

THE WORKING WATERWAYS AND WATERFRONTS NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER ACCESS 2010

September 27-30, 2010 ■ Portland, Maine

Across the US, communities, water-dependent industries, and the public face conflicts over access to beaches, shorelines, and waterways. The challenge will only increase in the years to come: by 2050, the US population is expected to exceed 400 million people, more than half of whom will live in a coastal county if growth trends continue. The **good news** is that both large and small waterfront communities throughout America are implementing creative solutions to address these challenges.

The Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access 2010 will help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals address waterfront access challenges by showcasing successful models and tools from around the country.

For example, some states, such as Maine and Florida, have created tax incentives to sustain traditional waterfront land uses, while others, including Washington, California, and Texas, have legislation or other legal instruments to protect water access. Oregon is exploring strategies for preserving seafood-related working waterfront areas. In New Jersey, Maryland, North Carolina, and Alabama, state-appointed commissions are addressing the access issue, and regional forums bring disparate stakeholders together to find solutions in Michigan, Mississippi, and Alabama. At the national level, Coastal Zone Management agencies focus on working waterfronts and public access, and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME) has introduced legislation that is supported by representatives from California to Massachusetts, Virginia to Guam, all of whom seek to ensure waterfront access.

Building on the inaugural symposium in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2007, participants in 2010 will increase awareness of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental values of waterfronts, and the important role of water-dependent uses in sustainable coastal communities. Essential lessons gained from the field will serve as models for continued work, many of which will be featured at the Symposium, including:

- Study groups and state legislative committees
- Public and private investment and financing programs
- Comprehensive planning and land use regulations at the local and county levels
- National program legislation and CZMA reauthorization
- Inventories and surveys
- Education and outreach

Who should attend?

The 2010 Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access will provide a forum for diverse users to meet, address common dilemmas, and share solutions.

This collaborative problem-solving approach promises to provide unique and innovative approaches to address water access needs. We invite government officials and decision-makers; members of the commercial fishing, marine, and tourism industries; developers and property owners; business owners, community planners, activists, and others to join the discussion.

The Symposium steering committee is being formed and already includes national representation from state Sea Grant programs, the National Sea Grant Law Center, national stakeholder organizations like Boat US, as well as the Maine Coastal Program and Island Institute.

For more information, to join the steering committee, or to become a Symposium sponsor, please contact: Natalie Springuel, on behalf of the Symposium Steering Committee

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