5th ANNUAL GULF OF MAINE

Sponsored by SOS Saco Bay

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE, RISING SEAS AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026 8:00AM-4:15PM

EVENT LOCATION:

Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center- Rowland Hall
14 Boardwalk Drive, Saco, Maine
Parking Along Boardwalk Drive, 21 Ferry Park Ave and 96 Seaside Ave

WELCOME FROM THE ORGANIZERS

We hope to see you at our 5th Annual Gulf of Maine Coastal Conference on Wednesday, October 7.

Formerly known as the SOS Saco Bay Coastal Conference, we have rebranded the event to better reflect our reach, which extends far beyond Saco Bay. In fact, last year's attendees represented all five of New England's coastal states.

Thanks to our newly formed Advisory Board and Program Committee, we feel we have assembled our strongest program to date.

We are proud to present our 5th Annual Conference, and especially proud to help celebrate the 125th anniversary of Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center! Please come and join us.

-Kevin Roche
President, SOS Saco Bay

-David Plavin
Vice President, SOS Saco Bay

ATTENDEES WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WILL EARN SIX (6.0) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS.

TWO CONCURRENT SESSIONS

REGISTRATION

$95.00 General Admission
$80.00 Government/Non-Profit Admission
$30.00 Student Admission

Registration includes food, refreshments, all breaks and conference materials.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
FERRYBEACH.ORG/SOS

5th Annual Gulf of Maine Coastal Conference

October 7, 2026 · Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, Saco, Maine

Opening General Session — Rowland Hall / Gayla Theater

8:00 - 8:45	**Registration, Exhibits, and Continental Breakfast**
8:45 - 9:30	**Keynote: Bouncing Forward — Transformational Approaches for Coastal Resilience in Maine** *Jessica Brunacini · Wells Reserve at Laudholm*
9:30 - 9:45	**SOS Saco Bay Update** *-David Plavin · SOS Saco Bay*
9:45 - 10:00	Networking break — foyer and exhibit area

Block A - breakout sessions *Group 1 - A1 Dolphin Hall then lunch 11:00 AM · Group 2 - A2 Gayla Theater then lunch 12:00 PM*

10:00-10:15	***SESSION A1 | Coastal Wildlife & Ecosystem Health*** | 10:00 – 10:55 AM | Dolphin Hall | Mod. by *Sienna Zuco* **Quantifying Saltmarsh & Nelson's Sparrow Reproductive Success Across Maine's Coast, 2011–2025** *McLagan, Olsen, Ruskin, Kovach · UMaine / UNH*	***SESSION A2 | Nature-Based Solutions & Restoration*** | 10:00 – 11:50 AM | Gayla Theater | Mod. by *Helena Tatgenhorst* **Case Study: Addressing Coastal Bluff Erosion with Nature - Based Solutions** *Tim Forrester · Flycatcher, LLC*
10:20-10:35	**Understanding the Impact of Sea Level Rise on Coastal Mudflats and Fisheries** *McMahan, Farr, Oh · Manomet / UMass Amherst*	**Coastal Case Studies and Lessons Learned** *Jonathan Gawrys · Sumco Eco-Contracting*
10:40-10:55	**Marine Mammal Response & Health in Maine** *Lynda Ada Doughty · Marine Mammals of Maine*	**Advancing Nature-Based Strategies in Maine's High Energy Habitats** *Dr. Jess Reilly-Moman · VHB*
11:00-11:15	**Lunch - Group 1 - Poster session 1 | Dining Hall** 11:00 - 11:50 AM	**Flood Adaptation Hierarchy: Solutions from Green to Gray** *Helena Tatgenhorst · The Nature Conservancy*
11:20-11:50		**The Latest Innovations in Salt Marsh Restoration and Other Coastal Interface Areas [30 min]** *Seth Wilkinson · Wilkinson Coastal Innovations*

Block B - parallel breakout sessions *Group 1 - B1 Dolphin Hall starts 12:00 PM · Group 2 - B2 Gayla Theater starts 1:00 PM*

12:00-12:15	***SESSION B1 | Coastal Processes & Climate Change*** | 12:00 – 2:00 PM | Dolphin Hall | Mod. by *Jeremy Gabrielson* **Erode Awakening: Mathematically Modeling Shoreline Erosion in Saco Bay** *Emily Kelting · UNE*	**Lunch — Group 2 – Poster session 2 | Dining Hall** 12:00 – 12:50 PM
12:20-12:35	**Two Decades of Shoreline Change & Management Response at Saco Bay** *Katelyn DeWater · UNE '25*	
12:40-12:55	**Maine's Changing Coastline: UNE Research Updates from Saco Bay** *Will Kochtitzky · UNE*	***SESSION B2 | Policy, Planning & Community Resilience*** | 12:45 – 2:00 PM | Gayla Theater | Mod. by *Maggie Mills*
1:00-1:15	**What's in a Photo? Localizing Flood Data through Coastal Community Science** *Bowness, Sun, Zuco, Barker · GMRI / GPCOG / AmeriCorps*	**City of South Portland: Developing a Climate Resilience Overlay Zone (CROZ)** *Julie Rosenbach · City of South Portland*
1:20-1:35	**Advancing Nature-Based Strategies in Southern Maine with Tools & Community Engagement** *Jake Aman, Melanie Nash · Wells Reserve / SMPDC*	**Pumping the Brakes: Using Moratoriums as a Tool for Municipal Coastal Resilience** *Alison McKellar · Town of Camden*
1:40-1:55	**Overcoming Climate Change Indifference** *Peter M. Hanrahan*	**Emergency Preparedness for Coastal Weather Events and Older Populations** *Juliana Barrett · Connecticut Sea Grant*

All-attendee reconvene — Rowland Hall / Gayla Theater

1:55 - 2:10	**Networking break — foyer and exhibit area**
2:10 - 2:30	**OUR SHORE** *-Nathan Robbins, Maine Department of Environmental Protection*
2:30 - 2:50	**1-minute organization updates** - *Speakers to sign up day of conference.*

Beach field stations — Ferry Beach / Camp Ellis — Groups split & rotate · Round 1: 3:00–3:30 · Round 2: 3:30–4:00

3:00-4:00	**Site Visit - Camp Ellis Spur Jetty** 1. Construction Status Update: *Jenifer Thalhauser, US Army Corps of Engineers* 2. Vendor Presentation - Construction Products & Engineering Solutions - *Jeff Fiske, Industrial Fabrics Inc.*(Non-Government Endorsed Vendor)	**Coastal Processes, Living Shoreline Regulations & Cost-Effective Stabilization** *Liz Nowak · MGS · Rob Wood · ME DEP · Seth Wilkinson · Wilkinson Coastal*

Closing reception · 4:00 – 5:00 PM · Light refreshments, networking, poster session 3 | Dining Hall