Town of Camden, Maine
Water Quality Remediation for Laite Beach and Camden Harbor

"The significant correlation between bacteria and optical brightener levels at the storm drainage stations indicates a strong likelihood these sites are impacted by human sources."

Keri Lindberg, University of Maine Cooperative Extension (2012)

PARTNERS
University of Maine Cooperative Extension

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This project was designed to address water quality issues at Laite Beach and the surrounding areas of Camden Harbor, including the Megunticook River.

APPROACH
- Enhanced monitoring: Established 26 data collection sites, sampled June – September 2012.
- GIS layering for sub-watersheds: Integrated monitoring results and other watershed characteristics to pinpoint likely problem areas.
- Compile and analyze results: Periodically reviewed data collection and adjusted as needed.
Public Education: Develop educational materials ("Pump It, Don't Dump It").

RESULTS
- Sampling, testing and data collection information was compiled.
- Using a GIS system, integrated monitoring results, locations, and other watershed characteristics to pinpoint areas that are likely impacting nearby water quality. Applied to ongoing Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) efforts.
- Integrated data, analysis, findings, actions and implementation strategies into IDDE plans.
- Educational materials ("Pump It, Don't Dump It") were distributed—posted at mooring sites and waterside locations.

NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Continued, ongoing, and persistent monitoring is necessary to ensure water quality meets standards. Equipment and supplies will be acquired for in-house testing. The volume of boating activity is a factor which must be considered. While it cannot be definitively proven, efforts will be made to include this by way of faster pump-out service and enhanced educational efforts.
- Additional education about water treatment, water flows into Camden Harbor, and resident actions (e.g. dumping pet waste as mentioned earlier and marking basins as draining to harbor/river) is needed. Improved mapping of the storm water system to show upstream sources from each sampling site.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Multiple, ongoing efforts at data collection and solution development are needed for maximum success.
- Collaborations among federal, state, local, private and public entities with specific interests and expertise will enhance the probably of success in making inroads into prevention of water contamination.

APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Other coastal communities face the same issues, experiences and opportunities as Camden. Replicability of this study, along with enhancements from the data and lessons learned, is fairly easily achievable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Compile actions and results to potentially identify best practices as well as trends occurring across the region and the state. With resources shrinking, it's important to ensure the most efficient and effective efforts are made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Brian Hodges, Economic and Community Development Director (2011-2014)

The Maine Healthy Beaches Program (MHB) is a partnership between the University of Maine Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and local municipalities. Keri Kaczcor at keri.kaczor@maine.edu

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Boater's Education Flyer
http://www.mainehealthybeaches.org/documents/UseYourHead.pdf
Pet Waste Flyer
http://www.mainehealthybeaches.org/documents/PetwasteGeneral7-2-14.pdf
Maine Healthy Beaches Water Quality data