



Scuttlebutt

Useful Tips for Living
in our Working Waterfront Community





What is a Working Waterfront Community?

It's beautiful, bountiful, and life-sustaining.

Gouldsboro's connection to the Gulf of Maine shaped its history and will shape its future. As lobstermen and women head to the wharves, the sounds of predawn traffic signal that this is a working waterfront community. Soon after, the growling of diesel engines pierces the stillness, their boats heading out to sea.

Coastal wharves are piled high with gear and bait, unmistakable in their pungent aromas. Wharves are busy throughout the morning and afternoon hours, as fueling, loading gear and unloading the day's catch into transport trucks create an economic lifeline for resident fishermen and women.

At low tide, clammers, seaweed harvesters and wormers might be seen foraging for their daily catch. This, too, is part of the atmosphere and economy of a working waterfront.

The Gulf of Maine is changing. It is warming more than three times faster than the average for the world's oceans, and the sea level is rising. Fishermen and scientists are working together to respond and adapt to these changes. Gouldsboro's elected officials, town staff, and committees are part of that response.

Gouldsboro's economy and character depend on sustaining a working waterfront rooted in an attentive, respectful relationship with the sea.



Local artists, visitors and seasonal residents who call Gouldsboro home for a portion of every year provide another critical dimension of our working waterfront’s economy.

The “seasonal” population swells in the summer months to double the population, often stretching from spring into autumn. These seasonal residents, along with growing numbers of visiting tourists from everywhere, support the many businesses in the area, which include restaurants, grocers, art programs, and tradesmen of every kind. This demand, in turn, employs local residents who rely on doing business with visitors.

Village libraries provide central hubs of information and learning, high speed internet, classes and events. Local historical societies, fraternal organizations, churches, arts organizations and studios are gathering places for people throughout the villages.

Scuttlebutt:
Archaic nautical term for inside information.

Sailors would break into (*scuttle*) a cask of drinking water (*butt*) and gather there (*around their version of a water cooler*) to drink and gossip.



Some Fun Facts about Gouldsboro

- 1 The town of Gouldsboro comprises several villages.** Four of them have a dedicated post office and zip code. The town of Winter Harbor was originally part of Gouldsboro, but was incorporated as a separate town in 1895. *Learn more from the Historical Society on the References page.*
- 2 Gouldsboro has 55 miles of shoreline.** The town measures approximately 99 square miles: about 46 square miles of land and 55 square miles of water within the town boundaries.
- 3 The town was founded in 1764** as “Township 3” of Massachusetts, and incorporated in 1789 as Gouldsboro. Three people received land grants: Francis Shaw, Robert Gould, and Nathan Jones.
- 4 A recent census counted about 1,700 full-time residents** in the town, which is located on Schoodic Peninsula on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean.
- 5 Today, tourism supplements sea-based occupations** as income for the area.
- 6 Gouldsboro’s resident population increases seasonally,** doubling the population during the summer months. Cooperation among seasonal visitors and homeowners on coastal access issues is vital to those who make their living from the sea.
- 7 The town of Gouldsboro is adjacent to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park,** which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and provides people living in Gouldsboro with outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

Local Governance



Governance is very much a local matter in Gouldsboro villages. Maine has been a strong “home rule” state since November 1969, when an amendment to the state constitution delegated broad home rule ordinance powers to cities and towns.

Residents connect and participate in numerous town committees and meetings to craft common sense ordinances and procedures to address challenges, and put the town on a path toward a sustainable, vibrant future.

Typical issues of concern to the general population include:

- food security and housing
- noise and light pollution
- harbor management
- coastal protections
- schools
- climate change
- property taxes
- shore access
- waste management

Local high schools offer classes on Citizen Science, organizing outings and encouraging youth participation in field classes that have to do with environment, climate, and sustainability issues.

There are always volunteer opportunities available in the town, focusing on issues that include community health, food security, climate science and designated town committees.

The Town Office is a busy hub that organizes and maintains fire, police, and EMS services, and manages all the licenses and permits for fishing, hunting, clamming, car registrations, trash pickup stickers, transfer station punch cards, construction permits, and dog registrations, among others. This is also where residents can request rental of the Community Building, the Recreation Center, and Jones Pond facilities.



Commercial Fishing: Varied and Vital Occupations

Lobster boats come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The captain is typically the owner of the vessel, accountable for all expenses, permits and profits as an independent small business owner. Crew size depends on boat size and the number of traps worked.

Bright lights, diesel fumes and growling engines in the predawn darkness are the norm in coastal towns. Wharves are busy places when boats are heading out and even busier when they come back.

Learn more on our [Resources](#) page.



These wharves are fascinating for sightseers, but can be slippery and cluttered.



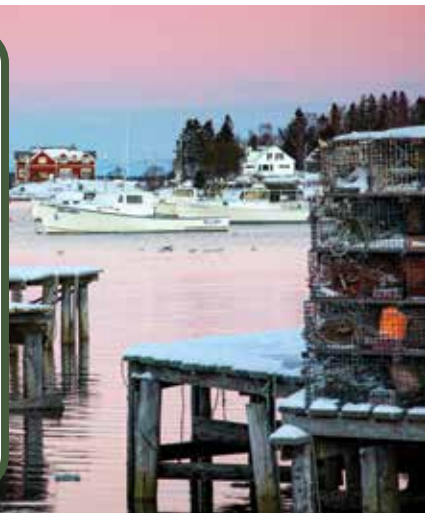
It's Always Fishing Season

It's always "Fishing Season" for most of Gouldsboro's fishermen; the biggest seasonal difference is how far offshore they fish.

Lobster buoys are brightly colored, marking the placement of each lobsterman's traps. The color combinations are unique to each fisherman for easy identification; it's illegal to pick up another lobsterman's traps or collect their buoys.

More Fun Facts

- **Lobstering can take boats more than 3 miles out to sea**, where a federal permit is required for this "offshore" lobstering.
- **When lobstering is closer "inshore,"** a state permit is needed.
- **There are over 131 lobstermen and women licensed in Gouldsboro**, each of whom can set up to 800 traps.



Other Commercial Fishing Pursuits

Captain Jacob Knowles (R) and crew

Fishing in Gouldsboro is much more than lobstering. There is tub trawling for halibut (using a barrel and a line of hooks), and netting for pogies—also known as menhaden—which are primarily used as bait fish. Spring sees fisherman at streams setting or mending nets to catch glass elvers, or baby eels. Fishermen can be found at The Guzzle on US Rt 1 fishing for alewives, also known as River Herring, which are used for lobster bait.

Scallop fishing is a winter pursuit, when many lobstermen rig their boats with dredges to capture these delectable bivalves. There is a state scallop quota for those who participate in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) season, which typically lasts through the months of April and May.

Aquaculture is also an economically important profession here, including the production of mussels, oysters, scallops, and many types of seaweed. Most are independent small businesses, whose owner/operators are responsible for every detail and expense. They face unpredictable climate conditions and changing water temperatures, sometimes struggling for economic stability.

The working waterfronts of Gouldsboro are both fascinating and vital to our local economies.

More Fun Facts

- What we think of as a scallop is actually the adductor muscle of the scallop—the muscle that holds the shell closed.
- Lobstermen and fishermen can be women, too!



Seaweed aquaculture



Clams: Struggling to Survive

The intertidal is an incredibly productive ecosystem. Coastal waters in Maine provide a rich and varied chain of life within these ecosystems. Clam harvesters dig for soft-shell clams and American Oysters in the intertidal zone.

However, the invasive and energetic green crab has moved into our warming coastal waters, voraciously consuming young clam populations. The harvesting of naturally occurring soft-shell clams is under threat by this increase in the number and size of European green crabs. Local clam harvesters, volunteers and high school students are working with the Gouldsboro Shellfish Warden to grow and place baby clams in clam harvesting areas temporarily covered with netting. This allows the clams to resist the crabs and grow large enough to be harvested.

Learn more on our Resources page.



Green crab



Mature clams

More Fun Facts

- In some seasons, green crab females are outnumbered by males. Male crabs will often display cannibalistic behavior to reduce competition.
- The Gulf of Maine sits on top of a terminal moraine formed by the Laurentide Ice Sheet. Its shallowness holds highly oxygenated, fresh water runoff from lakes and streams, which supports rich animal life.



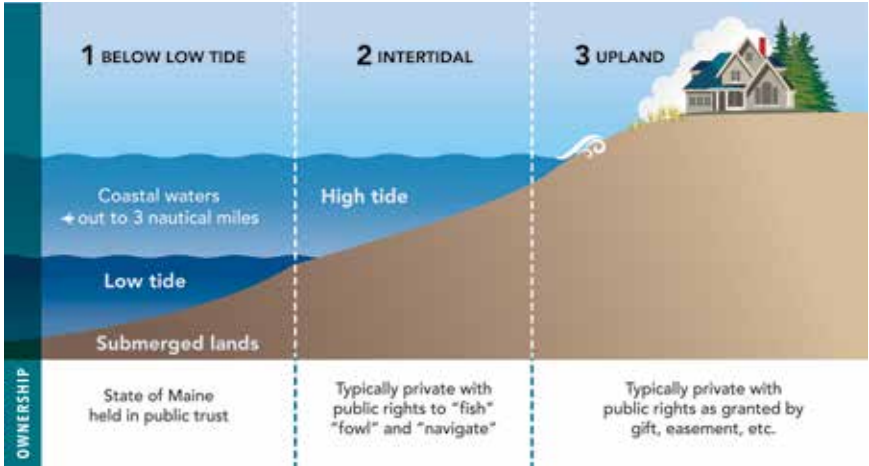
Retaining Coastal Access

Traditionally, clammers and wormers have made handshake agreements with people who own property on the shore, securing access for their gear and harvesting, both over land and at the shoreline. As properties change hands, and as single family homes are converted to multi-family rental units, these agreements are often forgotten.

If you're a new landowner, consider retaining traditional shore access for harvesters that previous owners had in place. The Town of Gouldsboro can provide information about licensed clammers. If you're a landlord, please let renters know you're allowing harvesters to cross your land. As a landowner, you are covered by Maine's stringent liability laws which protect land owners.

You might also consider getting a residential recreational license from the Town Office so you can dig your own clams. If you pay Gouldsboro property taxes, you qualify.

So where IS the Shoreline?



Where, exactly, is your property line if you own coastal property? It's an important question to ask.

Unless your deed specifies otherwise, Maine follows the Massachusetts convention saying that the person holding the property deed owns everything down to the low tide line. Despite that, the intertidal access area is open to all for "fishing, fowling and navigation." This also grants intertidal access rights to harvesters, even if it's on the shore along your property.

More Fun Facts

- **Tides in the Gouldsboro area run from 11-13 feet.** That means the coastal property you fell in love with will look quite different at low tide than it does at high tide.

But harvesters often cannot get to that intertidal zone without crossing someone's property. That is why working with the town and the shellfish committee to provide harvester access at particular times of the day and year can make a big difference for harvesters.



You Can Preserve Coastal Access

As a homeowner, there are things you can do—and easements you can provide—to help protect and maintain coastal access for future generations.

Public Access Easements are formal agreements by coastal property owners to allow shellfish harvesters or fishermen to cross their property, even if ownership changes hands. This ensures access for future generations.

Right-of-Way Agreements are similar to public access easements, but they're not permanent. These flexible agreements preserve waterfront access for limited periods of time and only for specific individuals. This is a good option for property owners who want to allow access across their lands temporarily.

Working Waterfront Covenants are legal agreements between property owners and one or more holders to ensure permanent access to and affordability of coastal real estate for commercial fishery uses. One typical holder is Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), but holders might include other governmental entities or non-profits. A right of first refusal is granted to the holder of the covenant, allowing the holder to direct any potential future sale of the property. These permanent agreements prevent the future alteration or development of waterfront property in ways that restrict its use for commercial fishing.

Learn more on our Resources page.



The Role of Land Trusts

Forbes Pond Preserve

Maine has a long history of preserving natural habitat to provide outdoor opportunities for people and animals. Only 6% of Maine's lands are publicly owned, one of the lowest percentages in the nation, which has led to the creation of the state's land trusts. Currently over 12% of the land in Maine—more than 2.34 million acres—is held under land conservation trusts. As a property owner, you can join those who are preserving the state's land heritage.

A Land Conservation Trust is a legal vehicle by which one specifies future uses of the land, regardless of future ownership. A Conservation Trust can save money on taxes, as it prevents future use as commercial land.

A Conservation Trust can be a good choice if you want to:

- **see your farm continue as a farm**
- **provide access to the shore through your land on foot for clammers or wormers**
- **ensure that your land is not subdivided**

Learn more on our Resources page.

Coastal Living: Outdoors



If you're a full-time or seasonal resident, or a visitor, your view of the working waterfront is bound to be different from those who work on the water. You may love the coastal views and the lonely sound of a foghorn in the distance. You appreciate the fact that you can buy lobster fresh-off-the-boat, or be served the local catch-of-the-day. The people who provide those pleasures are relying on the rest of us to do our part.

Everything we do affects the ecosystem around us, whether immediately or further down the line.

Wells and septic systems are the norm in our rural area. They require a bit more hand-holding than municipal systems you may be used to.

For homeowners, it's important to realize that storm drains, culverts, septic systems, and even lawns eventually drain into our local waters.

There are things you can do to protect both the ocean and your property. Having your well and septic system inspected regularly are simple steps to protect our water quality. Chemical lawn fertilizer and pet waste will run into coastal waters.

More Fun Facts

- **Maine winters have been getting milder**, with less snowfall, for the past decade. This has allowed the tick population to thrive.
- **Tick-borne disease is on the rise.** If you're walking in high grass or wooded areas, tuck your pants into socks and check carefully for ticks.

Coastal Living: Utilities



Living near a coast—with septic systems, wells, working waterfronts and wildlife in abundance—can present some unexpected issues for residents. All are manageable, and there’s always someone to call on for expert advice.

Local businesses can offer expertise on issues including fossil fuel use and savings, the benefits of heat pumps, wood stove use, and whole house generators.

Remember that 63% of Maine is rural and 90% is forested, so the possibility of storm winds downing trees and power lines is relatively high. A propane-powered generator can keep you safe and comfortable when the lights are out. Several companies provide propane services and automatic refills for seasonal residents.

Internet service can be unpredictable in rural areas. Some of the more isolated areas of Gouldsboro are not yet served by high speed internet service. The state has begun to provide funding to improve service in many areas, and a few communities are even establishing their own independent broadband. You may have to manage with slower speeds, at least temporarily. Local libraries are equipped with high speed internet, which is even available in the parking lot when the library is closed.

Coastal Living: Comfort



Utilities for your home might be different from what you've experienced in other places.

Instead of using natural gas as a heat source, propane or fuel oil is used to power many homes in Maine. That's because our state's geology includes massive amounts of granite ledge, making it nearly impossible to bury gas lines in most areas.

That's the same reason so many homes use septic systems and wells instead of municipal water and sewer services. The granite that lays beneath us prevents affordable build-out of these services in rural areas.

Another option—or addition—to propane or oil heat is a wood stove. These are favored over fireplaces because they're so much more effective at heating targeted areas. Fireplaces provide atmosphere and a touch of warmth, but wood stoves can warm homes for hours.

Solar panels and heat pumps are also gaining popularity.



Dealing with Salt Air & Humidity

Living near the water brings with it some interesting challenges, especially when the weather warms up. Here are some tips to help prevent stickiness, mold, and the frustrations of “bad hair” days.

- **Put rice in your salt** to keep it dry and shakeable.
- Consider investing in a **dehumidifier** or a **heat pump** to reduce dampness in your digs.
- **Be sure to clip or close up** bags of chips, crackers, grains and other foods prone to sogginess. Clothes pins are a low-cost option.
- Kitchen towels, bath towels, and even patio furniture hold moisture longer in this damp, salty air. **Keep an eye out for mildew.**
- **Store off-season clothing** in closed containers for protection.
- Your hair might be curlier here, or worse yet, your hairdo might go flat. **Try spraying your hair with epsom salt water spray to add body.**
- **Moisture absorbing products such as DampRid** can help to control mold and mildew in small spaces.
- **Use indoor plants** to provide oxygen and help absorb moisture.
- **Place open boxes of baking soda** in cabinets, drawers and trash cans to absorb moisture and odors.
- **Fight off fruit flies**, which love the damp air of late summer here, by putting a bit of vinegar or red wine in a cup; cover with plastic wrap pierced with tiny holes.



Protecting our Ecosystems

So you're not a scientist. Why should you be concerned with issues such as coastal erosion?

Gouldsboro is one of the most pristine environments you'll encounter, and we all need to pitch in to keep it that way.

Everything we do affects the ecosystem around us, whether immediately or eventually.

Shoreline property is eroding with increasing storm activity, which impacts both the ocean and the shore, itself. You may have to take steps to minimize erosion on your own land to protect your property.

Consider native plantings that will reduce the need to water, and live harmoniously in natural settings.

Learn about local resources to help prevent erosion.





More Fun Facts

Water runs downhill, and there's very little you can do to stop it. Though it seems obvious, it means that anything you apply to your land or lawn will reach the ocean eventually.







Important Resources

Visit these sites for more information on local and state organizations that can support and expand your knowledge of Gouldsboro's historical, artistic, scientific and conservation resources.



Local Resources

Resource	DESCRIPTION	QR CODE
Town of Gouldsboro	Provides community services including licenses, registrations, permits, trash tags, and information to residents and visitors	
Tide Tables for Prospect Harbor	Lists high and low tides for Prospect Harbor, with links to weather and nautical charts	
Dorcas Library, Prospect Harbor	Brings people, information & ideas together to enrich lives, build community, and inspire the joy of lifelong learning	
Gouldsboro Historical Society	Preserves and shares the history of Gouldsboro, Maine	
Schoodic Institute	Inspires science, learning, and community for a changing world	
Schoodic Arts for All	Provides accessible art programs that engage, educate, challenge, and inspire people from all walks of life	





State Marine Resources

Resource	Description	QR CODE
Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)	Conserves and develops marine and estuarine resources; sponsors scientific research; promotes and develops the Maine coastal fishing industries	
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association	Advocates for the needs of community-based fishermen and the environmental restoration of the Gulf of Maine	
Maine Lobstermen's Association	Advocates for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it	
Maine Sea Grant	Supports marine science for Maine people, sponsoring scientific research and developing tomorrow's marine workforce	
Maine Shellfish Handbook	Provides guidance for sustaining Maine's shellfish species, including history and biology of the soft-shell clam, northern quahog, American and European oysters, and blue mussels	
The Mudflat	Teaches about wild clam and mussel fisheries in Maine and Wabanaki homelands, including how to restore and care for these mudflat-dependent livelihoods and cultures	




State Erosion Resources

Resource	Description	QR CODE
Maine Geological Survey: Maine Coastal Owners' Guide to Erosion, Flooding and Other Hazards	Educates coastal property owners on identifying hazards such as flooding and erosion, and offers mitigation strategies	
Northeast Ocean Council: Planting Guide	Recommends suitable native Maine plants that can be used to stabilize coastal shorelines	

State Conservation Resources

Resource	Description	QR CODE
Maine Land Trust Network: What is a Land Trust?	Works with willing landowners to conserve land for the public, facilitating information exchange and collaboration	
Maine Coast Heritage Trust—Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Landowners	A guide for Maine landowners, reflecting the nuances of conservation law and policy	
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	A nonprofit land conservation organization protecting and caring for vital lands on the coast of Maine	
Frenchman Bay Conservancy	Conserves distinctive ecosystems, lands, and waters for the benefit of all, from the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds east to the Hancock County line	

Coastal Living Outdoors

Resource	Description	QR CODE
American Scientist: The Increasing Problem of Nutrient Runoff on the Coast	Explains how water quality—and everything that depends on it—degrades as development increases along coastlines worldwide	
Environmental Protection Agency: Soak up the Rain	Raises awareness about the many benefits of green infrastructure, with tools and webinars to encourage action	
University of Maine, Cooperative Extension: Your Septic System	Offers information about how your septic system works, and why, how, and when to service it	



Eat Local!

Winter Harbor Summer farmers' market

Living near a working waterfront is good news if you love to eat the freshest possible seafood.

There are some **local lobster pounds** on wharves selling lobster harvested just hours ago. It doesn't get any fresher than that! A few lobster pounds freeze their seasonal catches so you can buy them off-season.

Fish freezes well, so scallops, flounder, halibut, cod, haddock, and even picked crab and lobster meat can be sealed in plastic bags and frozen for up to 3 months.

You'll find **local restaurants** with delicious fried clams, haddock sandwiches, chowders, and seafood stews in most villages and along major roads.

You'll also find **local farm stores, farmers' markets** and **roadside stands** seasonally, with vegetables, fruits and flowers to accompany your seafood feast.

Don't forget the iconic **Maine blueberries!** They're smaller than some of the cultivated high-bush varieties, with flavor that packs a punch. Use them fresh on cereals and desserts, or in cakes, pancakes, pies, muffins and jam.

Look for "Made in Maine" sections in local grocers, and on product labels. There are more local businesses than you might expect that sell locally produced products. These include jams and jellies, soaps, soups, cheese, sausages, bread, pasta sauces, and many others.

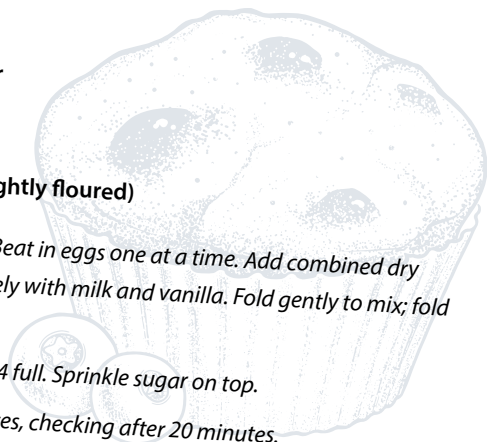
Maine Blueberry Muffins

- 1/2 stick (4 oz.) butter at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar (plus additional to sprinkle on top)
- 2 eggs
- 1 2/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup Maine wild blueberries (lightly floured)

Cream butter and sugar together. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add combined dry ingredients to the mixture alternately with milk and vanilla. Fold gently to mix; fold in blueberries.

Fill paper-lined muffin tins about 3/4 full. Sprinkle sugar on top.

Bake at 375 degrees for 20-30 minutes, checking after 20 minutes.



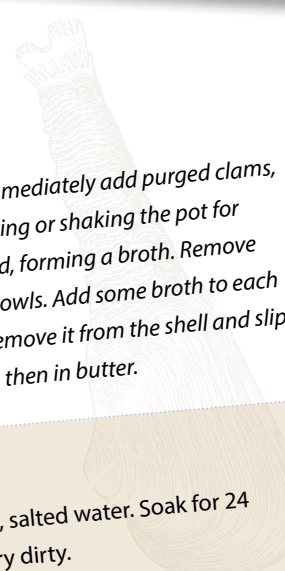
Steamed Soft Shell Clams

- Soft shell clams, purged
- Melted butter

Bring 1" of water to boil in a large pot or Dutch oven. Immediately add purged clams, cover, and cook over medium heat for 5-7 minutes, stirring or shaking the pot for even distribution. The clams will release their own liquid, forming a broth. Remove clams from the pot with a slotted spoon and place in bowls. Add some broth to each bowl and serve with melted butter. Open each clam; remove it from the shell and slip off the siphon covering with your fingers. Dip in broth, then in butter.

How to Purge Clams

Submerge washed clams in a bucket with clean, salted water. Soak for 24 hours. Change the water as needed if it gets very dirty.





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THANKS TO THE MAINE COAST FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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