

Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder's Meeting
March 30, 2010
MDI Biological Laboratory (MDIBL)
Salisbury Cove, ME 04672

Report Summary

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Overview

The Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder Meeting aimed to bring people together who had a stake in the future of Upper Frenchman Bay. The goals of the meeting were to gather information about marine resources, learn about conservation action planning and marine conservation agreements, identify areas in upper Frenchman Bay for further eelgrass research or conservation actions, and establish a mechanism for on-going information exchange among stakeholders.

Participants

Thirty-six people participated in the Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder Meeting. Participants represented the towns of Bar Harbor, Trenton, Lamoine, Hancock and Blue Hill. Six commercial fishermen, 2 individuals representing fisheries-related businesses, 25 individuals representing 13 organizations or state agencies, and 2 town officials participated in discussions. Five of these participants own property in Upper Frenchman Bay; one participant attended only in the capacity of property owner.

Status of Upper Frenchman Bay

Six presentations were given on the status of water quality, marine resources, and eelgrass habitat in Upper Frenchman Bay.

- Water Quality in Upper Frenchman Bay
 - Rob Goodwin, Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and Jane Disney, MDIBL
- Softshell Clam Populations at Hadley Point
 - Chris Petersen, College of the Atlantic (COA) and Bar Harbor Marine Resources Committee
- Blue Mussel Status in Frenchman Bay
 - Fiona de Koning, Acadia Aqua Farms
- Lobsters and Landings Data: Frenchman Bay
 - Phil Corson, lobsterman
- Eelgrass Distribution in Upper Frenchman Bay 1996/2008: How does Eelgrass relate to everything else?
 - Seth Barker, DMR
- Community Based Eelgrass Restoration at Hadley Point: A Conservation Success Story
 - George Kidder, MDIBL

Conservation Action Planning and Marine Conservation Agreements

Geoff Smith from The Nature Conservancy provided an overview of the Conservation Action Planning Process. He expressed that the process needs to be stakeholder driven and have stakeholders brought in from the beginning. Involved parties need to set priorities for conservation, create strategies & goals, and devise implementation and measurement methods. He went on to define a marine conservation agreement as an understanding among two or more parties with shared interests in achieving shared goals. He explained that there is a diversity of types of agreements, these range from submerged land lease to handshake agreements.

Choosing Areas for Eelgrass Research, Restoration, or Conservation

Participants were assigned to one of five groups. Each group identified eelgrass habitat or other areas that they felt needed some level of attention. Then, each group shared out the results of their discussion. A list of thirteen areas was generated. A GIS consultant projected a map of all areas as they were listed. Participants voted using colored dots for 1st and 2nd priority areas; they were given the option to choose “all areas” or “none of these areas” as well.

The top six priority areas were listed for consideration (Table 1). The whole stakeholder group discussed focusing in the Hadley Point-Thomas Island-Thomas Bay area, Raccoon Cove, and Berry Cove. Another map was generated for group consensus (Figure 1). Participants recognized that the Hadley Point Area joins the Thomas Bay area resulting in a large area for consideration. The whole group agreed to delineate the two areas since they received different levels of support as indicated by the number of red and yellow dots.

Table 1: Priority Areas for Eelgrass Research, Conservation, or Restoration

<i>Red (1st)</i>	<i>Yellow (2nd)</i>	<i>Sites</i>
10	4	Hadley Point & Thomas Island
5	2	Thomas Bay
4	4	Raccoon Cove
3	5	Berry Cove
2	3	Northeast Creek
2	3	Jordan River

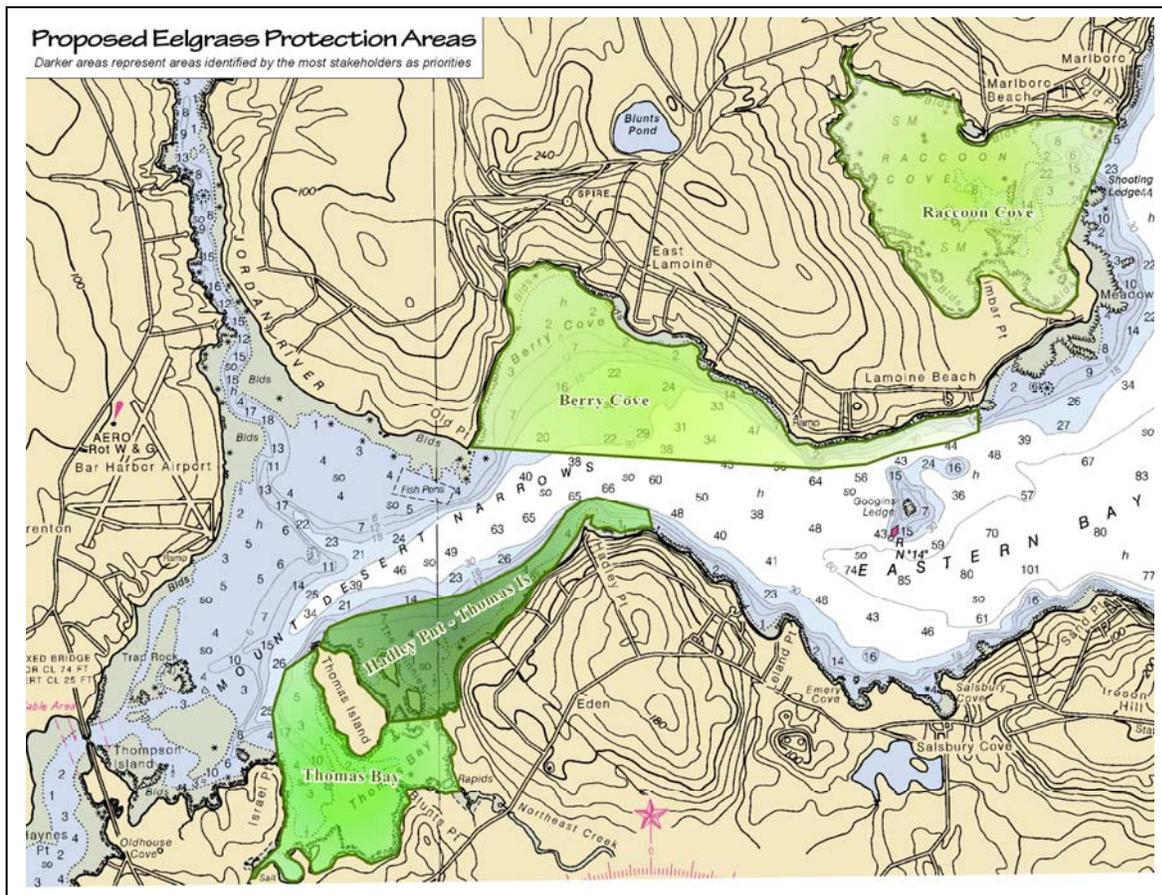


Figure 1: Top priority areas for research, conservation, or restoration of eelgrass. The dark green area at Hadley Point is highest priority. The lighter green at Thomas Bay is second level of priority. Berry Cove and Raccoon Cove are lower levels of priority for stakeholders.

Choosing Actions

Participants recognized that they were really dealing with three areas, in terms of deciding what kinds of actions might be necessary in those areas. They participated in a whole group discussion of possible action items in each area. They were each given three green dots for each area with which to prioritize actions. These action items represent what people want to see happening in these areas. What people do not want to see happening is not reflected in this list (Table 2).

**Table 2: Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder Meeting 3-30-2010
Priority Areas and Top Priority Actions:**

Site	Town	Actions
Hadley Point-Thomas Island-Thomas Bay	Bar Harbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Continue Water Quality Monitoring-Continue Eelgrass Restoration-Identify users and potential conflicts-Address Public Access Issue
Berry Cove	Lamoine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Initiate Eelgrass Restoration-Initiate Water Quality Monitoring-Address Public Access Issue-Identify users and potential conflicts
*Raccoon Cove	Lamoine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Map eelgrass and other resources.-Research historical presence of eelgrass.-Look for presence of potential eelgrass substrate

*** Participants did not vote on the actions recommended for Raccoon Cove. It was generally agreed upon that the first actions needed to be mapping of present eelgrass resource and research of historical eelgrass resource.**

Summary of Choosing Areas and Actions:

Participants in the Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder meeting generated a comprehensive list of areas that should receive some attention in terms of eelgrass resource. The priority areas included Hadley Point over to Thomas Island and the Thomas Bay area in Bar Harbor as well as Berry Cove and Raccoon Cove in Lamoine.

Participants decided that eelgrass mapping and research on the historical presence of eelgrass and/or other resources was necessary before deciding on any actions for Raccoon Cove. They discussed eelgrass research, conservation, and restoration actions for the Hadley Point-Thomas Island-Thomas Bay area and Berry Cove. Other actions were also discussed for these areas, including identifying resources, past and present, identifying users, past and present, and addressing public access to the water. The highest priority conservation actions for the Hadley Point-Thomas Island-Thomas Bay area as well as Berry Cove were eelgrass restoration and water quality monitoring. It was agreed that for eelgrass restoration, more stakeholders will need to be involved in decision making concerning where eelgrass can be restored without conflict for other bay users (clam and mussel harvesters, etc.)

Work Groups

Two work groups were proposed by MDIBL to follow up on work proposed at this stakeholder meeting; others were invited to form additional groups. Those two groups are a Conservation Action Planning (CAP) Work Group and an Eelgrass Work Group. The CAP Work Group will explore the

interest and need for a Conservation Action Plan for Upper Frenchman Bay. The Eelgrass Work Group will explore the steps needed to restore eelgrass in all or some portion of the areas identified at this meeting. Some participants signed up for these work groups at the Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder Meeting on 3-30-2010 and others later signed up as working group members.

Evaluation of the Upper Frenchman Bay Stakeholder Meeting 3-30-2010

Twenty-five of the thirty six participants filled out an evaluation form. The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they gained more of an understanding about Upper Frenchman Bay, that the work sessions were productive and that their voices were heard.

Acknowledgments

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