

Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds List

MARINE WATERS**Impaired Marine Waters**

The marine NPS priority waters list generally has fewer numeric criteria and relies more on narrative criteria (i.e., best professional judgment) than the lake and stream NPS priority lists. Part of this difference is a result of the impaired marine waterbodies list in the Maine Integrated Report not clearly distinguishing between NPS and point source contributions. To keep prioritization criteria objective, the marine priority list is focused on data associated with bacterial closures and is reliant on data, knowledge, and priorities from professional organizations including Maine DEP. Coastal Designated Beaches were included in the Integrated Report for the first time in 2022. Subsequently the Integrated Report was used to identify priority beaches. Additions to the marine priority list are anticipated as more information continues to become available.

Marine watersheds were added to the impaired priority list if the marine waters met at least one of the following criteria:

- **Coastal beaches listed as impaired** (Category 5B: Coastal Designated Beaches Impaired for Bacteria only – TMDL Required) in the Maine DEP Integrated Report where the impairment is likely due to nonpoint source pollution.
- Marine waters that the **Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP)** has identified with high/moderate value shellfish beds, high/moderate harvester interest, and associated NPS sources documented in the CBEP report, *Expanding and Sustaining the Shellfisheries of Casco Bay 2011* (2012).
- Marine waters associated with a **Maine Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Program (MS4)** priority watershed.
- Nearshore waters and intertidal clam flats where DEP or partners (e.g., CBEP, Friends of Casco Bay, Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI), Wells Reserve) have documented **water quality indicators** with suspected NPS links. Indicators included documented eelgrass loss (only limited availability) or recurring macroalgae blooms, chronically high nitrogen relative to comparable ambient conditions and/or chronically low dissolved oxygen (<5 mg/l).
- Marine waters that the **Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)** has identified as having shellfish harvest closures related primarily to NPS threat, and that are protected embayments with limited assimilative capacity. Information available from sanitary surveys, watershed surveys, and local research and knowledge were used to determine if NPS threats were the dominant contributors to documented impairment or anticipated future impairment.

Some marine waters were not included on the priority list even if they met one or more of the above criteria due to the following reasons.

- Believed to have negative water quality indicators for **‘natural’ reasons**, such as high bacteria from wildlife, or having low dissolved oxygen as a result of high sediment oxygen demand in shallow, productive, low flushing coves.
- Believed to be impaired by **legacy pollutants**, particularly legacy toxics. If legacy pollutants would have to be addressed for the waterbody to meet class, then reducing NPS sources would not be sufficient for attainment of standards.
- **Large or exposed estuaries, coastal embayments, or coastal shorelines** with relatively high degree of flushing likely. The large scale of the area and influence of tides and surface currents make measurable improvement in water quality due to implementation of NPS watershed-based plans very unlikely.
- Source of pollution is tied primarily to **wastewater discharges**, a small number of failing **septic systems** or **overboard discharges**, or other **point sources**. While failing septic systems and overboard discharges are in the realm of NPS, NPS grant program does not fund replacing sewage systems, so small watersheds with just a few septic issues are a better fit to be addressed by the town.
- Sources of pollution are **not clearly of nonpoint origin or have limited NPS sources**. More information on probable sources is needed to determine if meets NPS priority listing criteria.

Impaired* Marine Waters Priority List (28 marine waters)

Marine Water	Area/Town	Priority Listing Reason
Anthoine Creek & Cove	South Portland	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
Basin Cove	Harpswell	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
Bunganuc Creek	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
Churches Rock	So. Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat
Goose Rocks Beach – Batson River (including Batson River & Smith Brook**)	Kennebunkport	Impaired Coastal Beach
Goose Rocks Beach – Little River	Kennebunkport	Impaired Coastal Beach
Hutchins Cove	Bagaduce River/ Northern Bay (Penobscot)	DMR/NPS Threat
Hylar Cove	Cushing	DMR/NPS Threat
Little River	Freeport	CBEP Priority Water
Littlefield Cove	Bagaduce River/Northern Bay (Penobscot)	DMR/NPS Threat

Littlejohn Island Causeway	Yarmouth	Negative Water Quality Indicators (FOCB)
Maquoit Bay	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
Martin Cove	Lamoine	DMR/NPS Threat
Medomak River Estuary	Waldoboro	DMR/NPS Threat
Mill Cove	South Portland	Negative Water Quality Indicators
Mill Pond/Parker Head	Phippsburg	DMR/NPS Threat
Mussell Cove	Falmouth	CBEP Priority Water, DMR/NPS Threat
North Fogg Point	Freeport	CBEP Priority Water
Northeast Creek	Bar Harbor	DMR/NPS Threat
Oakhurst Island	Harpswell	CBEP Priority Water
Ogunquit River Estuary (including Riverside Beach & Little Beach***)	Ogunquit	DMR/NPS Threat, Impaired Coastal Beach (Riverside)
Scarborough River Estuary	Scarborough	DMR/NPS Threat
Seal Cove	Vinalhaven	DMR/NPS Threat
Spinney Creek	Eliot	MS4 Priority Water, Negative Water Quality Indicators
Spurwick River	Scarborough	DMR/NPS Threat
St. George River Estuary from Route 1 Crossing to Head of Tide	Warren, Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat, Negative Water Quality Indicators
Upper New Meadows River upstream from Howard Point (including the lakes)	Brunswick, Bath	Negative Water Quality Indicators, CBEP Priority Water
Weskeag River	South Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat

*Note: Impaired vs. Threatened NPS Priority Water. *Marine waters with shellfish closures are listed as impaired or Category 3 in the Integrated Report. It is anticipated that whether a NPS priority marine water is listed as a NPS Priority Impaired or Threatened Water will be dynamic as the Integrated Report continues to respond to shellfish closures and openings. It is not anticipated that the marine waters will be removed from the NPS Priority List as frequently, though they will be switched between the impaired or threatened categories as appropriate.*

** *Smith Brook (Kennebunkport) is not impaired in the Integrated Report but is included in this grouping due to the likely impact on the water quality of Goose Rocks Beach – Batson River.*

*** *Little Beach (Ogunquit) is not impaired and is listed as a Category 3 coastal designated beach in the Integrated Report but is included in this grouping due to its location near the outlet*

of the Ogunquit River, likely influence of the river, and for practical watershed planning implementation purposes.

Threatened Marine Waters

Marine waters that were not listed as impaired waters in the Integrated Report were considered for NPS priority water listing in the same manner as impaired waters. Non-impaired marine watersheds were added to the threatened priority list if the marine waters met at least one of the following criteria:

- Any of the criteria listed above for impaired marine waters.
- **Coastal beaches listed as Category 3** (Coastal Designated Beaches with Insufficient Data or Information to Determine if Designated Uses are Attained (One or More Uses may be Impaired)) in the Maine DEP Integrated Report where the impairment is likely due to nonpoint source pollution. For coastal designated beaches, Category 3 is used for waters of concern based on bacteria monitoring data.

Like the impaired marine waters, if threatened marine waters met any of the exclusion reasons listed in the impaired section, they were not included on the priority list.

Threatened* Marine Waters Priority List (12 marine waters)

Marine Water	Town	Priority List Reasoning
Biddeford Pool	Biddeford	Negative Water Quality Indicators
Cape Neddick River (including Cape Neddick Beach)	York	MS4 Priority Water, Beaches Category 3 (Cape Neddick Beach)
Egypt Bay	Hancock/Franklin	DMR/NPS Threat
Harpswell Cove	Brunswick	CBEP Priority Water
Harraseeket River	Freeport	DMR/NPS Threat
Jordan River	Trenton/Lamoine	DMR/NPS Threat
Lincolnville Beach	Lincolnville	Beaches Category 3
Pemaquid River	Bristol	DMR/NPS Threat
Salt Pond	Blue Hill/Sedgwick	DMR/NPS Threat, MERI
Spruce Creek	Kittery	MS4 Priority Water, Negative Water Quality Indicators
Willard Beach	South Portland	Beaches Category 3
The Bay in Thomaston, North of Hospital Point and South of the St. George River	Thomaston	DMR/NPS Threat