

# Penobscot River, Penobscot Bay: State of the Watershed

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# Outline

- Project Progress
- Stakeholder involvement/communication
- Problems/issues
- Solving problems
- What to do differently

# Project Goal

To raise awareness about the historic and present status of the Penobscot River and its watershed

- First step:
  - generate a well-vetted Table of Contents
- Ultimately:
  - Provide a document *effectively* outlining the state of our knowledge
- *Objective:* To involve scientific and community stakeholders in a discussion of the Penobscot River and its watershed
  - Via:
    - Email
    - Presentations/workshops
    - One-on-one discussions

# Project Progress

## Proposed

- Award period
  - 7/1/2007 – 5/31/2007
- July – December
  - Meet with potential partners and users
    - Discuss
      - Feasibility, content, data, commitments, responsibilities, funding opportunities
- September – May
  - Produce print quality maps from available datasets

## Completed

- August
  - Concept presented to the Penobscot River Science Steering Committee
- October
  - Workshop with Lower Penobscot Watershed Coalition
- November
  - Workshop with scientific stakeholders
- December
  - TOC revisions and posting to GMC and LPWC websites

# Stakeholder involvement

## I. LPWC

- Pre-proposal suggested to Steering Committee
- Funded proposal reported to members over summer
- Workshop (17 attendees)
  - Pre-report survey
  - Proposed TOC
  - Breakout groups with prepared facilitators
    - Land use
    - Land conservation
    - Research and monitoring
    - Watershed Education
- Reported back in November
- New TOC will be posted to website for additional feedback

# Pre-report survey

- What is your perception of water quality in the PR?
- Is some pollution of the PR all right if it means jobs for local people?
- What is the greatest threat to water quality in the PR and its watershed?
- The current amount of conserved land in the watershed is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The quantity and quality of information available about the PR, Bay and watershed are:
- Where do you get the information you use to make any decisions associated with water quality?



# Feedback received on:

- What information should be included in the report?
  - Can you suggest authors/contributors?
  - Can you contribute?
- How should the information be formatted?
- How would you use the report?
- What format would you prefer?



# Stakeholder involvement

## II. Scientific interests

- Concept brought to Penobscot River Science Steering Committee
- Workshop (15 attendees)
  - Proposed TOC (revised with suggestions from LPWC)
  - Random breakout groups
- New TOC will be posted to website for additional feedback



# Feedback received on:

- The focus the Table of Contents
- Contributors and data sources
- Data presentation
- Final product development

# Future

- Post revised TOC to website and request input
- Student from the College of the Atlantic
  - Take data already compiled to generate relevant maps
- Seminar presentation in March in SMS
  
- Deliverables
  - Table of Contents
  - Spatially referenced demographic & land use data
  - List of partners and responsibilities for moving forward
  - List of potential funding options

# Problems & Solutions

- Finding a student
  - Solution: reached out beyond UMaine
- Engagement / over-commitment
  - Solution?: engage on different levels:
    - Email
    - Workshops
    - One-on-one
    - Seminars
    - Future: stipends for contributors
- Ensuring non-duplication
  - Solution: Extra communication with other initiatives



# To do differently

- Employ other communication strategies
  - E.g. website set up ahead of time
  - Other?
- Strategize with other initiatives to avoid over-engagement/fatigue



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