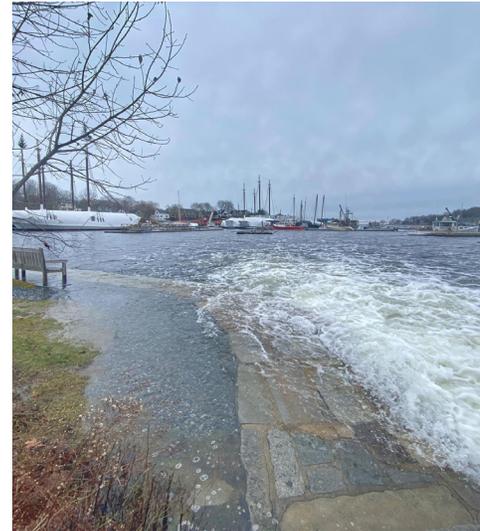


# ADOPT OFFICIAL SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS

LD 1572 will provide clear, science-based guidance to enhance coastal community resilience.

## **Sea-level rise is already affecting coastal communities and the impacts will be severe.**

- The Science and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council advised that we must commit to manage for 3.9 feet of Sea Level Rise (SLR) and prepare to manage for 8.8 feet by 2100. Maine's Climate Action Plan adopts those recommendations and makes it a priority to promptly revise our coastal land use regulations to incorporate those SLR projections.
- The nuisance flooding that already impacts coastal Maine will increase 10-15 fold with just 1 foot of SLR, increasing from average flooding of roughly 14 hours per year to about 142 hours per year and threatening communities with strong dependence on waterfront tourism, ports, and fishing.
- Projected impacts of 1.6 feet of SLR include inundation of six wastewater treatment facilities, 26 miles of coastal public roads, nearly one thousand road crossings and culverts, almost half of Maine's dry beaches, 61% of undeveloped sand dunes, and 85% of developed dunes. Projected impacts are even more severe with 3.9 feet of SLR.
- The consequences of these changes will be staggering. Economists estimate that by 2050, Maine's coastline will sustain damages of up to \$17.5 billion.



## **Land-use planning tools can help Maine communities manage climate impacts and enhance resilience – but only if they reflect science-based projections.**

- Local governments have the authority and responsibility for planning and implementing most activities for community resilience. The tools communities currently use – including comprehensive planning, zoning, site location of development, and stormwater and floodplain management practices – were not designed with climate change in mind.
- Maine's Climate Action Plan calls on the state to lead a process to update land-use laws, tools, and practices to address threats communities face from climate change impacts and make our natural and built coastal lands resilient to climate change. This process begins with incorporating official projections for sea-level rise and directing state agencies to determine what laws and rules will need to be updated.
- Updated, science-based planning tools – coupled with technical assistance and training – will enable local governments to consider climate hazards like sea-level rise in waterfront planning, development, risk reduction, and conservation.

## **This is the ACTION called for in Maine's Climate Action Plan.**

- LD 1572 would specifically direct state agencies to manage for 1.5 feet of relative sea-level rise by 2050, relative to the year 2000, and 3.9 feet of sea-level rise by 2100, as recommended in the Climate Action Plan.
- Incorporating these official sea-level rise projections into state planning and regulatory processes will give communities the tools they need to build resilience, enhance ecosystem services, and get out of harm's way, as recommended in Strategy F3 of the Climate Action Plan.

## **SUPPORT LD 1572: ADOPT SCIENTIFIC CLIMATE PROJECTIONS TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

For more information, please contact Ivy Frignoca, Friends of Casco Bay at 831-3067 or [ifrignoca@cascobay.org](mailto:ifrignoca@cascobay.org).

# Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

