



Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment

Gulf of Maine Council

Press Release

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Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership Announces Restoration Work at Pemaquid Salt Marsh, Bristol, Maine

Augusta, Maine – The Gulf of Maine Council/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Restoration Partnership announces restoration work at Pemaquid Salt Marsh in Bristol, Maine. The marsh is a six-acre back barrier marsh, a type of habitat valuable in the rocky mid-coast region. The Pemaquid Marsh Restoration Project is a culvert replacement designed to diminish undesirable brackish plant species and increase native salt marsh vegetation by restoring natural tidal flow to the back barrier salt marsh located behind Pemaquid Beach.

The old road culvert was in a state of disrepair and created a safety and maintenance issue for the Town of Bristol. The existing undersized and deteriorated culvert pipes are being replaced with a 5' x 10' concrete box culvert. The restoration will improve the integrity of the roadway and open the salt marsh to natural tidal flow. The restoration will provide habitat for juvenile fish, wading birds, and other marine species commonly found in salt marshes.

The Town of Bristol committed \$38,150 toward the project, the Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership has given \$38,500 and the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership granted \$10,000.

The Pemaquid Watershed Association plans to monitor the marsh for a minimum of three years beginning this spring. The primary objective of the post-restoration monitoring program is to document changes in the marsh once the tidal flow has been restored to determine habitat restoration success. Additionally, the PWA will increase public awareness and appreciation for salt marsh ecosystems as well as the Pemaquid Marsh Restoration Project through educational outreach and volunteer training.

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The Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership provides funding and builds community support for restoration of coastal and estuarine habitats including salt marshes, native diadromous fish runs, subtidal eelgrass and shellfish as well as other habitats found with the Gulf of Maine. The Partnership has funded 39 projects for a total of \$913,535, with roughly \$3.6 million contributed from other sources. The Partnership has been an effective method of restoring regionally significant habitat in the Gulf of Maine. For more information or to view the Partnership's Habitat Restoration Strategy, visit, www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatrestoration/

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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