 220 participants at conference.		Numerous partners	Fully implemented
	5. Continue Friends of Casco Bay's Successful Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	Public Education	CBEP's Board has approved the goal that CBEP should try to support ~ 1/3 of FOCB water quality monitoring program costs. However, declining or static federal budgets and increasing monitoring costs, as FOCB expands the parameters they monitor, may make that goal difficult to maintain in future years.		Friends of Casco Bay, citizen volunteers, other funders.	Fully implemented

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Monitoring Plan Actions	Stormwater Toxics Loading	Monitoring	CBEP assists several efforts led by our partners by providing letters of support and technical assistance.	CBEP partners lead a number of related efforts. These include a joint FOCB / BPC program that samples surface waters annually looking for pesticide residues, the extensive Long Creek watershed monitoring program, which includes toxics analyses, and a research program led by Lucy Benedict of USM looking at toxic constituents in street dust.	EPA, communities, FOCB, Board of Pesticides Control	Fully Implemented
	CSO Volume and Frequency Monitoring	Monitoring		PWD tracks discharges from CSOs in the Portland with and reports monthly to Maine DEP and interested organization.	City of Portland, PWD, DEP	Fully implemented
	Shellfish Bed Acreage	Monitoring	CBEP commissioned a study in 2011 to look at the condition of shellfish resources throughout Casco Bay. Results are expected soon. CBEP led an effort in preparation for the 2010 State of the Bay Report to improve mapping of clam flats in relation to whether they were open, closed, or conditionally open.		DMR	Fully implemented
	Swimming Beach Monitoring	Monitoring		The state's Healthy Beaches program tracks bacterial contamination at three locations around Casco Bay, Willard Beach, East End Beach, and Winslow Park.	DEP	Fully implemented
	Eelgrass Monitoring	Monitoring		Monitoring has historically been led by DMR, however state funding is insufficient for frequent monitoring. A bay-wide assessment of eelgrass has not occurred since 2004.	DMR, USGS, FOCB	Fully implemented
	Waterbird Survey	Monitoring	CBEP has provided partial funding to support monitoring of shorebird populations since 2009. Additional funding comes from the Maine Coastal Program, and in-kind contributions from IF&W and the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program.		SPO, USFWS, IF&W	Fully implemented
	Acres of Protected Habitat in the Lower Casco Bay Watershed	Monitoring	CBEP continues to fund work by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program office to track protected lands in the region. Data is available in standard GIS formats.	Efforts to track similar, but not identical, information are also being run by state agencies.	USFWS, land trusts, municipalities	Fully implemented
	Benthic Community Analysis	Monitoring	Limited data on benthic community composition in Casco Bay are available through the National Coastal Condition Assessment, and its predecessors. CBEP has been the local organization responsible for implementing NCCA for more than a decade, and ran the 2010 NCCA effort.	A published study used earlier NCCA data to derive a sediment biological health index, but the small number of sites sampled from Casco Bay limit the index's value.	EPA, DEP	Fully implemented
	Regulated Activities	Monitoring	CBEP no longer makes use of this indicator because the quality of the information available does not justify the considerable expense of assembling the data in a useable form.	State databases provide the primary source of information on regulated activities under NRPA, however, the data is not spatially explicit.	DEP	Dropped
	Impervious Surface	Monitoring		Impervious cover data have historically been generated by state agencies on an infrequent (every 5 to 10 year) basis.	State Agencies	Fully implemented
Undeveloped Land	Monitoring		Land cover data has also been produced on a state-wide basis infrequently. The most recent data derive from satellite imagery that is now over a decade old.	State Agencies	Fully implemented	

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Monitoring Plan Actions (Continued)	Population	Monitoring	U.S. Census		Maine State Planning Office	Fully implemented
	Bay Water Quality Monitoring (temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, clarity, nitrogen, chlorophyll)	Monitoring	CBEP provides partial financial support for FOCB's extensive Water Quality Monitoring Program.		FOCB	Fully implemented
	Inland Watershed Water Quality Assessment	Monitoring	CBEP provides financial and technical support for local water quality monitoring. In particular, CBEP has long provided financial support for volunteer monitoring by Presumpscot River Watch. CBEP provides substantial technical support and limited funding to assist The Long Creek Monitoring Program, one of the most extensive urban stream water quality monitoring programs in the region. CBEP also makes a variety of water quality equipment available to our partners for monitoring purposes.		DEP, EPA, OGIS, PRW, LCWMD, USM	Fully implemented
	Invasive Species	Monitoring	CBEP continues to work on analysis and interpretation of data collected on the abundance of the invasive tunicate, Didemnum in Casco Bay and the Boothbay region. CBEP provided support for the 2010 Gulf of Maine Invasive Species Rapid Assessment Survey.		MMISWG	Fully implemented
	Sediment Toxicity	Monitoring		Limited data from bioassays of sediment toxicity are available through the National Coastal Condition Assessment, but so few sites were studied in those surveys that it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about conditions in Casco Bay	NCCA	Fully implemented
	Sediment Contaminant Concentration	Monitoring	CBEP funded collection of sediment samples from 70 locations around Casco Bay in 2010 and 2011. Samples were analyzed for the abundance of numerous anthropogenic toxic compounds, from pesticides to PAHs to metals.		EPA, DEP, FOCB	Fully implemented
	Mussel Tissue Toxics	Monitoring		Data continues to be collected by DEP and by Regional "Gulfwatch" and mussel watch program.	DEP, GOMC's Gulfwatch program	Fully implemented
	Lobster Tissue Toxics	Monitoring		DEP's Surface Water Ambient Toxics (SWAT) program collects samples as funding allows. Samples were collected in 2010 and 2011 to support the National Coastal Condition Assessment.	DEP	Fully implemented
Citizen Involvement	Monitoring	CBEP tracks citizen involvement informally, through efforts to gather project narratives from partner organizations.	CCSWCD tracks participation in environmental education programs. The City of Portland has lead efforts to survey residents of the Capisic Brook watershed about their awareness of water quality issues.	Many partners	Fully implemented	