PUBLIC Boat Launching Facilities in Southern MAINE: A Report of On-site Interviews and Investigations

Prepared By:
Town of Brunswick
Department of Planning & Development
28 Federal Street
Brunswick, ME 04011

Prepared For:
The Mere Point Boat Launch
Citizens Advisory Committee

November 2005
# Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION** ................................................................. 3

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** .................................................. 4

**MEREPOINT** ......................................................................... 6

**BIDDEFORD** ........................................................................ 11

**SOUTH PORTLAND** ........................................................... 16

**BATH-SOUTH END** ............................................................. 25

**BATH-NORTH END** ............................................................. 30

**PHIPPSBURG-FIDDLER’S REACH** ......................................... 33

**Damariscotta** ........................................................................ 39

**PORTLAND-EAST END** ....................................................... 43

**RAYMOND** .......................................................................... 48

**STANDISH** ........................................................................... 54

**YARMOUTH-ROYAL RIVER** .................................................. 59

**BELFAST** .............................................................................. 63

**BROOKWICK-WATER STREET** ............................................. 71

**BROOKWICK-SAWYER PARK** ............................................... 75

**WEST BATH BULL ROCK ROAD** ........................................... 81

**FREEPORT WINSLOW PARK** .................................................. 84

**LOOKOUT POINT HARPSWELL** ............................................ 89

**TOWN LANDING FALMOUTH** ............................................... 92
Introduction

During the summer of 2003, staff from the Brunswick Department of Planning and Development and the Brunswick Department of Parks and Recreation visited public boat launch facilities from Biddeford to Phippsburg in order to see first hand how the various facilities are managed. The focus of this survey effort was to collect information pertaining to the management of coastal boat launch facilities similar to the proposed Merepoint launch and drawing from the same regional boater population. Town staff sought ideas to aid in the operation of such a site, as well as information about any problems that may have been encountered during day-to-day operations. Two freshwater facilities on Sebago Lake (Raymond and Standish) and a coastal facility outside of the survey area in Belfast were also visited, as these sites had been identified as possibly problematic in public comments received during the local project review process. Staff also conducted several follow-up visits to facilities most similar to the proposed Merepoint boat launch. This report summarizes findings from each of the facilities visited and includes photographs taken on the site as well as aerial photos to provide a sense of facility layout, surrounding land use, and signage.

Figure 1: Map showing coastal boat launches in the survey sample area defined by IF&W for BEP hearings. Blue dots indicate locations visited for this report.
Summary of Findings

Seventeen public access boat launch facilities were visited by Town of Brunswick staff. Twelve of the seventeen are located in waterfront residential neighborhoods similar to Merepoint. Others are located in mixed residential and commercial settings and one (South Portland) is located in an industrial setting. Six of the sites visited are located on dead-end, residential roads similar in character to Merepoint Road. The sites found to be most similar to the Merepoint proposal are Royal River, Bath South End, and Sawyer Park. This finding is based on size (average impervious surface of area of 87,000 square feet not including the long access road to the Royal River facility), types of use (launching and retrieving of boats as primary function), and residential setting. There are 60 homes within 1,000 feet of the Bath facility; and 27 homes within 1,000 feet of the Royal River facility. The Merepoint boat launch proposal includes approximately 83,500 square feet of impervious surface and will be located within 1,000 feet of 23 homes.

Overall, staff found that the number of designated parking spaces varies widely with the type of facility and the variety of uses offered. The largest numbers of spaces were found at Standish (120), South Portland (80), Raymond (66), and Biddeford (65). The 10 facilities built primarily for the launching and retrieving of boats have, on average, 57 parking spaces (rig spaces and single car spaces combined). Mixed use facilities such as Belfast and Falmouth that service large municipal mooring fields and Winslow Park, primarily a campground, have less space dedicated for rig parking (10 rig spaces average). Sites such as Damariscotta, Bull Rock, and Lookout Point are informal, long-established access points with limited land area. All three facilities are similar in nature to Brunswick’s Wharton Point, and Turkey Bridge ramps. These facilities typically have fewer than 20 spaces, but were not designed to be more than very limited local access points.

Facility management also varies, but typically corresponds with the size of the respective communities, municipal capacity and recreational services offered. Although the majority of sites visited are not staffed, larger towns and cities typically have staff present on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The South Portland facility was the only dedicated boat launch facility visited that had staff present seven days per week during the summer primarily to collect fees. Winslow Park is also staffed every day, but staff functions primarily to manage the campground facilities.

Nearly all sites investigated offered 24 hour access for the launching and retrieval of boats. Many, however, place restrictions on non-boater access during the hours between sunset to sunrise. Most facilities do not charge a fee for boat launching. The exceptions are Portland and South Portland, Raymond, Standish, Yarmouth, and Freeport. Each of these facilities has staff present to collect fees daily. The fees are nominal, typically $2 to $5, and help to cover costs of staff to collect fees and some facility maintenance needs.

The following individual site descriptions are based on actual visits and interviews with site managers.
The Merepoint facility has been included in this document for comparative purposes. This description does not include all management or operational recommendations included in the CAC report, but is intended to follow the same format as other launches surveyed.

Site: Proposed Merepoint Boat Launch

Contact: Tom Farrell (Director, Brunswick Parks and Recreation); Steve Walker (Harbormaster)

Size: 52 rig sized spaces, 3 single car sized spaces. Several rig-sized spaces include dividing stripes to clearly indicate that single cars can be accommodated. No overflow parking is to be permitted at this facility.

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a residential neighborhood with 23 homes within 1,000 feet of facility. The facility is located on Merepoint Road which is 22-feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieval of boats. ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for non-boating use.

Staff: Staffing to be provided during peak season weekends and holidays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Duties: The daily routine of staff will include inspection of the launch ramp, float system, make-ready and tie down areas, parking facility, signage, vault toilets, foot bridge, trash receptacles and any other site features to determine if maintenance is required. Staff to be trained in oil spill response and boat launching / retrieval.

Boater Use: This facility has been designed primarily for the launching and retrieval of recreational trailered and hand-carried boats of lengths 24 feet and under. The site features two 20 foot wide parallel ramps divided by floats. During busy times of day, one ramp lane will be designated for launching and the other for retrieval. Floats have been designed to be of adequate length to allow “stacking” or dockage of boats without interfering with launches.

It is anticipated that one ramp lane will typically be vacant, offering ample hand-carry launch opportunity most of the time. Additionally, each ramp is designed to be wide enough that a trailer on the ramp would still leave adequate space for hand-carry launches even at peak use hours. Granite stairs leading from the side of the ramp to the intertidal area have been included in the design for hand-carry boaters not comfortable with launching from a boat ramp. A designated kayak make-ready area has been included in the design to minimize ramp time required for kayak loading and preparation.

Non-boater Use: The site has been designed to include shoreline benches, picnic tables, a pedestrian footbridge, and bicycle rack. Given that this site will provide the only public open space on Merepoint it is likely to be used by bicyclists and pedestrians seeking a view of the water, and as is the experience at other facilities, this facility is likely to offer a convenient lunch stop for local contractors.
Fees: No fees are currently proposed as is consistent with the operation of other town facilities. This recommendation should be reconsidered if operating expenses are greater than what has been estimated.

Size of Rigs (Rig = vehicle + trailer): The facility has been designed for rigs up to 45-feet in length. Signage on site will indicate this rig size limitation.

Lights: The facility will not be lighted on a full time basis, but the design will include a low light situation that can be activated by Brunswick patrol officers when visiting the facility. The facility will have a lit emergency call box and reflectors on the floats to serve as navigational aides.

Sanitary Facilities: 2 vault toilets typically pumped once per year

Trash: The site design includes trash receptacles that will be monitored and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Patrol: Brunswick PD will include this facility on regular patrols of the area

Gate: The facility is not gated.

Town Assessor Comments: Surrounding land values have increased. Long time owners surround site. No recent sales for comparison.

Photos of Site:
Photo-simulations of Site:
Site: Biddeford

Date Visited: July 16, 2003

Contact: Carl Michaud (Park Ranger employed by the Dept. of Conservation)

Size: 65 rigs 12 overflow, Carl reports that he can park 85 vehicles at peak times has parked 100 vehicles by using overflow areas for additional rigs.

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a residential neighborhood with 17 homes within 1,000 feet of facility. The facility is located on Pool Street which has paved bike lanes on either side of road within a 40 foot right-of-way.

Hours of Operation: 24hr

Staff: 1 person weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day plus 1 day per week for maintenance of this site and other sites in southern region (Acton, Bridgeton, and Great East Lake specifically mentioned)

Duties: Carl reported that most of his time is spent helping boaters launch and load at low tide. At busy times he designates one side of the ramp as a “put in” and one side as a “take out”. Carl stated that less than 15% of boaters using the site are what he would call inexperienced and require help.

Boater Use: Carl explained that this is the busiest site in the State because it’s a “hub” community and draws people from New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Saco River provides some of the best striped bass fishing in Maine and provides the closest access to off-shore shark and tuna sites in southern Maine. Many people plan their vacations in the area because of the presence of the launch. Carl spoke of people who spend a week at local motels or rent houses and fish during the day. Carl also stated that six local fishing guide services use the facility.

Before the launch was improved by DOC, it was a marina with informal launch. Carl stated that since it had been “cleaned up”, the present day facility has become “family oriented”. Wardens from Saco and Biddeford use the site regularly as a convenient launch as does Marine Patrol. Carl reports that kayakers set up and launch from the ramp itself without problems, but during busy times he asks that they leave from a gravel area that was a former dinghy tie-up when the area was previously a marina.

Non-boater Use: Carl reported:

- The abutters use the site as a neighborhood park and appreciate having an area to walk and know that it will never be developed as private property. No abutter complaints have been reported by Carl even though this is the busiest facility in Maine and generates the most traffic based on State and independent estimates.

- A kayak rental and tour service uses the facility both as a launch and as a restroom break stopping point during tours on the river.
• A local nursing home uses the site regularly for residents to enjoy the view, bird watch, etc.
• The US Coast Guard auxiliary unit uses the site for education programs.
• Bank fishermen utilize the site during fish runs
• Local non-profit organizations use the site for outreach programs

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: Carl stated that the largest boat he has seen launched is a 30-footer that is moored up river adjacent to the site. Most boats are outboards with hull lengths of 20-feet or less.

Lights: The facility has no lights, but Carl stated that he would like to see passive solar lights on the float for night use.

Sanitary Facilities: 2 vault toilets typically pumped once per year

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out. Carl indicated that this presented no serious problem and that boaters respect the facility and work to keep it clean.

Patrol: Biddeford PD patrols the site regularly as part of their rounds

Gate: The facility is not gated. Carl feels that a gate would lead to even more complaints from folks who just want to look at the water, eat lunch, etc.

Biggest Problem: Carl indicated that there are no longer problems with drinking, fights, and other misuse since the facility was improved by the State. He believes that the site’s past history led to the concerns expressed by Brunswick residents in public comments submitted during Merepoint project review. Carl feels the biggest issue is that the floats are not long enough and that he could accommodate more efficient loading and unloading if the floats were extended and boats could stack. Carl would also like to have picnic tables and a water fountain.

Public comments regarding the Merepoint facility have stated that the Biddeford ramp was extended to a 9’ depth at MLW. This is not the case. Carl reported that the ramp length has not changed, but an additional length of float was added to better stack boats at lower tides. This additional ramp extends to 9’ of water at low tide, but the purpose of the extension is to allow for the stacking of up to 4 boats during periods of low tide.

Carl reported that kayakers do not complain about launching from the ramp, but he asks them to use an off-ramp location when the facility is busy. The only kayaker complaints he has received are regarding boater wake on the river.

Economic Benefit: Carl stated that he feels the facility is a “clean industry for the area”. He reported that the facility supports several bait & tackle and convenient stores in the area. Several people he knows have moved to the town for the ramp.
Town Assessor Comments: Surrounding land values have increased. Long time owners surround site. No recent sales for comparison.

Notes: This facility was voted in the top 10 boating facilities on the east coast.

Photos of Site:
NOTICE TO BOAT OWNERS

Please use this public boat access site and the waters it serves safely and courteously by:

- Waiting your turn to launch and take out;
- Preparing to launch or retrieve your boat away from the ramp, if others are waiting;
- Parking your vehicle and trailer away from the ramp, out of the approach lane;
- Leaving and approaching the ramp area in your boat at slow speed (no wake);
- Respecting the boating laws.

THANK YOU

Provided by the Boating Facilities Division
Bureau of Parks & Recreation Department of Conservation
RULES FOR CONDUCT AT BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES

A. No person shall tie up or leave any boat in the area around any launching ramps, floats or docks, except when loading or unloading cargo and/or passengers, or where otherwise allowed by posted official notice.

B. Camping or other overnight stays at the launching facility are not allowed.

C. Wheeled vehicles, including trailers, shall be parked only in designated places.

D. Fires are not permitted except in fireplaces provided by the bureau.

E. The use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited. Disorderly conduct, including, but not limited to, indecent acts, intoxication or coarse language is prohibited.

F. Removing, injuring or damaging any parts of the facility including plants, land, structures, or natural conditions at the launching facility is prohibited.

G. Discharging wastes of any kind, including but not limited to soaps, detergents, and refuse is prohibited. Washing vehicles, boats and laundry is prohibited.

H. Storage of boats, trailers, vehicles, equipment, ice shacks, and other property at the launching facility is prohibited.

I. Swimming from docks, floats, boat launching ramps and areas posted "no swimming" is prohibited.

J. Other uses of the launching facility and parking areas, including, but not limited to, commercial use, non-boating related use, and fishing tournament use of the facilities, are allowed only by special activity permit from the bureau director.

K. The use of boat launching facilities and parking areas between sunset and sunrise for purposes other than fishing or the launching and retrieving of boats is prohibited.

L. Pet owners must clean up any fecal deposits left by their pets.

M. Posting advertisements or other notices not approved by the bureau is prohibited.

Authority: 12 M.R.S.A., Section 1895.

Penalty: Title 12 M.R.S.A., Section 1899-A, makes the violation of any of the above rules a Class E crime.
Site: South Portland

Date: July 16, 2003

Contact: Dana Anderson (So. Portland Parks & Rec) & Tom Meyers (Buses & Waterfront)

Size: 40 spaces with approximately 40 overflow spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a commercial district with an adjacent municipal park and waterfront trails.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieving of boats, open ½ before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for other uses.

Staff: Staffed daily by Park Rangers from Memorial Day to Labor Day 7:00am to 7:00pm

Duties: Primarily to collect money, also to help with launches, etc.

Boater Use: Peak daily use during a summer holiday is 50 launches, typical weekend 40 launches per day; 20 launches during week days. 80 season passes sold in 2002.

Non-boater Use: Immediately adjacent to Bug Light Park so receives pedestrian use

Fees: $3/resident or $6/non-resident; $1/ft for commercial launches. Season passes $30.00 resident and $60.00 non-resident. A total of $2,600 collected in 2002.

Size of Rigs: Designed to handle commercial haulers

Lights: No lights

Sanitary Facilities: 1 vault toilet pumped annually

Trash: Carry-in / Carry-out

Patrol: Park rangers and after hours by South Portland PD

Gate: No gate

Biggest Problem: Power loading of boats and use by commercial barges returning from islands was noted as the biggest concern. Both activities result in ramp damage. Dana also indicated that the long linear layout does not allow good visibility for monitoring use of the site. The attendant cannot see the ramp from booth.

Kayak Use: Tom Meyers has reported that kayakers use this facility frequently without problems. The facility has two 20’ ramps that offer adequate room for kayakers to set up even with trailered boats on the same ramp. Additionally, one ramp is usually dedicated as “put in” and the other “take out” so one ramp surface is usually completely clear.
Town Assessor Comments: Not investigated due to commercial setting.

Photos of Site:
NO UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES, TRAILERS, BOATS, OR CAMPERS SHALL BE PARKED HERE FROM 9:00 P.M. - 7:00 A.M. SEE ATTENDANT OR CALL 767-5556

UNAUTHORIZED BOATS STORED ON SITE ARE SUBJECT TO FINE OF $250/DAY
City of South Portland
Municipal Boat Launching Facility

Hours of operation
Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend (attendant on duty 7 days per week) 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Rest of the year Sunrise to Sunset

Fee Schedule
South Portland Resident Non-resident
One day: $3.00 $6.00
Season Pass: $30.00 $60.00

Special use fee: $1.00 per foot for seasonal launching of recreational boats from low-bed trailers, haulers, etc.

Senior citizens and disabled are exempt.

Restricted Parking
No unauthorized vehicles, trailers, boats, campers, or the like shall be parked here between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Limited overnight parking approved in advance by Department of Transportation and Waterfront, 42 O’Neil Street, South Portland, or call 767-5556.

Ask attendant for information sheet about other Rules and Regulations.

“Trash Free Park”
Please help maintain an unspoiled, trash free park. Trash receptacles are not available.

Please take your trash when you go. Whatever you carry in, please carry out.

It is also helpful if you take some trash your neighbor accidentally left behind.
Rules and Regulations Governing the Municipal Boat Launching Facility
City of South Portland, Maine

1. The public launching ramp is intended primarily for the launching of recreational boats. Commercial boats may use the ramp only if the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee determine that such use does not unreasonably interfere with the launching of recreational boats. The City Council may establish by order a schedule of fees for public use of the ramp (please see other side for fee schedule).

2. The public float and landing is hereby restricted to the boarding and landing from small craft only and the mooring of small craft, storage of gear, or commercial use of same is expressly prohibited.

3. No person shall tie up or leave any boat in the area except when loading or unloading cargo and/or passengers and, except where otherwise posted by proper notice. The time limit for use of this ramp is thirty (30) minutes and no vessels shall tie to or make use of this ramp for longer periods except under emergency conditions. Anchoring in the area adjacent to the floats is allowed only to prevent accident or injury.

4. When approaching or leaving the float area, the speed of all boats shall be reduced to headway speed so as to provide full visibility and control, and prevent their wash from being thrown onto or causing excessive rocking to other boats. “Headway speed” for the purpose of definition shall mean the slowest speed that a power boat may be operated and maintain steerage way, but in no case shall exceed six (6) miles per hour.

5. Speed limit within the area is 10 miles per hour. Keep to the right when entering and leaving the ramp area.

6. Parking is allowed only in designated areas. No unauthorized vehicles, trailers, boats, campers, or the like shall be parked here between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Limited overnight parking approved in advance by (a.) Attendant on Duty or (b.) Department of Transportation and Waterfront, 42 O’Neill Street, South Portland, or call 767-5556.

7. The Director of Parks and Recreation is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to carry out the intent of this section and to further govern the use of the public landing and the public launching ramp for the convenience and safety of the public.

8. The following are prohibited in the parking lots and boat launching area:
   - Swimming or fishing.
   - Camping or otherwise staying overnight.
   - Fires.
   - Drinking of any intoxicating beverage.
   - Disorderly conduct. This includes but is not limited to indecent acts and course language.
   - Removing, molesting, injuring, or damaging anything natural, physical, or historical.
   - Commercial launching on Sundays and holidays.

   ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO FINE.

- Please see the other side of this paper for additional Rules, Regulations, and Guidance. -
Practice common courtesy:
Be patient with others.
Use common sense.
Practice good seamanship.
Offer assistance if it looks like it is needed.

NOT TO SCALE

Updated: May 2001

"North"

(Rocks on this side of pilings)

Please follow the directions of the Park Rangers

Usually "Take Out" on this side.

Usually "Put In" on this side.

Keep this area clear.

Do not block this area.

2. Prepare to leave.
Keep to the right.
Move up far enough to not block exit area.

Hours of Operation
with attendant on duty
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.
(7 days per week.)

Parking Lot
Please follow posted signs.
Additional parking available in grassy area that way.

Attendant Shack

Fee Schedule
South Portland Resident  Non-resident
One day: $3.00  $6.00
Season pass: $30.00  $60.00

Special use: $1.00 per foot for seasonal launching of recreational boats from low-bed trailers, haulers, etc.

Senior citizens (age 65 and older) and disabled are exempt.

- Please see the other side of this paper for additional Rules, Regulations, and Guidance. -
SOUTH PORTLAND
MUNICIPAL BOAT LAUNCH

OVERNIGHT PARKING AUTHORIZATION

The following individual has authorization to park overnight:

NAME ________________________________

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER OR METHOD OF CONTACT FOR PARKING

PERIOD  From (Day / Date) ___________ To (Day / Date) ___________

HOME PHONE NUMBER: ________________________________

HOME ADDRESS: _______________________________________

VEHICLE YEAR / MAKE __________________ TRAILER / MAKE _________

COLOR of VEHICLE ______________________

PLATE NUMBER _________________________

DATE___________________ TIME:_________________________

PARK RANGER or CITY OFFICIAL ____________________________

TEAR OFF AT DOTTED LINE:________________________________

Place on the dashboard of the vehicle where it is visible.

OVERNIGHT PARKING AUTHORIZED

FROM: ____________________ TO: ____________________

(Day / Date) ____________ (Day / Date) ____________

- Police Take Notice -
Site: Bath-South End

Date: July 23, 2003

Contact: Denis Hebert, Director Parks & Cemeteries

Size: 40 rig spaces, 14 single car spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located within a residential neighborhood. 60 homes are located within 1,000 feet of the ramp facility. Washington Street is 24 feet wide in front of the site.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieving of boats, open ½ before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for other uses.

Staff: No dedicated staff

Duties: No dedicated staff, but regularly visited by parks employees for restroom cleaning and trash removal

Boater Use: During the summer weekends this facility is typically filled, during the week 5-10 rigs are typically present depending on weather and fishing conditions.

Non-boater Use: Denis reported that the neighbors appreciate the formal open space provided by the facility. Despite concerns during project review, Denis stated that neighbors “easily tolerate” the facility and use it as a park for dog walking, etc.

Fees: No fees

Size of Rigs: No commercial use or large rig use noted. Used primarily by fisherman with outboards to 22’ in length. Largest vessels launched are by US Coast Guard during winter months.

Lights: No lights. During project review the abutters did not want lights. Denis would like some kind of lights so boaters could find the dock at night

Sanitary Facilities: 1 vault toilet pumped annually

Trash: Portable dumpster on site

Patrol: Park rangers for maintenance and Bath PD during regular rounds. Bath PD strictly enforced rules during the first season in order to get the word out. No enforcement problems since. Signage with rules clearly posted facilitates enforcement by PD.

Gate: No gate

Biggest Problem: Damage to grass by overflow parking was noted as biggest concern. Additional signage has been posted prohibiting parking on grass.
Economic Benefit: Noted use by local guide services and is big local draw during striper runs.

Town Assessor Comments: No effect on values to abutting properties. A small house immediately adjacent to the site sold for $46,000 in 1994 and resold in 2000 for $89,000 despite only $20,000 in improvements. The launch was built in 1998.

Photos of Site:
Site: Bath-North End

Date Visited: July 23, 2003

Contact: Denis Hebert, Director Parks & Cemeteries

Size: 20 rig spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is immediately adjacent to a waste water treatment plant and fish processing facility, but is also within 1,000 feet of more than 70 homes in surrounding residential neighborhood. The facility is accessed by Bowery Street which is a 22 foot wide residential street.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieving of boats, open ½ before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for other uses.

Staff: No dedicated staff

Duties: Regularly visited by parks employees for trash removal

Boater Use: Prior to 1998 this was the only access site in town. It did not have the necessary capacity to meet demand. As a result conflicts between boaters were common at times of peak use.

Non-boater Use: Some pedestrian use, but not as accessible as South End. An eddy in front offers good bank fishing.

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: No commercial use or large rig use noted. Primarily used by fisherman with outboards to 22’ in length.

Lights: The facility has a single street light.

Sanitary Facilities: 2 porta-potties

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out.

Patrol: Bath PD patrols the site regularly as part of their rounds, regularly visited by park rangers.

Gate: Not gated

Biggest Problem: The porta-potties were identified as the biggest issue now that site congestion has been relieved by opening of South End launch. Abutting residences have complained about odor so the porta-potties were moved to another part of site. The porta-potties have been subject to vandalism in past because they are sheltered from public view. The porta-potties have been relocated and not recent problems have been reported.
Town Assessor Comments: No effect on values to abutting residences, but this is a mixed use area.

Photos of Site:
NORTH END LAUNCH FACILITY

The ramps and floats in this facility are for the sole purpose of launching and retrieving boats. Be sure your boat is ready for immediate launching and getting underway before you occupy or block the ramps and floats.

HOURS
This facility is closed from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise except for the launching and retrieving of boats.

NO TRESPASSING WHEN CLOSED

PROHIBITED
Parking on the Grass ~ Use of Alcohol or Illegal Drugs
Disorderly Conduct ~ Littering ~ Swimming
Fires or Fireworks
Camping or Overnight Parking
Damaging or Removing Vegetation
Damaging Public Property

CITY CODE REQUIRES
Dogs Must Be Leashed ~
Dog Owners Must Clean Up After Their Pets

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

7.28.2003
Site: Phippsburg-Fiddler’s Reach

Date Visited: July 23, 2003

Contact: Phone interview with Mike Young (Town Administrator); George Powell (Boating Facilities Division, MDOC), John Skroski (Police Chief)

Size: 20 rig spaces with potential for 12 overflow

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a rural residential neighborhood with 10 homes within 1,000 feet of ramp facility. Fiddler’s Reach Road is 22 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieving of boats, open ½ before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for other uses.

Staff: No staff

Boater Use: Used primarily as a sport fishing access site. Chief Skroski reported that he had never seen the facility at full capacity.

Non-boater Use: At time of visit the facility was being utilized by workers on lunch break. The facility is also visited by pedestrians from the neighborhood.

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: Tight turning radius likely discourages commercial boat haulers

Lights: No lights

Sanitary Facilities: 1 vault toilet

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out.

Patrol: Visited by county sheriff’s department during regular patrol

Gate: Not gated

Biggest Problem: Town Administrator not aware of any issues regarding enforcement in past 7 years. Powell indicates single cars parking in rig spaces as common complaint especially in lower parking lot closest to ramp. Chief Skroski stated that in his two years the only call has been from someone visiting from out of town who lost magnetic dealer license plates and thought they may have been taken at the ramp. The chief has not had any issues with loitering, underage drinking, etc.

Town Assessor Comments: No effect on values to abutting residences, new home construction since site established. Values of surrounding homes are high.

Budget: No town expenditures for facility
Photo of Site:
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS

RULES FOR CONDUCT AT BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES

A. No person shall tie up or leave any boat in the area around any launching ramps, docks or docks, except when loading or unloading cargo and/or passengers, or where otherwise allowed by posted official notice.

B. Camping or other overnight stays at the launching facility are not allowed.

C. Wheeled vehicles, including trailers, shall be parked only in designated places.

D. Fires are not permitted except in fireplaces provided by the bureau.

E. The use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited. Disorderly conduct, including, but not limited to, indecent acts, obscenity or coarse language is prohibited.

F. Repairing, injuring or damaging any part of the facility including plants, land, structures, or natural conditions at the launching facility is prohibited.

G. Discharging wastes of any kind, including but not limited to soaps, detergents, and refuse is prohibited. Washing vehicles, boats and laundry is prohibited.

H. Storage of boats, trailers, vehicles, equipment, ice shacks, and other property at the launching facility is prohibited.

I. Swimming from docks, floats, boat launching ramps and areas posted "no swimming" is prohibited.

J. Other uses of the launching facility and parking areas, including, but not limited to, commercial use, non-boating related use, and fishing tournament use of the facilities, are allowed only by special activity permit from the bureau director.

K. The use of boat launching facilities and parking areas between sunset and sunrise for purposes other than fishing or the launching and retrieving of boats is prohibited.

L. Pet owners must clean up any waste deposits left by their pets.

M. Posting advertisements or other notices not approved by the bureau is prohibited.

Authority: 12 M.R.S.A., Section 1897.

Penalty: Title 12 M.R.S.A., Section 1897-A, makes the violation of any of the above rules a Class E crime.
SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT...

- DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE. ALCOHOL AND BOATS DON'T MIX.
- DON'T MAKE WAVES 200 FEET FROM ANY SHORE, ONLY HEADWAY SPEED IS LEGAL.
- CATCH AND RELEASE TO PRESERVE THE FISHERY.
- WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE, THIS IS THEIR HOME.

Funding provided by a grant from the BOAT/U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety

Plac Tree Bassmasters
Site: Damariscotta

Date Visited: July 31, 2003

Contact: Officer Craig Johnson, Damariscotta PD

Size: 12 designated rig spaces within larger municipal parking lot

Surrounding Land use: Retail / Commercial Mix, Main Street retail with apartments above immediately adjacent to ramp, 24 homes within 1,000 feet of ramp.

Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Staff: No dedicated staff

Duties: No dedicated staff, but regularly visited by Assistant Harbor Master to raise flag, post announcements, check dinghy’s, etc.

Boater Use: Mostly commercial and recreational fisherman and shellfish harvesters. Dinghies tied up to floats to service municipal mooring field.

Non-boater Use: Facility is located in Town center and attracts many pedestrians to waterfront. Benches and walking path adjacent to ramp.

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: Configuration of parking lot limits large rigs in summer season. Potential for large launches if parking area is empty, but posted for recreational use only.

Lights: Lights in parking lot and on adjacent commercial buildings

Sanitary Facilities: none

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out. Signage: “Boaters: you can make a difference. Stow all litter and pick up any floating trash”

Patrol: Harbor master checks tie ups and Damariscotta PD patrols municipal parking facility.

Gate: Not gated

Biggest Problem: Officer Johnson reported that during his 4 years of duty he has had no calls for activities at the ramp. He stated that ramp operations were “very reasonable with only superficial issues like dinghies being tied up too long”. The only incident he could think of was an outboard being stolen from a dinghy. No reports of conflicts with kayaks.

Town Assessor Comments: Not contacted given commercial setting.
Photos of Site:
STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS
THESE FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL USE ONLY
• RAMP SIDE 'EAST' OF FLOATS TO BE CLEAN AT ALL TIMES.
• FRONT FLOATS 'SOUTH' FOR COURTESY TIE-UP ONLY WITH 2 HOUR LIMIT.
• FOR OVERNIGHT GUEST MOORING INQUIRE HARBOR MASTER.
• RIVER SIDE 'WEST' TENDER TIE-UP ONLY.
NO PARKING IN FRONT OF FACILITY

KEEP THE DAMARISCOTTA RIVER ESTUARY CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL

The Damariscotta River Estuary takes many weeks to flush water through its system. In this time, pollution from trash, sewage, and petroleum products can damage the fragile estuarine environment. These pollutants can also affect the estuary resources such as plants, wildlife, fish, and shellfish for many years to come.

BOATERS: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Stow all litter on board.
Pick up floating or washed-up trash.
 Maintain your boat.
Use boat pump-out stations
EVERY EFFORT HELPS

Please take information cards with you for boating safety.
Site: Portland-East End

Date Visited: July 31, 2003

Contact: Matt Sweatt, Park Ranger

Size: 45 rig spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a residential area with 43 homes within 1,000 feet of the ramp facility, the site is also adjacent to larger East End Beach park and trail system. The Eastern Promenade is 32 feet wide with a side walk separated by an esplanade.

Hours of Operation: 6:30am to 10:00pm

Staff: 2 Rangers on duty on weekends Memorial Day to Labor Day

Duties: Fee collection, litter pick-up, assistance with launching

Boater Use: 50 launches per day based on a recent Saturday in July 2003. Only at capacity on summer weekends.

Non-boater Use: Facility is located in a larger municipal park complex.

Fees: $5 residents / $10 non-residents, $125 for commercial launches, $20 for out of state visitors, also charge for kayak launches

Size of Rigs: Commercial ramp adjacent to site limits commercial pressure on recreational ramp

Lights: Street lights in parking lot and decorative lights along waterfront

Sanitary Facilities: Vault toilets designated for men and women

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out. Previously had trash receptacles that were constantly filling up. No increase in littering now that those have been removed.

Patrol: Seasonal park rangers and after hours by Portland PD.

Gate: Not gated. Parks Department was told that Portland PD would not patrol if they had to open and close gate.

Biggest Problem: Most complaints are the result of the designated commercial ramp and large trucks that service the island communities. Also issues with people leaving trailers on site for extended periods.
Photos of Site:
City of Portland, Maine
Parks & Recreation Department
Eastern Promenade, Beach & Launch Policies
774-1066

SEASON PASS
RESIDENT $50
NON RESIDENT $75
COMMERCIAL $125

DAILY FEES
RESIDENT $5
NON RESIDENT $10
NON MAINE RESIDENT $20

FOR YOUR SAFETY THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS ARE MONITORED BY THE PARK RANGERS

1. The public launching ramp is primarily intended to be used for the launching of recreational boats.
   a. Any boat (12 ft or greater) unloaded at the ramp will be charged a launch fee.
   b. All kayaks unloaded at the ramp will be charged a launch fee.
   c. There is no fee charged to customers using the ramp to launch a small boat (12 ft or less) in order to row out to a vessel tied to a mooring.
2. The public float/ramp is restricted to the boarding and landing of small crafts. Storage of gear is prohibited. The time limit for dock tie up is fifteen minutes for loading and unloading.
3. No swimming, fishing or anchoring from the float or ramp area.
4. Pets in the park, including the dock must be leashed (8 ft or less) at all times, in compliance with the City Leash Law.
5. No vehicle, trailers, campers or the like shall be parked or left in the area adjoining the ramp except as allowed by posted signs. Vehicles parking in undesignated areas will be ticketed and/or towed.
6. Camping, parking or otherwise staying overnight in the park is prohibited. No fires permitted.
7. Drinking of any alcoholic beverage and/or disorderly conduct is prohibited in the park/beach area.
8. Removing, damaging, vandalizing, or tampering with the physical, natural or historic resources within the park is prohibited.
9. Park/beach closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
10. Bicycles, skateboards, roller blades are prohibited on the dock.
11. Children under 10 years of age must wear a personal floatation device and must be accompanied by an adult when in a boat.
12. When approaching or leaving the area, the speed of all boats shall be reduced to headway speed, so as to provide full visibility and control, prevent their wash from being thrown onto the other boats and prevent excessive rocking to other boats.
13. One time commercial boat transporters will be charged $125 for the use of the commercial launch.
14. Commercial vehicles must park in the upper lot when waiting for barge transport to the islands.
15. Private contractors are not to store materials in the park.
16. Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
17. Children must be supervised by an adult while using floatation devices.
18. Jet skis are prohibited on the beach.
19. Dogs are prohibited on beach from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
20. Glass containers are prohibited on the beach.

PLEASE CARRY OUT ALL TRASH
Site: Raymond

Date Visited: July 31, 2003

Contact: Don Willard, Town Manager

Size: 46 rig spaces, 20 single car spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility includes a public beach, and is located in a mixed commercial and residential stretch of Route 302 with 7 homes within 1,000 feet of the launch. Route 302 (Roosevelt Trail) is 46 feet wide with striped and paved bike lanes.

Hours of Operation: 24 hour access for the launching and retrieving of boats, open $\frac{1}{2}$ before sunrise to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset for other uses. Posted beach hours 9:00am to 6:00pm

Staff: No dedicated staff, park ranger visits regularly

Boater Use: Facility at capacity during summer weekends with overflow parking sometimes reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along Route 302 despite being posted no parking.

Non-boater Use: Facility is located adjacent to public beach.

Fees: No fees

Size of Rigs: The type of boats trailered to lakes differs from those typical of Casco Bay. Most boaters on Sebago Lake either launch open aluminum hull boats for fishing, or larger inboard/outboard bowrider or cuddy cabin design boats used for tubing and water skiing. Many of these exceed 24 feet in length.

Lights: Street lights in parking lot. It was reported that the lights discourage misuse after hours

Sanitary Facilities: 2 porta-potties

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out.

Patrol: Regular site visit by a seasonal ranger. No local police department.

Gate: Not gated.

Biggest Problem: The only issue identified was congestion at ramp at the end of peak summer weekend days. No safety issues noted despite presence of public swimming area adjacent to launch.

Notes: Mr. Willard stated that since the facility was improved by IF&W there have been very few problems and complaints. Previously the area was an unimproved gravel lot that attracted after hours loitering. The annual operating budget for this facility (Launch
and public beach) is $6,226.00. This includes a portion of the seasonal ranger’s wages, ground maintenance and fence repair, porta-potty service, and dock installation and removal.

Photos of Site:
Public Access Site

Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.

Since 1937, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has administered the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs in Maine. Revenues collected from anglers, boaters, and sportsmen have provided this site for your use and enjoyment. Please carry-out what you carry-in. We ask that you adhere to a good-neighbor policy with the natural environment and all its inhabitants, and with other users, to help conserve and enhance the land, water, wildlife, and fishery resources of Maine and provide a quality recreational experience for everyone.
CATCH AND RELEASE

Try to catch your kill.

We don't have to know what we catch, but you should know what you kill.

We don't have to take home every fish we are allowed to keep. We can set our own personal limits.

How can we increase the quality of Maine's fisheries?

Release fish back into the lake.

A GOOD RELEASE

1. Shorten the playing time on an exhausted fish is vulnerable to disease and predators.

2. Handle the fish as little and as gently as possible.

3. A lightly hooked fish can be removed without even touching it! Run your hand down the line to the hook. Grasp the hook firmly and shake gently over or in the water; the fish is effectively released.

4. When handling a securely hooked fish be sure to hold it over the water. Hold a firmly hooked salmon or trout just forward of the tail. Bass are easily held by the lower jaw. A wet wool glove is very helpful in handling live fish.

5. An easily visible hook can be removed with needle nose pliers or a hook disgorger. An embedded hook, or a hook near eyes, gill arches or esophagus should not be removed! Cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release.

6. A fish that has been handled a lot should be placed in the water and held gently until it is strong enough to swim away.

WATER QUALITY

A watershed consists of all the land that contributes water to a body of water. To outline watershed boundaries, connect the points of highest elevation around a lake on a topographic map. The lake's watershed is outlined on the topo map at elevations falling within this boundary. Remove water from the lake using gravity, diversion, and pumping to the lake. Watersheds can exist for miles — but lake protection must extend to the entire watershed.

Phosphorus is the major threat to water quality in Maine's lakes! Adding small amounts to a lake fertilizes existing algae, causing them to multiply and turn the water cloudy and green. The algae then die and decompose, creating a deficiency in oxygen levels.

In a clear, cold lake, a decrease in dissolved oxygen may cause deep water habitat for trout and salmon, causing unpleasant odors and tastes to arise and the lake to lose its appeal for swimmers and boaters. And if it is a drinking water supply, greatly increases the cost of water treatment. Ultimately, property values will decline.

You can help keep phosphorus out of your lake by:

- leaving leaf litter on the ground to act as a natural filter
- snorkeling here so... with key or weed clips to prevent algal blooms
- maintaining or adding a "natural" vegetation as a "buffer" between the shore and developed areas
- reducing the size of lawns, and other developed areas
- eliminating the use of fertilizers on your lawn, and in your gardens
- keeping your septic system pumped out and functioning properly
- reading labels and using non-phosphorus detergents
TOWN OF RAYMOND
RAYMOND BEACH
& BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITY RULES
BEACH HOURS: 9:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

1. NO PERSON SHALL TIE UP OR LEAVE ANY BOAT IN THE AREA AROUND ANY LAUNCHING RAMP, FLOATS, OR DOCKS, EXCEPT WHEN LOADING OR UNLOADING CARGO AND/OR PASSENGERS, OR WHERE OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY POSTED OFFICIAL NOTICE.

2. NO STOPPING OR UNLOADING ON ENTRANCE ROADS.

3. PARKING, CAMPING OR OTHER OVERNIGHT STAYS AT THE BEACH OR LAUNCHING FACILITY ARE NOT ALLOWED.

4. PARKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY.

5. MISALIGNED VEHICLES WILL BE Towed AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.

6. WHEELED VEHICLES, INCLUDING TRAILERS, SHALL BE PARKED ONLY IN DESIGNATED PLACES.

7. NO FIRES ARE PERMITTED.

8. THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IS PROHIBITED, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INDECENT ACTS, INTOXICATION OR COARSE LANGUAGE IS PROHIBITED.

9. REMOVING, INJURING OR DAMAGING ANY PARTS OF THE FACILITY INCLUDING PLANTS, LAND, STRUCTURES, OR NATURAL CONDITIONS AT THE FACILITY IS PROHIBITED.

10. DISCHARGING WASTES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SOAPS, DETERGENTS, AND REFUSE IS PROHIBITED. WASHING VEHICLES, BOATS, PETS AND LAUNDRY IS PROHIBITED.

11. STORAGE OF BOATS, TRAILERS, VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, ICE SNACKS, AND OTHER PROPERTY AT THIS FACILITY IS PROHIBITED.

12. SWIMMING FROM DOCKS, FLOATS, BOAT LAUNCHING RAMPS AND AREAS POSTED "NO SWIMMING" IS PROHIBITED.

13. THERE IS NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AT ANY TIME.

14. OTHER USES OF THE LAUNCHING FACILITY, BEACH AND PARKING AREAS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO COMMERCIAL USE, NON-BOATING RELATED USE, AND FISHING TOURNAMENT USE OF THE FACILITIES ARE ALLOWED ONLY BY OBTAINING SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN OF RAYMOND.

15. THE USE OF THE BEACH, BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES AND PARKING AREAS BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVING OF BOATS IS PROHIBITED.

16. NO PETS ON THE BEACH.

17. NO SMOKING ON THE BEACH.

18. PET OWNERS MUST CLEAN UP ANY FECAL DEPOSITS LEFT BY THEIR PETS IN THE BOAT LAUNCHING AREAS AND PARKING LOT.

19. POSTING ADVERTISEMENTS OR OTHER NOTICES NOT APPROVED BY THE TOWN OF RAYMOND IS PROHIBITED.
Site: Standish

Date Visited: July 31, 2003

Contact: Bob McKenna, Harbormaster

Size: Capacity for 120 rigs if parked appropriately

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a mixed rural commercial and residential area with 23 homes within 1,000 feet of the site. The facility is located on Chadbourne Road which is 24 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: No posted hours

Staff: 3 Rangers on duty on weekends Memorial Day to Labor Day. 1 collects fees, one directs parking, 1 at launch

Duties: Fee collection, litter pick-up, assistance with launching

Boater Use: Peak per day launch was reported to be 120 boats. 1500 boats launched per year from this facility.

Non-boater Use: Some pedestrian visitors, but no bodily contact with water is allowed given the Portland Water District intake regulations. Site is used by motorists wanting a view of the water or a lunch spot.

Fees: $5 residents / $10 non-residents, $20 for resident season pass, $40 for non-resident season pass

Size of Rigs: Up to 30 foot boats launched, but turning radius is very difficult.

Lights: Street light at one end of parking lot

Sanitary Facilities: two porta-potties cleaned weekly

Trash: Two trash receptacles on site

Patrol: 3 seasonal rangers. Cumberland County Sheriff deputy call if needed

Gate: Not gated. Overnight parking allowed.

Biggest Problem: Bob identified that circulation in parking lot and to and from ramp was the biggest issue. He would like to see a loop configuration at the ramp. Bob noted that there is sometimes a 45-minute wait to get to the ramp. Despite this he remarked that with staff on site it was typically a “smooth operation”. The annual budget was reported to be $15,000. The only incidents Bob could think of were an injury from a broken winch last year, and a woman falling off a boat in the parking lot the previous year. Also an out board was stolen out of the back of an unattended vehicle.
Photos of Site:
WELCOME TO SEBAGO LAKE

THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE GREATER PORTLAND AREA

THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA

NO body contact with water

NO personal watercraft (such as a sunfish, sailfish sailboard, kayak or jet ski) with less than 7" of freeboard unmanned

NO domestic animals allowed in the water

NO fires, NO camping

DO NOT feed the wildlife including ducks and gulls

NO littering

CALL (207) 774-5961 EXT. 3320 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT VIOLATORS
What you leave on the ice this winter ... will be IN the lake come spring.

Please help protect Sebago Lake

THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE GREATER PORTLAND AREA

PREVENT ECOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION

• It is illegal to dump live baitfish into the lake. Baitfish can compete with native species such as trout and salmon.

PREVENT BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION

• Use available public toilets.
• Leave pets at home or dispose of their waste properly.

PREVENT CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

• Fill Fuel tanks (of snowmobiles, ice augers, etc.) before going on the ice.
• Adding substances containing antifreeze to the waters (or ice) of Maine is illegal.

PREVENT WASTE CONTAMINATION

• Remove trash and debris from the ice on a daily basis.
• It is unlawful to dispose of debris, including abandoned ice fishing shacks, anywhere in the State except designated areas or receptacles.

PREVENT ACCIDENTS

• Monitor the thickness of the ice each time you fish.
• Remove your ice shack before conditions become dangerous.

RESPECT RESTRICTED USE AREAS

• NO TRESPASSING within 300 feet of Portland Water District’s intakes.
• Motorized vehicle access is limited to snowmobiles and ATVs within 2 MILES of the FWD intakes.
Site: Yarmouth-Royal River

Date Interviewed: July 16, 2003

Contact: Guy Watson, Marine Warden / Charlie Perkins, Harbormaster

Size: 35 recreational rig spaces, 12 commercial spaces, overflow on Old Shipyard Road as needed a few times each summer.

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a residential area with 27 homes within 1,000 feet of the launch. The facility is located off of Bayview Street which is 22 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Staff: Harbor master usually on duty on weekends Memorial Day to Labor Day

Duties: Fee collection, assistance with launching

Boater Use: Site reported to reach capacity only a few times per summer. Used regularly by kayakers. Municipal mooring field of approximately 50 moorings in front of facility.

Non-boater Use: Motorists who want to see the water; use of picnic tables especially at lunch hour. Kiosk to be installed next year.

Fees: $5 residents / non-residents, $25 for commercial launches, $50 for seasonal pass; kayakers are charged $5.00 those who want to avoid fee use Sandy Point at Cousin’s Island.

Size of Rigs: Commercial launches allowed, separate commercial landing and float for commercial fishermen

Lights: street light in parking lot, four security lights elsewhere.

Sanitary Facilities: 1 porta-potty emptied once per week

Trash: Four 55-gallon drums with lids emptied twice per week.

Patrol: Occasional after hours by Yarmouth PD.

Gate: Not gated.

Biggest Problem: No issues identified other than occasional boater inexperience on a relatively steep (>15% slope) ramp that is slippery due to River deposited silt. No complaints from neighbors. Occasionally folks park at angles and take up too much space.
Photos of Site:
HAULING & LAUNCHING FEES

RESIDENTS 5.00 PER DAY
NON-RESIDENTS 5.00 PER DAY
ALL COMMERCIAL 25.00 PER DAY

Town of Yarmouth
ORDINANCES

No overnight parking without permission from the Harbor Master.

Maximum Tie Up Time 30 minutes.
No Wake through the mooring areas or Boat Yards.

Please remember to be courteous to fellow boaters and enjoy a Safe Day in Casco Bay

THE HARBOR MASTER
Site: Belfast

Date Interviewed: July 22, 2003

Contact: Katherine Messier, Harbor Master

Size: 16 rig spaces

Surrounding Land use: Commercial

Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Staff: Dock attendant on duty seven days per week 7 am to 7 pm Memorial Day to Labor Day located in Harbormaster office on site.

Duties: Staff works marina, ramp, and associated facilities.

Boater Use: 20-30 launches per day on busy summer weekends. This site is primarily used to service a municipal mooring field and marina facility servicing more than 300 boats.

Non-boater Use: City park adjacent to site.

Fees: $3.00 for non-residents, $20.00 for the season (non-residents), and $5.00 for commercial haulers.

Size of Rigs: Commercial launches allowed

Lights: single flood light at the top of the ramp which was installed after an intoxicated driver confused the ramp with a road and drowned.

Sanitary Facilities: Toilets and showers.

Trash: Receptacles at landing and adjacent park.

Patrol: Occasional after hours by Belfast PD.

Gate: Not gated.

Biggest Problem: No issues identified other than boater inexperience. Disorderly behavior was reported to be rare occurring at most 6 times per year. No serious incidents reported. Some trash receptacles removed due to issues with household trash being dumped and gulls picking through contents. No problems with kayakers using the ramp unless kayaks are left unattended and block launching. The harbormaster does get complaints regarding kayakers not obeying navigational rules especially in municipal mooring field and dock space.
Budget (Entire Harbor Program):

$ 60,000.00 wages: harbor master, assist. and 4 attendants
  2,200.00 facility and float maintenance
  1,200.00 boat operation & maint.
  3,600.00 harbor utilities
  1,000.00 mooring repair
  4,700.00 supplies & misc. expenses
  10,000.00 float replacement program/projects

=========

$ 82,700.00
CITY OF BELFAST, MAINE

131 Church Street
Belfast, Maine 04915

Office of the Mayor
Michael D. Hurley
(207) 338-1975 Office
(207) 338-3214 Home
E-mail: mayor@cityofbelfast.com

Belfast City Hall
Tel. (207) 338-3370 Phone
Fax (207) 338-6222 Fax
www.cityofbelfast.org

City Manager Donald Gerrish
Brunswick Town Council
28 Federal Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Greetings;

I was requested to write a letter to the Brunswick Town Council regarding the importance of our public boat launching facility here in Belfast.

Where could I begin? The benefits are completely positive, dramatic, and diverse. Commercial fishing, public fishing, public safety, recreational boating to include sailing, canoeing, and kayaking serve every age and economic group in our city. Even people who don’t need the ramp love to hang around and enjoy the activities of boats and people coming and going. We view providing the high quality boat launching facility and maintaining our waterfront public access as part and parcel of living up to our civic responsibilities to provide for our citizens and the area public as well. We also have fared very well economically by supporting our waterfront and the boat launch facilities: boating, fishing and recreation are key components of our economic rebirth.

20 years ago we had less than a dozen boats in our harbor. We began to focus then on our harbor, improving our facilities, encouraging use, bringing on staff, having an active harbor committee and we wisely have invested hundreds of thousands of tax dollars in our harbor facilities. Today we have over 300 boats and we are happy as clams.

Speaking for the City of Belfast current and past City Councils I feel safe in saying we would urge every community to have quality boat launching facilities and to have as many and as much services as needed.

Yours truly,

Michael D. Hurley
Mayor, City of Belfast
Belfast Harbor Department

"Once you've been here, you'll be back"

Typically Belfast Harbor is not on the usual cruising route from Camden to the Bar Harbor area. But the cruisers that have detoured from their route and found us, almost always do it again.

The City of Belfast is a secret paradise for boaters. Not only does the City offer a very friendly Maine community atmosphere, but it is heaven. Everything you need, or need to do, (see list of services) read right down to the Customs Office, is within walking distance.

And the best part - no crowds. Our recently renovated dock facility is very accommodating with fuel and pump-out services, and there will always be someone to give you directions or help with your lines. Not only are we friendly, it's also a beautiful City to visit!

- Docktails: overnight slips and moorings
  reservation not necessary but helpful to call ahead
- Fuel - 89 octane gasoline, diesel
- Ice - block & cubes
- Pump-out for holding tanks
- Head/shower facilities
- Pay phone
- Office services: data port, message, mail & package hold, FedEx/UPS delivery, boat rental service/information/book swap
- Donut tie-up
- Launch ramp
- A/C, VISA, AMEX accepted
- Docking assistance, dock carts, trash pick-up
- Contact year-round

**Summer hours:** 7:30AM to 7:00PM, 7 days/week
**Off Season:** 7:30AM to 3:30PM, Monday - Friday

Services listed below are within 1 mile of the Belfast City Landing unless otherwise noted. Most are within 1 mile making our facility very unique for transient boaters (please see link to City of Belfast)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Belfast</td>
<td>Belfast Harbor Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Harbor</td>
<td>Belfast Harbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs Office</td>
<td>Customs Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>Laundry &amp; Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina</td>
<td>Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Information Center</td>
<td>Tourist Information Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Shop</td>
<td>Photo Shop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.cityofbelfast.org/harborservices.htm

8/7/2003
Belfast Harbor Department

The most commonly asked questions:

- What does a Harbor Master do?

A Harbor Master is appointed by State law to oversee permitting of moorings and other structures in Maine State waters. A Harbor Master who oversees the general operation of the facilities of the municipality in which they work. Often the entity is related to federal and state laws as well as the local municipal laws. The job usually also includes water search and rescue.

- Are you still setting moorings? How can I get a mooring? What do they cost?

The City of Belfast is still setting new moorings. A permit to set a mooring is required and is obtained through the Harbor Master's Office. The permit currently costs $50.00 and is renewed annually. The mooring belongs to the individual setting it. The city has two places on the waiting list where the moorings will be located as long as they are needed. The permits are required to be inspected every two years.

- Do you have seasonal rentals (slips or moorings) where I can rent for the season?

The City has both transient (overnight) moorings and slip for sale at the City Landing. If coming in on a vessel 15 feet or less, you may also set the slip yourself. The City Master has a list of transient moorings for sale. Contact Belfast Harbor for this information. 207-338-5098

- How many boats (moorings) are there?

As of the end of the season of 2001, there were 201 mooring permits issued.

- How is a mooring put together?

Our office has diagrams and information on the mooring planning requirements in the Harbor Ordinance. You may also download the mooring inspection form.

- What are the depths in the channelside?

The harbor has a 12 foot depth at MLW. The City Landing is located at the edge of the channel and maintains this same depth.

- What is the largest vessel we can accommodate?

We have two slip docks, one has 110 and the other 107 of unprompted space. Recently we were visited by a 108' ferry.

- Where can I tie up my dinghy?

The City Landing has two designated areas for transient boaters. One area is at the landing itself and one is off to the harbormark next to the landing.

- What harbor-ties are there? What is that land out there?

The Passamaquoddy Bay is the town of Belfast Harbor, which lies in upper west Penobscot Bay. Our closest island neighbor which lies just outside the harbor is Northwest.

- Where can we anchor?

Belfast does not yet have a designated anchorage area, but are in the works. Currently boaters can anchor outside the shipping channel. Anchoring ground is a mixture of rock and gravel, but we do have areas of gravel to check your chart or call the office if you have any doubts.

- How high are the tides?

Belfast Harbor has an average 10' tide height.

- What’s the fishing?

Most of the fishing here in the harbor is for Atlantic cod and striped bass. Occasionally bluefish, haddock, flounder, and pollock are caught. But, overall, it’s not very good. The harbor is required for cultivation.
City of Belfast, Maine

CITY OF BELFAST, MAINE
2003 SCHEDULE OF HARBOR USAGE FEES

1) ANNUAL MOORING/MOORED FLOAT PERMIT: All mooring/moored float fees: $50.00 with the exception of approved riparian owners not within the Federal Navigation Project.
   - Late Fee: Late mooring/moored float permit fee (May 1 to May 30): $10.00
   - Waiting List: A fee of $5.00 per year will be charged for the privilege of being on the waiting list to change mooring location as described in Section VIII - Moorings, 8.5. This fee must be paid by the due date established for the Mooring Permit Fee.

2) MOORING RENTALS: Overnight tie-up to City owned moorings: $20.00/24 hours (12:00pm to 12:00pm), maximum stay of 7 nights only with consent of Harbor Master. Fee includes showers.

3) DOCKAGE
   - Overnight tie-up to City Floats and Wharf: $1.25/foot, $2.00/boat foot 60' and over excluding Commercial Vessels with a City of Belfast dockage contract, - $25.00 minimum, 24 hours (12:00pm to 12:00pm), maximum stay of 7 nights per season. Additional nights only with consent of Harbor Master. Fee includes showers.
   - Daytime tie-up to City Floats and Wharf: After 1 hour $2.00/boat foot/hour, showers not included. After 8 hours, overnight tie-up fee is in effect.
   - Group Rate: Overnight dockage 20 boats and over: $1.25/boat foot - $25.00 minimum, 24 hours (12:00pm to 12:00pm) Fee includes showers and shore power.
   - Commercial Use: Fee to be set by City Council.
4) SHORE POWER:

- Overnight: $2.00 for 15 amps / $5.00 for 30 amps / $10.00 for 50 amps

- Daytime: Fee to be determined by Harbor Master at that time. Minimum $2.00 for 15 amp

5) LAUNCHING FEES:

- Commercial: Launching ramp fees for commercial users: $5.00 in and/or out. Commercial User annual permits: $250.00 up to 100 launches and/or retrieves, $600.00 unlimited launches and/or retrieves. Fees may be waived by the Harbor Master in an emergency. Commercial user examples are, but not limited to: boat builder, boatyard and paid hauler.

- Private: Any person who does not pay boat excise tax to the City of Belfast will pay $3.00 launching fee per launch which covers in and out or $20.00 for a season pass. Any person who does pay boat excise tax to the City of Belfast will not be charged for launching. A sticker will be issued and must be displayed on the starboard bow of the vessel.

6) TENDER FEES:

- Tie-up: Any mooring user who does pay boat excise tax to the City of Belfast will not be charged for keeping a tender on City of Belfast property. Any person who does not pay boat excise tax to the City of Belfast shall pay per season, a fee of $60.00 to keep one tender up land or $100.00 on the docks on City of Belfast property with a maximum length of 12’ - under the discretion of the Harbor Master. All tenders will be issued a sticker which is to be placed on the inside of the transom.

- Removal: After the posted time of the docks being hauled, any tender left on City of Belfast property without permission of the Harbor Master will be removed by the City at a cost of $50.00 to the owner.

- Pump-Out Service: For the Service of keeping a tender bailed which is tied to the City’s dingy docks: $50.00/season. The City is responsible for bailing the dinghy of fresh water only, not for leakage. Nor is the City responsible for maintenance, damage or security of the tender.

7) Pump-Out System: To pump holding tanks only. A fee of
City of Belfast, Maine

$5.00 per use will be charged for recreational vessels. A "reasonable" fee will be charged for commercial vessels (as per the Dept. of Maine State Planning).

8) **Public Showers**: A fee of $2.00 will be charged per person/per use of the public showers if the user is not paying fees to the City for dockage or mooring rent.

9) **Ordinance**: A copy of the Belfast Harbor Ordinance will be available for a fee determined by City Clerk's office.
Site: Brunswick-Water Street

Date Visited: August 6, 2003

Contact: Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation

Size: 13 rigs, 21 single car parking spaces and overflow area (Parking area serves both boaters and users of the Androscoggin River Bicycle Path.)

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a mixed commercial and residential area with 4 homes within 1,000 feet of the ramp. Water Street is 22 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. A 24-hour ramp is located approximately 1,000 feet further up on Water Street. The facility is closed during times when ice is in the river and during early spring runoff when the river is running well above normal conditions.

Staff: No dedicated staff

Duties: No dedicated staff, but regularly visited by park rangers to insure appropriate use of the facility by patrons. Also visited regularly by park maintenance staff that performs mowing duties, site and restroom cleaning and daily opening and closing of the entrance gate.

Boater Use: During summer weekends facility typically has between 5 and 8 rigs on site during daytime hours. Rig parking lot seldom reaches capacity and when this occurs it is usually associated with fishing tournament or a fish run in the river. Weekday use will see 3 to 5 rigs present during daytime. Facility is used primarily by recreational boaters, canoeists, kayakers, and rowers.

Non-boater Use:

- Public uses the site for picnicking.
- Bank fisherman utilize the site during fish runs
- Site is used for single car parking by people using the Androscoggin River Bicycle Path

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: Most boats are outboards 20-feet or less.

Lights: The facility has two streetlights, one at the gate entrance to the facility and one at the top of the incline above the landing adjacent to a Brunswick/Topsham Water District building.

Sanitary Facilities: One portable toilet pumped weekly by septic service company.
Trash: This facility has one trash receptacle located in the parking lot. Parks maintenance staff empty the contents once weekly.

Patrol: Municipal park ranger visits the site daily and Brunswick PD patrols the site regularly as part of their rounds.

Gate: The facility is opened and closed daily by maintenance personnel ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hr after sunset

Biggest Problem: No significant problems associated with boating use. During mild weather, users of the bike path tend to be out on the path at the time maintenance personnel show up to close the facility. Vehicles are still parked inside the gated area resulting in delays in closing the facility.

Town Assessor Comments: Surrounding land values have increased.

Budget:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Ranger</td>
<td>1,283.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance workers</td>
<td>680.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gate Closing</td>
<td>1,912.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavement Striping</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable toilet pump out</td>
<td>660.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reclaim for use in filling low spots in gravel parking area, gate and fence repair, paint for single rail rustic fence 300.00

Total Budget  $4,936.80
Photos of Site:
PARK OPERATING POLICY

THE WATER STREET BOAT LANDING IS OPENED ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE AND CLOSED ½ HOUR AFTER SUNSET DAILY EMERGENCY ACCESS TO THE BOAT RAMP CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE MARINE RESOURCE WARDEN AT 725-5521
**Site:** Brunswick-Sawyer Park  

**Date Visited:** August 6, 2003  

**Contact:** Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation  

**Size:** 39 rigs, 7 single car parking spaces  

**Surrounding roads and land use:** This facility is located in a mixed commercial and residential area with an adjacent marina and waterfront homes. Ten homes are located within 1,000 feet of the ramp. Bath Road is 24 feet wide within a right of way that is approximately 60 feet wide.  

**Hours of Operation:** 24hr during open season. The facility is closed annually from December 1st through March 31st.  

**Staff:** No dedicated staff  

**Duties:** No dedicated staff, but regularly visited by park rangers to insure appropriate use of the facility by patrons. Also visited regularly by park maintenance staff that performs mowing duties, trash removal, site and restroom cleaning.  

**Boater Use:** During summer weekends facility typically has between 15 and 20 rigs on site during daytime hours. Parking lot seldom reaches capacity and when this occurs it is usually associated with a fishing tournament. Weekday use will see 5 to 10 rigs present during daytime. Facility is used primarily by recreational boaters and shellfish harvesters. Some launching of larger boats is performed by commercial haulers, usually done in spring and fall each year.  

**Non-boater Use:**  

- Public uses the site for picnicking, walking, and bird watching.  
- Bank fisherman utilize the site during fish runs  
- Site is also used by local workers on lunch breaks.  

**Fees:** No fee  

**Size of Rigs:** Boats as long as forty feet have been launched at the facility. Most boats are outboards 20-feet or less.  

**Lights:** The facility has no lights.  

**Sanitary Facilities:** One vault toilet typically pumped once per year  

**Trash:** Trash receptacles are on site and Pine Tree Waste, a private entity under contract to the Town’s Department of Public Works, removes trash every Tuesday during the
open season. At such times that conditions warrant, park maintenance workers will remove trash between weekly pickups by the commercial hauler.

**Patrol:** Municipal park ranger visits the site daily and Brunswick PD patrols the site regularly as part of their rounds.

**Gate:** The facility is not gated during the open season from April 1st through November 30th. Gate is closed from December 1st through March 31st annually.

**Biggest Problem:** Theft of boat trailers has been reported at the site in the past and minor vandalism to signs has occurred.

**Town Assessor Comments:** Surrounding land values have increased.

**Budget:**

- Pine Tree Waste trash removal 500.00
- Park Ranger 1,283.80
- Seasonal Maintenance Worker 680.40
- Pavement Striping 200.00
- Vault toilet pump out 200.00
- Toilet Tissue 50.00
- Miscellaneous, dock repair 200.00
- Dust control for gravel roadway 200.00

Total Budget $3,314.20

**Photos of Site:**
Site: Bull Rock, West Bath

Date Visited: October 21, 2005

Contact: Joe Valencourt (Harbormaster)

Size: Approximately 10 rigs, but no marked parking spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located within a residential neighborhood with 19 homes within 1,000 feet of the facility. Bull Rock Road is less than 20 feet wide. Foster’s Point Road is 22 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 24hr

Staff: none

Boater Use: Primarily West Bath residents although not limited. Sawyer Park on opposite shore of the New Meadows offers more maneuverability and parking as well as an easier ramp to negotiate.

Non-boater Use: Frequently used by shoreline anglers and pedestrians from Bullrock neighborhood.

Fees: No fee

Size of Rigs: No posted limits. Larger boats likely to use Sawyer Park.

Lights: No lights.

Sanitary Facilities: none

Trash: The facility is carry-in carry-out. No receptacles on site.

Gate: The facility is not gated.

Biggest Problem Noted: Uncontrolled storm water runoff to New Meadows. Ditches recently reshaped, and parking area recently paved, but no detention/retention capacity for runoff.
Photos of Site:
Site: Winslow Park, Freeport

Date Visited: October 21, 2005

Contact: Bob Carhart (Park Manager)

Size: Up to 10 rig spaces. Single car parking throughout park.

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a rural residential neighborhood with 22 homes located within 1,000 feet of the ramp. Staples Point Road is 24 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to ½ hour after sunset for day use of park. Ramp available 24 hours.

Staff: Gate house attendant from 8am to 9pm during the season. Four maintenance workers during the season. Only park manager on site in off-season.

Boater Use: Bob stated that the trailer spaces are never full, and that kayakers and power boaters regularly share the ramp without conflict. Many commercial launches in early part of the season.

Non-boater Use: This facility includes a small beach, playground, trails, restrooms, showers, and overnight camping facilities.

Fees: $2.00 for Freeport Residents, $5.00 for Non-residents. $5.00 for commercial launch (Resident), and $15.00 for a Non-resident Commercial launch.

Size of Rigs: No posted limits. Larger boats likely discouraged by shallow depths and tidal nature of frontage.

Lights: Street light in parking area and along park road.

Sanitary Facilities: Restrooms and showers on septic

Trash: Several receptacles located in park including one by ramp.

Gate: 24 hour access to ramp.

Biggest Problem Noted: Erosion on sides of the ramp requiring new rip-rap material.

Notes: The Winslow Park Commission is planning to add additional floats to the ramp.
Photos of Site:
Site: Lookout Point, Harpswell

Date Visited: October 21, 2005

Contact: John Cross, Marine Warden

Size: 8 rigs with parking in intertidal and off road turn out

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located in a rural residential neighborhood and adjacent to a commercial pier. Eleven homes exist within 1,000 feet of the site and Lookout Point Road is less than 20 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Staff: None

Boater Use: A mix of commercial fisherman and recreational boaters

Non-boater Use: No non-boater amenities. Often used by sight seers and folks on lunch break, also used by recreational swimmers.

Fees: None.

Size of Rigs: No posted limits. Larger boats likely discouraged by shallow depths.

Lights: Street light above road near parking area.

Sanitary Facilities: None.

Trash: Carry-in, carry-out.

Gate: None

Biggest Problem Noted: When the small parking area is full, boaters park rigs on an intertidal beach due to the lack of space. The launch area is shallow with submerged ledge that can pose a hazard at lower stages of tidal cycle.
Photos of Site:
Overflow parking
Site: Town Landing, Falmouth

Date Visited: October 24, 2005

Contact: John Dalton, Harbormaster

Size: At ramp: 16 single car spaces, 2 handicap spaces, 3 employee spaces
      Satellite ramp: 21 single car spaces, 6 rig spaces

Surrounding roads and land use: This facility is located within a residential neighborhood. Approximately 60 homes are located within 1,000 feet of the facility. Town Landing Road is 22 feet wide.

Hours of Operation: Ramp open 24 hours. Parking prohibited after 10 p.m.

Staff: Harbormaster office on-site. Dock hands on-site during season.

Boater Use: The Town landing services a 1,300 boat municipal mooring field, deep water pier and all-tides ramp.

Non-boater Use: This facility includes a small public beach and protected cove for swimming.

Fees: Mooring permit:
      Falmouth resident: $50.00 per year
      Non-resident: $175.00 per year
      Late fee effective on 6/1: $50.00

      Launch Permit:
      Seasonal: $50.00 Includes kayak, jet ski, etc.
      Daily: $10.00

      Commercial Permit:
      Annual: $100.00

Size of Rigs: No posted limits. Several commercial haulers use this facility.

Lights: Street light in parking area, Harbormaster office, and length of pier.

Sanitary Facilities: Portable toilets on site

Trash: Dumpster and bags for pet waste on-site.

Gate: None

Biggest Problem Noted: Not enough parking to support all uses present.
Photos of Site: