



**Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment**

## **Gulf of Maine Council**

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release  
August 2, 2005

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### **Dedication Ceremony for the Pemaquid Salt Marsh Restoration Project August 4, 2005, 1:00 p.m.**

*Augusta, Maine* – The Gulf of Maine Council/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Restoration Partnership, the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Coastal America, and the Town of Bristol will hold a ceremony for the completion of restoration work at Pemaquid Salt Marsh in Bristol, Maine on August 4, 2005 at 1:00 pm. The ceremony will take place at Pemaquid Beach Park, New Harbor, Maine. Site tours will be available following the ceremony, and refreshments will be served. The agenda is as follows-

Welcome	the Honorable Chad Hanna, Chairman Bristol Board of Selectmen
Maine Perspective	the Honorable Thomas H. Allen, United States House of Representatives
Regional Perspective	W. Donald Hudson, Jr., Chair Gulf of Maine Council
Community Perspective	Gary Best, Executive Director Pemaquid Watershed Association
Federal Perspective	Virginia K. Tippie, Director Coastal America Timothy R.E. Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA
Corporate Perspective	Paul M. Anderson, Chairman of the Board & CEO Duke Energy
Closing Remarks	Chad Hanna

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The Pemaquid Marsh Restoration Project is a culvert replacement designed to restore natural tidal flow to a six-acre back barrier salt marsh located behind Pemaquid Beach. Returning natural tidal flow will increase native salt marsh vegetation and will provide habitat for juvenile fish, wading birds, and other marine species commonly found in salt marshes.

“We celebrate the revitalization of the Pemaquid Salt Marsh and congratulate everyone involved in this important effort,” said Congressman Tom Allen. “This project serves as a shining example of what we can accomplish when a town and its citizens join forces with the business community and federal and state government to protect our natural resources.”

The work was completed due to the efforts of The Town of Bristol, the Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership, the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the Pemaquid Watershed Association.

“NOAA’s ecosystem approach to management can only be accomplished when there is strong local stewardship of fisheries habitat,” said Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for NOAA. “The Town of Bristol sets a great example for the rest of the Gulf of Maine region with this locally-led salt marsh restoration project.”

“The Maine CWRP, through the investment of its partners, is committed to helping restore aquatic resources such as the Pemaquid Salt Marsh that are critically important to the state’s ecosystem,” said Paul M. Anderson, chairman and chief executive officer of Duke Energy. “This project and others around the state we have supported will enhance the quality of life in Maine for generations to come.”

Post-restoration monitoring shows that the tide is flowing on both sides of the newly installed culvert and the Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA) will monitor the marsh for another three years to document species changes in the restored marsh. 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.

The Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) is a voluntary public-private initiative of Maine businesses working with federal and state agencies and environmental organizations to protect, enhance and restore critically important wetlands, river systems and other aquatic habitats in Maine. Since 2001, Maine CWRP has contributed \$425,000 in funds and services to 27 projects around the state, leveraging in excess of \$3 million in federal funds – a 7:1 ratio of federal monies to private contributions. In 2001, the Maine CWRP was the sole recipient of Coastal America’s Special Recognition Award.

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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, sub tidal eelgrass and shellfish as well as other habitats found with the Gulf of Maine. The Partnership has funded 43 projects for a total of \$1.2 million, with roughly \$3.9 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/habitatorrestoration/](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/habitatorrestoration/)

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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)*