



## Maine Legislation on Ocean & Coastal Acidification

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March 19, 2020

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

## Topics Included in this Presentation

- 2014 Legislative Commission
- Maine Ocean & Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA)
- 2019 Climate Change Legislation



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# 2014 Legislative Coastal and Ocean Commission Established



LAW WITHOUT  
GOVERNOR'S  
SIGNATURE

APRIL 30, 2014

CHAPTER

110

RESOLVES

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN

H.P. 1174 - L.D. 1602

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast



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## Ocean & Coastal Acidification Study Commission

- First meeting - August 2014
- Final Commission Report with recommendations- January 2015
- **Six Goals**— and a recommendation for an OCA Council to continue the work



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## Commission Goals

1. Invest in Maine's capacity to monitor and investigate the effects of ocean acidification and determine impacts of ocean acidification on commercially important species and the mechanisms behind the impacts;
2. Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide;
3. Identify and reduce local land-based nutrients and organic carbon that contribute to ocean acidification by strengthening and augmenting existing pollution reduction efforts;
4. Increase Maine's capacity to mitigate, remediate and adapt to the impacts of ocean acidification;
5. Inform stakeholders, the public and decision-makers about ocean acidification in Maine and empower them to take action; and
6. Maintain a sustained and coordinated focus on ocean acidification.



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## Commission Follow-Up

January 2015 - Commission sunsets and final Commission report with recommendations released.

Legislation introduced to create OCA Council to carry out recommendations of the Commission.



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# Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA)

## Purpose

This volunteer partnership formed in March 2016 seeks (1) to implement recommendations of the Ocean Acidification Study Commission authorized by the 126th Legislature, as set forth in the [study commission's report](#) and (2) to coordinate the work of governmental agencies and private organizations and citizens who are studying and implementing means to reduce the impacts of or help adapt to ocean and coastal acidification.



<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/maine-ocean-and-coastal-acidification-partnership>

## MOCA Functions

- To provide a forum for coordinating OCA research and policy efforts
- To communicate ME OCA work to those interested in MOCA
- To provide support regarding regulatory approach to agencies and to legislators
- To inform elected officials
- To provide updates on OCA work in the state and elsewhere as it pertains to ME via webinars, seminars and meetings
- To work on coordinating monitoring, research, and policy through committees
- To hold regular meetings in order to: Provide updates on OCA activities, Track progress on MOCA goals, Plan MOCA in-person meetings and webinars, Communicate opportunities (such as RFPs and scientific meeting sessions), and Discuss emerging and changing priorities in the state relevant to OCA



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## MOCA Represents:

- Lobstermen
- Aquaculture
- Legislators
- State Agencies
- Researchers
- Nonprofits
- Educators



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## MOCA Partnership Symposia

- Current Research and Revisit Commission Recommendations, USM, Portland, June 2016
- Remediation Strategies and Policy– State House, Augusta, November 2016
- MOCA Webinar Update, May 2017
- Winter Science Meeting, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, December 2017
- Ocean Acidification and Lobster Research, Bowdoin College, June 2018
- Policy Implications and Moving Forward, State House, Augusta, November 2018
- Held 3 mtgs for Research/Monitoring, Policy/Law, Resilience/Adaptation– leading to recommendations and report for ME Climate Council



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## Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership



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## An Action Plan to Address and Adapt to Ocean Climate Change in Maine



Official report to the Maine Climate Council,  
adopted by The Maine Ocean and Coastal  
Acidification Steering Committee  
September 26, 2019

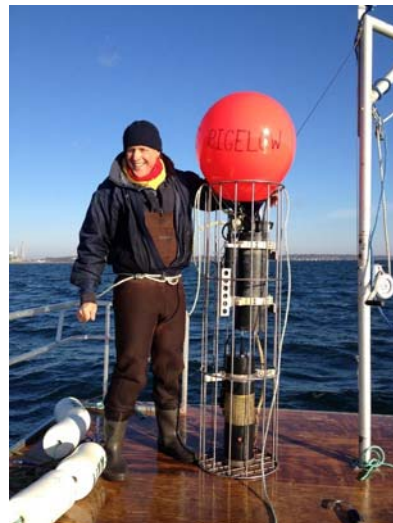
- Identify funding to support essential strategies and actions
- Build on existing efforts
- Enhance staffing and budget of Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Marine Resources
- Recognize the critical roles that municipalities, fishermen, aquaculturalists, and others are playing and will play to address climate change



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Support robust, long term monitoring that builds upon existing efforts



Courtesy of Island Institute and Bigelow Laboratory for  
Ocean Sciences



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Assist communities to  
evaluate and implement  
local remediation and  
adaptation strategies



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Identify strategies  
to adapt fisheries  
and diversify the  
working  
waterfront



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Identify and develop resources and training to recognize and address ocean climate change.



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Enforce and strengthen regulations that reduce land-based inputs



Photo Courtesy of Portland Water District



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Require all relevant state and municipal plans, permits and regulations to address ocean climate change.



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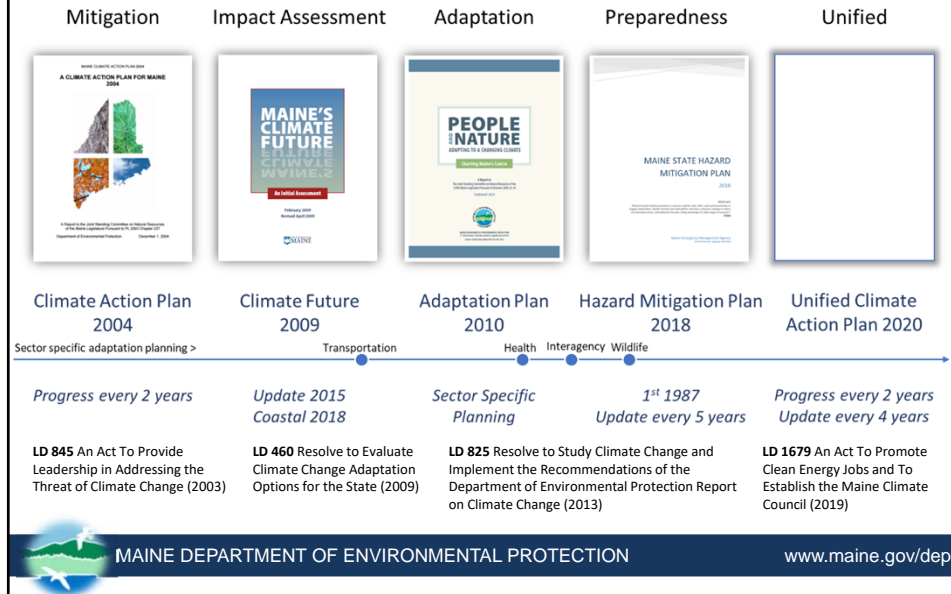
How is Maine tackling climate change?



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## LEGACY OF ACTION



## Mills Administration Early Climate Actions

*"Today our connection to the land is endangered. After 80 years of studies that carbon emissions are destroying our environment, the danger is now at our doorstep...Climate change is threatening our jobs, damaging our health and attacking our historic relationship to the land and sea. Tonight, I say enough. Enough with the studies, talk and debate. It's time to act!"*  
 — Governor Janet Mills, Inaugural Address

- Joined the U.S. Climate Alliance – a bi-partisan coalition of 25 U.S. States committed to meeting Paris Climate Goals
- Launched electric vehicle rebate & infrastructure programs using VW settlement funds
- Signed legislation to restore net metering to encourage renewable energy for homeowners and small businesses
- Ended the blanket ban on wind power development
- Withdrew Maine from the offshore drilling coalition

## Maine Climate Council Bill

- Sets reductions in law: 45% reduction in Maine's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 80% by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels)
- Creates Maine Climate Council to advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change
- State Climate Action Plan update due by December 1, 2020



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## Executive Order 10, Signed September 23, 2019

- Goal is to achieve state **carbon neutrality by 2045**
- Climate Council is tasked with including recommendations on how to achieve neutrality in its Climate Action Plan
- Carbon neutrality can help grow the clean energy economy in Maine and benefit farmers, foresters, and others whose practices and land sequesters carbon



Governor Mills speaking in New York during the UN Climate Action Summit

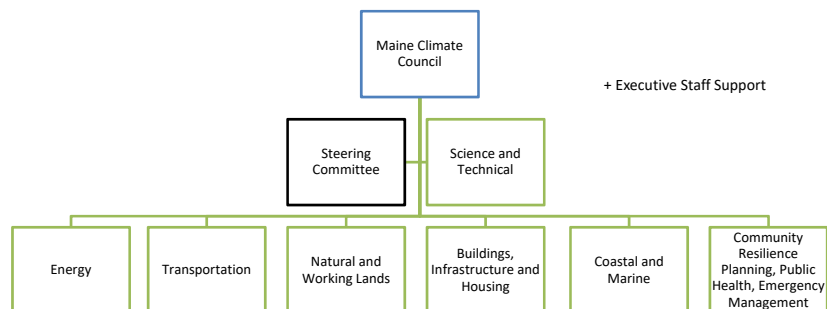


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## MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL LD 1679

- **Advise** Governor and Legislature
- Ways to **mitigate** the causes of, **prepare** for and **adapt** to the consequences of climate change
- Develop an updated and **unified Maine State Climate Plan**



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## Maine Climate Council

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

- Identify, monitor, study and report relevant data, findings and recommendations on how climate change is impacting Maine
- Highlight critical scientific data and knowledge gaps
- Provide sea level rise projections and maps that indicate the areas of the State that may be most affected by storm surges, ocean and river flooding and extreme weather, based on the latest data and science
- Advise on methodologies and science for land and ocean based opportunities for carbon sequestration

More info at <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate>



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# Maine Climate Council

## WORK GROUPS - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To develop and recommend mitigation and adaptation actions to the council
- Groups include legislators, representatives of scientific and academic institutions, affected and involved businesses, nonprofit organizations and foundations, youth, and leaders from federal, state and local governments and agencies
- All working groups will solicit stakeholder input; consider costs and benefits including impacts on low-income, elderly and rural residents and other vulnerable communities; advise on economic and workforce benefits and challenges; and recommend funding and financing mechanisms for strategies

More info at <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate>



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# Maine Climate Council

## Timeline

- Council kick-off September 26, 2019
- Working groups develop, model, and recommend strategies from October 2019 until summer 2020
- Summer/Fall 2020 - Maine Climate Council considers and prioritizes strategies for Action Plan
- State Climate Action Plan delivered December 1, 2020 and plan is **updated every 4 years**
- Legislature and DEP pass legislation and initiate rulemaking
- Council and working groups continue to meet to monitor progress
- DEP reports on state greenhouse gas emissions every 2 years
- Council, and Work Groups required to establish annual work plan at first meeting of calendar year.

Public  
Engagement  
& Comment  
Opportunities

More info at <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate>



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January 13, 2020 -  
Maine joins the  
International Alliance  
to Combat Ocean &  
Coastal Acidification.



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## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for their  
contributions to this presentation:

**Esperanza Stancioff**, Extension Professor  
Climate Change Educator  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension/Maine Sea  
Grant

**Ivy Frignoca**, Casco Bay Keeper, Friends of Casco Bay

**Cassandra Rose**, Senior Science Analyst & Climate  
Council Coordinator; Governor's Office of Policy  
Innovation and the Future



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