

# Marine Economy

## Key Findings

- County wide the marine economy makes up over 17% of the total economy; Rockland is the major contributor to the County economy
- Rockland's marine economy is diverse and expansive
  - NOAA defined the major components of the marine economy as commercial fishing, marine construction, marine transportation, tourism, and boat building/repair -- all of which are healthy and active components of Rockland's marine economy
  - There is considerable overlap and interdependence with other economic sectors, such as the retail, professional services, outdoor recreation, food service, tourism, and manufacturing
- The working waterfront supports a variety of commercial fishing and water-dependent businesses
- Rockland is one of the top 10 ports in Maine by value of fisheries
- Rockland has the largest fleet of schooners and windjammers in the northeast
- Water dependent businesses identified housing as a major challenge in attracting workers
- The importance of particular fisheries and opportunities fluctuate over time; one current opportunity is aquaculture
- Physical and visual access to the harbor provide economic, recreational, and other benefits to the City
- Rockland provides a number of public facilities that help support the marine economy – Commercial Fish Pier, Snow Marine Park boat launch, Middle Pier, Schooner Wharf, and Public Landing (See Public Access section starting on page 15)

## Goals and Objectives

### Goal:

- Continued strength in Rockland's marine economy that supports a diversity of jobs, uses and economic activity

### Objectives:

1. Suitable waterfront infrastructure and facilities support both public and private economic activity
2. Rockland's marine economy remains diverse so that no one activity is dominant
3. The working waterfront is important to Rocklands economy and marine heritage
4. Harbor infrastructure (both public and private) supports the region's commercial fishing, marine construction, tourism, boat building and other needs

5. Private marinas and commercial dock space thrive and help to meet the overall needs of the harbor
6. Workforce housing options allow for workforce growth to support the marine economy
7. City policies and investments help preserve the mixed-use nature of the waterfront and support flexibility to better meet the needs of the future

Abbreviation Key:

Harbor Master - HM

Parks & Rec Committee – P&RC

City Staff - S

Wastewater Treatment Plant – WWTP

Harbor Trail Committee – HTC

Harbor Management Commission – HMC

City Council – CC

Comprehensive Plan Commission - CPC

## Recommended Actions

Marine Economy			
Objective	Recommended Action	Responsibility	Timeline
2,3,5,6	Review waterfront zoning to ensure that water-dependent uses and appropriate non-marine related development of waterfront commercial areas is protected	CPC, S	Ongoing
2,3,5,6	Continuously improve the City's regulatory process with predictability and clarity in mind	All	Ongoing
1,2,3,4,7	Monitor commercial fishing trends to ensure the Commercial Fish Pier continues to support the changing needs of the industry	HM, HMC	Ongoing
1,2,4,5,6,7	In collaboration with other stakeholders, pursue and develop opportunities to connect local residents with the waterfront and Rockland's marine heritage	S, HMC	Ongoing
1,2,4,5,6,7	Explore public private partnerships to provide needed infrastructure and services and to achieve the objectives of this plan	S	Ongoing
1,2,7	Consider what marine-related responsible tourism means for Rockland and ways to integrate appropriate principles into City policy	HMC	Short Term (1-2 years)
	<u>Consider how best to address workforce housing needs (both year-round and seasonal) as part of the Comprehensive Plan</u>	<u>CPC</u>	<u>Short Term (1-2 years)</u>
1,2,3,4	Monitor fisheries trends to provide baseline information on future needs for commercial fishing industry	HM	Ongoing