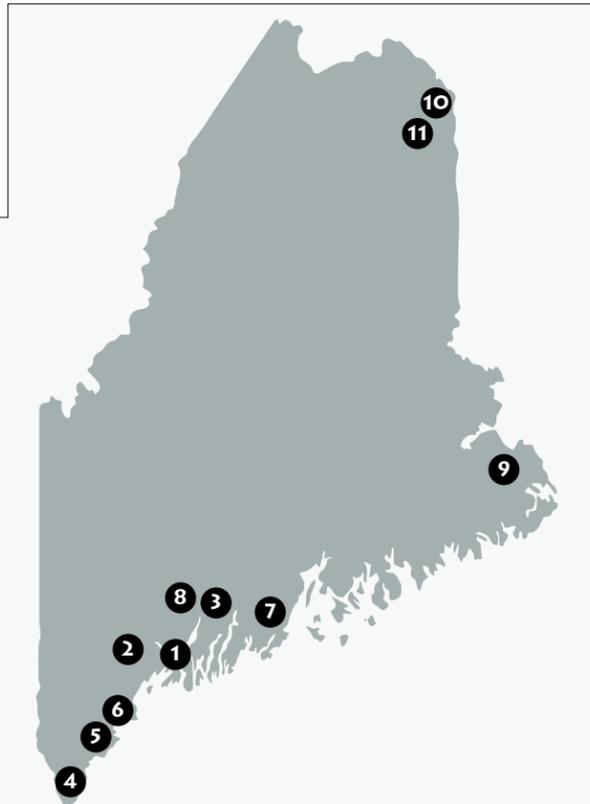


NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program Maine Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of Maine, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.



- 1... **Brunswick Naval Air Station** Brunswick
- 2... **McKin Co.** Town of Gray
- 3... **O'Connor Co.** Augusta
- 4... **U.S. Navy Portsmouth Naval Shipyard** Kittery*
- 5... **Saco Municipal Landfill** Saco*
- 6... **Saco Tannery Waste Pits** Saco
- 7... **Union Chemical Co., Inc.** South Hope
- 8... **Winthrop Landfill** Winthrop
- 9... **Eastern Surplus Co.** Meddybemps
- 10... **Loring Air Force Base** Northeastern Maine*
- 11... **Pinette's Salvage Yard** Washburn

NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with an asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN MAINE...

NOAA trust species in Maine include anadromous and catadromous species such as Atlantic salmon, alewife, American shad, blueback herring, Atlantic herring, sea-run brook trout, rainbow smelt, striped bass, American eel, sea lamprey, Atlantic sturgeon, and the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon. Some estuarine and marine fish found in Maine are: menhaden, banded killifish, mummichug, 3-spine stickleback, haddock, Atlantic tomcod, bluefish, 9-spine stickle-

back, and winter flounder. Invertebrates include American lobster, soft shell clam, hard shell clam, razor clam, deep sea scallop, shrimp, blue mussel, and several species of crab. Commercial and recreational fisheries are important throughout Maine. The fisheries are actively managed and the State of Maine is developing several restoration programs. Harbor seals inhabit Maine's waters during winter and federally endangered cetaceans (humpback, northern right, finback, and minke whales) often visit Maine's coasts.

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures, and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost-effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

MILITARY SITES IN MAINE...

Maine is dotted with 177 military installations and formerly used defense areas, comprising 233 DoD sites. The nature of defense-related activities involves chemicals that are highly toxic and persistent in the environment. In Maine, military contaminants of concern include DDT, PCBs, PAHs, VOCs, benzene, xylenes, waste fuels, oils, spent solvents, and heavy metals. The NOAA CRC program has conducted coastal hazardous waste site reviews for Brunswick Naval Air Station, Loring Air Force Base, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The program has played an important role in ecological risk assessments for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard site since 1989, providing EPA and the Navy with recommendations and guidance to develop a scientifically defensible Expedited Response Action (ERA). Such comments have been greatly appreciated by the EPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM), the Navy, and the Navy contractors. DoD has 73 installations contemplated for restoration in Maine. NOAA's input is needed now to ensure that cleanups are protective of coastal natural resources as well as human health. NOAA offers technical expertise and a neutral perspective that is valued by both the military and the local public.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN MAINE...

The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore natural resources throughout Maine. However, the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rivers, as well as Merrymeeting Bay where the two rivers meet, are of special concern to NOAA. This is one of the most productive estuaries in Maine, providing important habitat for NOAA trust resources. The shortnose sturgeon, a federally endangered species, uses the Androscoggin River for spawning, nursery, and adult habitat. A health advisory suggested limited consumption of all fish caught in the Androscoggin above Brunswick because of dioxin contamination. However, this advisory has had negligible effect on commercial fishing. Another site of concern is Little Madawaska River, the location of a small Atlantic salmon fishery. Elevated PCB concentrations in fish suggest that the Atlantic salmon population in the river is adversely affected and that restoration results could be limited.

FYI...

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