

November 1, 2005

RE: Invitation for public comment on the DRAFT 2005 *Casco Bay Plan* Update

Dear Casco Bay Stakeholder,

Over the course of the last year, the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) has been working closely with our Board members and partners to update the core of the 1996 *Casco Bay Plan* (the *Plan*), the set of 33 recommended action items in 5 topic areas which guide the CBEP's work.

The purpose of this revision process is not a re-write or a re-visioning of CBEP or the *Plan*; rather, it is an opportunity to bring the *Plan* up-to-date. Nine years of implementation of the original *Plan* have resulted in a remarkable amount of progress toward restoration and protection of the bay. However, new issues and threats to the bay, such as marine invasive species, have emerged since the original *Plan* development. In addition, new science, technologies, programs, political climates, regulatory frameworks and partnerships now exist.

CBEP felt strongly that this 2005 Update should honor the hard work and broad stakeholder input involved in the original development of the *Plan* between 1990 and 1996. Therefore, the scope of this *Plan* Update was limited and two guiding principles were established for the process:

- Honor the past (i.e., the original *Plan* development process); and
- Balance need and vision with achievability and practicality.

The DRAFT 2005 *Plan* Update that resulted from this year-long revision is now available for public review. The document can be downloaded from CBEP's website at [www.cascobayestuary.org](http://www.cascobayestuary.org) or you may contact us for a hard copy at (207)228-8593 or [cbep@usm.maine.edu](mailto:cbep@usm.maine.edu).

We would like to invite you to provide comments on this draft document. CBEP will be accepting comments from any member of the public until January 16, 2006. If you have any questions about the proposed changes or related questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Thank you in advance for your input!

Sincerely,

Karen Young  
Director