

Plastic Waste Erosion from Kidder Point

A Presentation to Searsport and Stockton Springs

IMAGE 1 PLASTIC GETTING EXPOSED

What's Happening to Kidder Point

Summary: Between the 1940s and 1980s Industrial wastes and other fill materials were used to expand and elevate Kidder Point atop its the upper beaches up to 18 feet above the natural surface

IMAGE 2

1940 2011

The waste stream solids and slurries laid down were separated first with wood and canvas then by plastic sheets (aka geomembranes)

Since at least the early 1990s the filled elevated shorelines of Kidder Point have been eroding and sending both wastes and the shielding plastics into Stockton Harbor.

What This Means: Marine life from invertebrates to fish to seabirds are getting exposed to both the plastics and the materials they were shielding, heavy metals and acids

IMAGE 3 SIDE VIEW SHORELINE WASTE LAYERS & COLLAPSED WOOD CONTAINMENT

Understanding Industrial Plastic Tarps

Industrial plastic sheeting (called "geomembranes") was used to:

- Separate layers of different chemical wastes
- Attempt to contain toxic materials
- Create barriers between waste and Stockton Harbor
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Key Dates for GAC Site:

- **1970s:** Early plastic containment attempts (PVC sheets)
- **1980s:** Heavy-duty plastic (HDPE) becomes standard
- **1990s-2000s:** Erosion of filled shorelines begins – releasing both the wastes and exposing the PVC and HDPE plastic sheeting

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IMAGE 4 PVC & HDPE

The Problem?

Plastic Breaks Down.

Stage 1: Fresh Exposure

What you see: plastic sheeting emerging from eroding bluffs

What it means: Waste containment has failed and the plastic sheeting unearthed including folded up waste plastic sheeting exposed

IMAGE 5 & 6 WASTE EMERGENCE

Stage 2: Weather Breakdown

What you see: Plastic becoming brittle, cracking,

What it means: sunlight & salt water are destroying the barriers

IMAGES 7 & 8

Stage 3: Fragmentation

What you see: Plastic pieces getting smaller, breaking apart

What it means: Plastic begins entering the ecosystem

IMAGES 9, 10 & 11

Stage 4: Microplastics

What you see: Tiny plastic fragments in water and sediment

What it means: Plastic enters the food chain

IMAGES 12, 13, TO BE PRODUCED

Why This Matters to Searsport & Stockton Springs

Public Health Risks.

- **Adults and children playing on contaminated beaches**
- **Dogs walking through toxic sediments**
- **Families unaware of contamination dangers**
- **No warning signs posted**
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Environmental Damage

- **Marine food chain disrupted** – a depauperate system

Municipal Responsibility

- **Public trust rights** in intertidal areas
- **Duty to protect** residents and visitors
- **Authority to demand** cleanup and protection
- **Legal standing** to take action
- IMAGE 14

What the Plastic Evidence Shows

This Isn't Natural Erosion

- **Industrial waste disposal** over decades
- **Failed containment systems** releasing toxics
- **New releases** with each storm and tide
- **Systematic environmental damage**

The Problem Is Accelerating

- **Climate change increasing storm intensity**
- **Sea level rise exposing more waste layers**
- **Plastic deterioration happening faster than expected**
- **Contamination spreading throughout harbor**

What Your Towns Can Do

Immediate Actions

1. **Post warning signs** at public access points
2. **Issue health advisories** to residents
3. **Demand emergency assessment** from GAC Chemical
4. **Coordinate with state agencies**

Legal Authority

Maine Title 12 §573 gives you power to:

- **Protect public trust rights** in intertidal areas
- **Exercise police powers** over contaminated shorelines
- **Demand restoration** of safe public access
- **Hold corporations accountable** for cleanup

Searsport and Stockton Springs together can restore Stockton Harbor (aka Essick – Great shellfish bay)

Joint Municipal Strategy

- **Shared legal costs** and stronger position
- **Regional impact** demonstrates need for action
- **Coordinated public health protection**
- **United voice** for state and federal support

The Bottom Line

It's happening: Century-old industrial waste wrapped in failing plastic is contaminating your shared harbor.

Why it matters: Public health, environmental protection, fisheries restoration and economic wellbeing of both communities.

What you can do: Use your municipal authority to protect public trust rights and demand immediate action.

Time factor: Plastic breakdown is accelerating - action needed now before contamination spreads further.

Questions for Discussion

1. **What level of contamination risk is acceptable?**
 2. **Should families be warned about beach hazards?**
 3. **How do we coordinate joint municipal action?**
 4. **What support do we need from state, county and federal agencies?**
 5. Will GAC be open to an impartial examination of the identity and state of the fill materials that both widened the point and turned the naturally sloping surfaces of Kidder Pt into a flat working surface .
 - 6.
 7. This furthered the production of important fertilizer, alum and acids vital for Maine's paper & potato industries
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RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Immediate (30 days)

- Public health protection measures**
- Warning signage installation**
- Legal consultation on municipal authority**

Short-term (60-90 days)

- Joint municipal action under Title 12 §573**
- Demand comprehensive site assessment**
- Coordinate with regulatory agencies**

Long-term

- Monitor cleanup progress**
- Ensure restoration of public access**
- Protect community health and economy**

In closing The plastic evidence

: GAC Chemical's or should I say northern Chemicals and delta chemicals' failing waterfront waste containment is contaminating Stockton Harbor with plastics as well as the chemical wastes the plastics once shielded.

The EPA and other agencies have funding to remediate the five acre promontory. It is important to keep in mind that all five acres were elevated with a mixture of fill materials including the spent ores remaining from the acid fertilizer and alum separated by wood frames and by pipelines and other solid

Searsport and Stockton Springs have both the authority and responsibility to protect their communities' health and restore their public trust rights, the harbor' many interacting ecosystems from shorebirds and eagles to salmon and sturgeon to bloodworms and clams and plankton.

Maine DEP has been overtly friendly to GAC's wastes dispersal problems under the Lepage and Mills Administrations.

So it won't be an easy effort but Nature and your communities' members deserve your utmost . I am sure that other bay communities and even the new Penobscot Baykeeper will lend you both a hand.

Penobscot Bay Watch