

MARINE RESOURCES

Cape Elizabeth is surrounded on two sides by the Atlantic Ocean, and by the Spurwink River to the west. Marine resources in Cape Elizabeth are predominantly used for limited commercial fishing and for recreational boat moorings.

Boat Access

Public commercial boat access to the Atlantic Ocean is available at Kettle Cove, state owned land located on the southern end of Cape Elizabeth adjacent to Crescent Beach. The boat ramp is adjacent to a parking lot accessed from Kettle Cove Rd. The parking lot does include reserved spaces for commercial fishing parking. Maneuvering boats onto the ramp requires a tight swing during the summer when the parking lot is full and adjacent areas are used for storing kayaks, etc.

Boat ramp use is limited to commercial fishing. With this limitation, there is adequate access for commercial fishing when the area immediately surrounding the boat ramp is not congested. The Harbor Master has stated that without this restriction, congestion and access problems for commercial fishing are probable.

A second boat launch is also located immediately adjacent to Crescent Beach and in close proximity to the commercial boat ramp. This boat launch is available to any users with a beach access permit from the Police Department. In FY 2005, the following beach access permit were issued:

FY 2005 Beach Permits

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Day Pass	31	\$5
Seasonal Pleasure Pass	55	\$25
Commercial Beach Pass	24	\$25
TOTAL	110	

Day passes are purchased mostly by nonresidents. Seasonal pleasure passes are purchased only by residents. Commercial Beach passes are a mix of residents and nonresidents. Both the Seasonal Pleasure Pass and the Commercial Beach Pass are free

Place holder for Marine Resources Map

to mooring holders and most of the Commercial Beach passes are purchased by people with moorings.

The boat access is composed of compacted sand, which can be problematic when sand washes out. Boats larger than 14' cannot be launched here due to shallow water at some times. The boat launch is also limited during summer weekends by congestion due to parking and heavy use.

Moorings

In 2006, the Cape Elizabeth Harbor Master has 104 licensed moorings, 29 of which are for commercial fishing. Annual mooring revenues are approximately \$5,200. Below is a summary of moorings by location.

Location	Number of Moorings
Alewife Cove	7
Cliff House Beach	3
Crescent Beach	32
Kettle Cove	15
Maiden Cove	19
Pond Cove	1
Staples Cove	9
Trundy Point	10
Zeb's Cove	6
Broad Cove	1
Ram Island	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	104

All of the moorings in Kettle Cove are for commercial fishing. In addition, there are also commercial fishing vessel moorings at Crescent Beach. The remaining areas are almost exclusively for recreational boating moorings. The Harbor Master has been reviewing moorings and may need to make some location adjustments in Maiden Cove, but otherwise considers current facilities adequate. He estimates that there is enough room for 6 additional commercial moorings in Kettle Cove, and he has been reserving Kettle Cove exclusively for commercial fishing moorings. The number of moorings has fluctuated very little in the last several years and the Harbor Master does not anticipate a significant increase in the number of moorings requested.

Commercial Fishing

The State of Maine Department of Marine Resources maintains a record of fishing licenses by type of license. This data shows that Cape Elizabeth supports a small, commercial fishing fleet focused primarily on lobster fishing.

CAPE ELIZABETH

Resident Licenses	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
30 DAY URCHIN DIVING TENDER	1	0	0	0	0	0
COMM FISHING/CREW	9	10	10	8	9	8
COMM FISHING/SINGLE	4	1	1	3	2	2
COMM SHRIMP-CREW	2	1	1	1	1	1
COMM SHRIMP-SINGLE	1	0	0	0	0	0
COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH	0	1	0	0	0	0
ELVER-2 FYKE NETS	1	1	1	1	0	0
LOB/CRAB APPRENT UNDER 18	0	0	1	0	0	0
LOBSTER TRANS (OUT-OF-STATE)	0	0	0	1	0	0
LOBSTER/CRAB APPRENT	0	0	1	4	3	1
LOBSTER/CRAB CLASS I	29	28	25	23	22	20
LOBSTER/CRAB CLASS II	22	22	22	20	25	28
LOBSTER/CRAB CLASS III	5	6	7	6	6	6
LOBSTER/CRAB NON-COMM	29	35	41	35	32	35
LOBSTER/CRAB OVER AGE 70	5	5	4	4	5	6
LOBSTER/CRAB STUDENT	12	13	13	16	14	14
LOBSTER/CRAB UNDER AGE 18	3	4	2	2	2	1
QUAHOG (MAHOAGANY)	1	1	1	1	1	1
RETAIL SEAFOOD	5	4	4	4	4	4
SCALLOP - DIVER	1	1	1	1	1	1
SCALLOP - DRAGGER	4	2	2	3	3	3
SCALLOP, NON-COMMERCIAL	7	7	7	5	5	3
SEA URCHIN - DIVER	3	3	3	2	2	2
SEA URCHIN - DRAGGER	1	1	1	1	0	0
SEA URCHIN/SCALLOP TENDER	2	2	2	2	1	1
SEAWEED	1	1	1	1	1	1
WHOLESALE NO LOBSTERS	1	2	2	1	0	0
WHOLESALE W/LOBSTERS	0	0	1	2	2	1

Shell fishing Areas

Shell fishing beds are located off the southern end of Cape Elizabeth and in close proximity to Kettle Cove. Along the shorefront from Crescent Beach to the Spurwink River, the area is sparsely developed with 13 existing homes. The area is protected from impacts from abutting land development by a 250' buffer from the high water mark that stretches along the coastline. Within 250' of the shore is not only Shoreland Zoning protection, but also a Resource Protection buffer due to the presence of wetlands and

sand dunes. Activities in the buffer are strictly limited and do not include construction of new homes or new roads.

Lobster fishing in Cape Elizabeth, as evidenced by number of traps licensed by the Department of Marine Resources, is fairly steady at 5,000 traps annually. See table below for actual number of traps from 2000-2005.

Year	Traps
2000	4,775
2001	5,170
2002	4,250
2003	5,415
2004	4,700
2005	5,230

Marine Resources Goal

Goal 1: The Town shall manage marine resources to protect commercial fishing and access and also to provide for recreational boating.

Marine resources support commercial fishing, noncommercial fishing and recreational boating. Facilities are managed to assign first priority to commercial fishing. Some expansion of commercial fishing could be accommodated. At the same time, noncommercial fishing and recreational boating now occur and can continue to occur without a negative impact on commercial fishing.

Implementation Steps

61. Continue to reserve and improve the Kettle Cove boat ramp for commercial fishing, WETeam, and other emergency access.
62. Study the need for and the potential location of an additional boat ramp and parking facilities for all users.
63. Evaluate the need for and feasibility of public access (including parking) to shell fishing beds for licensed, commercial fishermen.