



Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment

## **Gulf of Maine Council**

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release  
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**W. Donald Hudson, Jr. Ph.D.**  
**President, Chewonki Foundation and Governor Baldacci's**  
**Non-Governmental Appointee to the**  
**Gulf of Maine Council**  
**To Testify Today before the**  
**Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**  
**United States Senate**

**Augusta, Maine** - The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is pleased to announce that today, **May 25, 2005 at 10 a.m.** in the Russell Senate Office Building, Don Hudson, President of Chewonki Foundation and Gulf of Maine Council member, will testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. **His testimony will support S.360, the Coastal Zone Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2005, co-sponsored by Senators Olympia Snowe and John Kerry.**

In Maine, CZMA funds, which are matched by the state, are used for protecting ocean and coastal water quality, assisting coastal communities with the impacts of growth, restoring coastal habitats, enhancing public access and mitigating coastal hazards. CZM grants are critical to meeting increased challenges along Maine's coast. An enhanced Coastal Zone Management Act is a vehicle for delivering on-the-ground environmental improvements and ensuring economically vibrant and ecologically sustainable coastal and ocean resources.

**Section 306 grants have supported the formation of Maine's Working Waterfront Coalition, development of a municipal technical assistance effort and a local grants program,** all aimed at stemming the tide of conversion of Maine's small working harbors to residential and tourist-related uses.

**CZM funds in Maine also currently support a twelve-town habitat and open space planning initiative** in which the municipalities are expected to develop joint programs for protection of regionally significant habitats, and **provide on-going funding for Coastal Non-Point Pollution** control programs.

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It is estimated that more than 80% of pollution entering Maine's coastal waters is from diffuse sources of coastal runoff, yet most programs that assist states with control and elimination of polluted runoff are being cut. With close to 5,300 miles of coastline, 78% of the state's population, 80% of all tourist expenditures and a 1.7 billion dollar contribution to the gross state product, the coastal zone is a dominant natural and economic feature of Maine. Whether it is the need for water access for fishermen in Maine's easternmost Washington County, the need for infrastructure and sustainable development plans in our rapidly growing Midcoast area, or the need to permanently protect critical coastal habitats in Southernmost Maine, coastal management needs have outstripped the state's capacity to keep pace.

**Unfortunately, Maine's federal CZM funds have been capped for more than five years, limiting the State's capacity to effectively manage coastal resources.**

In December 1989, the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia signed an agreement creating the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC). The Council's efforts are focused on promoting sustainable development of marine and coastal resources, raising public awareness about the Gulf of Maine, and cultivating support for stewardship at the local level. For more information visit the Council's website at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)

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*The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. For more information visit the Council's website at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)*

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