

2015 Maine Residents Coastal Survey



University of Maine

COASTAL AREAS

1. How important are the following to you as a resident of a coastal area? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT		SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT		VERY IMPORTANT
	----- ----- ----- -----				
Beautiful scenery	1	2	3	4	5
Clean ocean, estuary, and river waters	1	2	3	4	5
Public access to coastal resources	1	2	3	4	5
Working waterfronts	1	2	3	4	5
Sandy beaches	1	2	3	4	5
Land-based recreation opportunities (walking, hiking)	1	2	3	4	5
Water-based recreation opportunities (swimming, boating, kayaking, surfing)	1	2	3	4	5

2. In your opinion, what level of **priority** should coastal managers in Maine assign to each of the following issues? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	SHOULD NOT BE DONE				TOP PRIORITY
	----- ----- -----				
Protect/restore/enhance coastal wetlands	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce erosion at sandy beaches	1	2	3	4	5
Protect/restore/enhance coastal water quality	1	2	3	4	5
Protect/restore/enhance working waterfronts	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce the impacts of coastal growth and development	1	2	3	4	5
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5

MAINE'S COASTAL WATER QUALITY

3. Please think about coastal water quality in terms of public health including the safety of swimming in the water and shellfish harvesting from flats and waters. In your **opinion** how would **you** rate the ocean water quality in these New England states and Canadian Provinces? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR **EACH** ITEM.)

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
	----- ----- ----- -----				
Maine	1	2	3	4	5
New Hampshire	1	2	3	4	5
Massachusetts	1	2	3	4	5
Rhode Island	1	2	3	4	5
Connecticut	1	2	3	4	5
New Brunswick	1	2	3	4	5
Nova Scotia	1	2	3	4	5

4. Coastal water quality changes frequently because of natural and human processes. What is your opinion about the following common events and coastal water quality? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR **EACH** ITEM.)

	MAKES WATER QUALITY MUCH WORSE	DOES NOT IMPACT WATER QUALITY	MAKES WATER QUALITY MUCH BETTER
	----- ----- -----		
A large number of swimmers at the beach.....	1	2	3
Wind and high waves.....	1	2	3
Large number of birds or other animals (including dogs).....	1	2	3
Recent heavy rainfall.....	1	2	3
Rivers flowing into the sea.....	1	2	3

5. In your opinion, how much of a **negative** impact do the following have on coastal water quality in Maine? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR **EACH** ITEM.)

	NO NEGATIVE IMPACT		SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE			VERY NEGATIVE	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coastal industrial and/or residential development	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Failing septic systems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nearby boats and/or marinas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Climate change (ocean warming, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Inland industrial and/or residential development	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Animal waste (including dogs and birds)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Aging/failing wastewater treatment facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coastal algae blooms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Polluted river/stream runoff	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Industrial pollution	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fertilizers, pesticides, and chemicals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SEAFOOD

6. How often do members of your household consume seafood? (CHECK ONE.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than once per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Never → <i>SKIP TO QUESTION 12</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once per month | |

7. What types of seafood does your household consume? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobster and/or crabs | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrimp and/or scallops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish (clams, mussels, oysters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish | |

8. Where do you **typically** obtain the seafood you eat? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant | <input type="checkbox"/> From wholesaler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directly from harvesters | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store | |

9. Where does the seafood you and your family eat **typically** come from? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> My local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other New England states | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

10. Did you or a family member ever feel sick after eating **shellfish** (not an allergic reaction)? (CHECK ONE.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No → <i>SKIP TO QUESTION 12</i> |
|------------------------------|--|

11. Did you report this illness? (CHECK ONE.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ➤ To whom? _____ | |

12. Do you ever seek information about the safety of eating seafood? (CHECK ONE.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No → <i>SKIP TO QUESTION 14</i> |
|------------------------------|--|

13. Where do you seek information about the safety of eating **Maine seafood**? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local harvesters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local wholesaler or retailer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) | <input type="checkbox"/> News media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University of Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Tourism Bureau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local shellfish manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

14. Have you ever heard of, or seen, a **Maine shellfish** area closure? These closures mandate that shellfish cannot be harvested from a specific area due to unsafe conditions, such as pollution in the water. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have seen an advisory | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have heard of these advisories | |

15. If a shellfish area is posted as closed, and a person like you eats shellfish from this area, in your **opinion**, how likely is it that this person will get sick?

➤ Enter a percent between 0 (definitely will not get sick) and 100 (definitely will get sick)
_____ %

16. Have you heard of the use of depuration tanks for shellfish? (CHECK ONE.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Shellfish feed by filtering particles from the water in which they live. If they are located in an area with poor water quality, they may be harvested and transported to a licensed depuration facility where they are held in clean seawater. The shellfish stay in tanks until bacteria from the original poor water quality environment have been filtered out, at which time they can be sold.

17. In your **opinion**, how do you rate the safety of shellfish treated in depuration tanks compared to other shellfish? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- Shellfish treated in depuration tanks are safer than other shellfish.
- Shellfish treated in depuration tanks are just as safe as other shellfish.
- Shellfish treated in depuration are less safe than other shellfish.

PROGRAMS TO PROTECT COASTAL WATER

Please read this information:

A new program has been proposed to address coastal water quality. Please think about coastal water quality in terms of public health, including the safety of swimming in the water and shellfish harvesting from flats and waters

The proposed Coastal Water Quality Program would be funded by all Maine households, who would be required to pay a fee through higher water/sewer/septic fees. The program would be created by majority vote.

17. What is your level of agreement with the following statement? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER.)

I would be willing to pay higher water/sewer/septic fees to protect coastal water quality.

STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	UNSURE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
1	2	3	4	5

18. If the Coastal Water Quality Program would cost your household an additional **\$7 per month**, would you be willing to pay that amount and support the program? (CHECK ONE.)

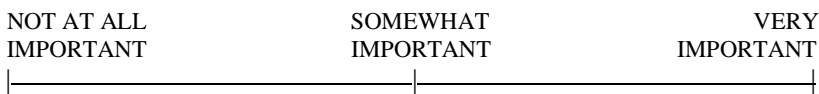
- Yes**, I would be willing to pay the increase in fees to support the Coastal Water Quality Program.
- No**, I would not be willing to pay the increase in fees to support the Coastal Water Quality Program.

19. Why did you choose the response you did in the question above (i.e. Yes or No)?

20. How much of the Coastal Water Quality Program budget would you like to see put towards each of the following actions? (Your values should sum to 100%).

- _____ % Better management of residential development
- _____ % Improving home and garden practices
- _____ % Updating and maintaining septic systems
- _____ % Improving wastewater treatment, sewer and stormwater runoff infrastructure
- _____ % Improving water quality monitoring to detect pollution levels and sources
- _____ % Educating and/or providing financial resources to municipal officials
- _____ % Better management of industrial development

21. How important are the following Coastal Water Quality Program outcomes to you? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)



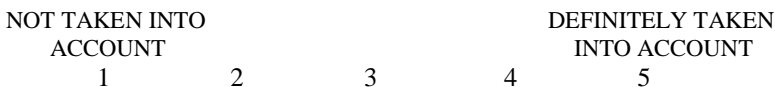
Improved beach safety
(fewer advisories posted at
ocean beaches) 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7

Increases in flats and
waters open for shellfish
harvesting (fewer
closures) 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7

Healthy environment for
marine animals, fish, birds
and other species 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7

Improve coastal
experience (views,
boating, etc.) 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7

22. To what extent do you believe that the votes on the proposal by you and other survey participants will be taken into consideration by *policy makers*? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER.)



YOUR OPINIONS ON POLICY ISSUES

23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE		UNSURE		STRONGLY AGREE		
Global climate change is caused mostly by human activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I generally try to avoid taking risks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maine residents are responsible for helping solve coastal public health problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local government is responsible for protecting coastal water quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am healthier than the average person	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Local government is effective in protecting coastal water quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Changes in my <i>neighbor's</i> everyday behavior could <i>worsen</i> the quality of Maine's coastal water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scientists provide unbiased information	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State government is responsible for protecting coastal water quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Government uses the best available science in making coastal public health decisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It is my responsibility to help solve coastal public health problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I trust public health scientists who study the safety of the food we eat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Changes in <i>my</i> everyday behavior could <i>worsen</i> the quality of Maine's coastal water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I think scientists are doing important work	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	UNSURE			STRONGLY AGREE		
	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----						
Global climate change is happening	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Visitors to Maine should be responsible for helping solve coastal public health problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It is too difficult for someone like me to do much about public health issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State government is effective in protecting coastal water quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Science can raise our standard of living	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scientists provide reliable information	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I trust environmental scientist who study how pollution affects the ocean	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maine people are willing to pay extra money for seafood caught here in Maine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Changes in <i>my</i> everyday behavior could help to <i>improve</i> the quality of Maine's coastal water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Changes in <i>my neighbor's</i> everyday behavior could help <i>improve</i> the quality of Maine's coastal water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

25. Please express how often you engage in the following activities. (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	NEVER			SOMETIMES			VERY OFTEN		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Eat expired food that still looks okay	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Expose yourself to the sun without sunscreen.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Wash hands before eating.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Eat raw shellfish/meat.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Swim in coastal waters after a heavy rainfall.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Pump out and maintain your septic system.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Discharge boat waste into coastal waters.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Feed wildlife, including sea birds.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

26. I am willing to pay extra money for a seafood meal at a restaurant that... (CIRCLE ONE NUMBER FOR EACH ITEM.)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE			UNSURE			STRONGLY AGREE		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Is locally owned and operated	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Is Maine wild-caught/harvested	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Is sustainably harvested	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Is Maine aquaculture farmed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

ABOUT YOU

All of your answers to the survey are treated as strictly confidential. This information helps us compare your responses with other participants.

27. What is your gender?

Male

Female

28. How old are you?

_____ YEARS

29. How many years have you lived in Maine?

_____ YEARS

30. How many years have you lived at your current address?

_____ YEARS

31. How would you describe your house in Maine?

Primary Residence

A secondary residence or vacation house

32. What type of water and waste system does your household use?

Town/city water and sewer

Other: _____

Private well and septic system

33. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

0-11 years

College graduate (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)

12 years (High school graduate or GED)

Postgraduate (Master's, doctorate, law or other degree)

1-3 years college (Some college or Associate's degree)

34. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Student

Employed at home

Employed full-time

Homemaker

Employed part-time

Unemployed

Retired (not working)

35. How many people, including yourself, live in your household in each of the follow age groups?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| _____ 0-6 years old | _____ 45-64 |
| _____ 7-12 | _____ 65-84 |
| _____ 13-18 | _____ 85 or older |
| _____ 19-44 | |

36. Which of the following categories represents your total household income (before taxes)?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000-\$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$14,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000-\$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000-\$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000-\$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000-\$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 or above |

37. In the past year, did you engage in any of the following outdoor recreation activities? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surfing | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal sailing/canoeing/kayaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about your experiences, opinions and preferences. In the space below, please feel free to share any additional comments you may have.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Please return the completed survey in the postage paid, self-addressed envelope:

University of Maine –2015 Coastal Residents Survey
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 Winslow Hall
 Orono, ME 04469

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