Why the Downeast Fisheries Trail?

- Support fisheries economy/industry
- Support Working Waterfront
- Community revitalization
- Tourism economic development
- The next generation
- Regional development opportunities

Photo: Maine State Archives
The heart of the Trail: 45 sites

- 5 museums, 4 historical societies, 1 oceanarium
- 4 state parks, 4 town parks, 1 state lands
- 1 national park, 1 international park
- 3 scenic byways
- 2 fish hatcheries and 4 communities fisheries orgs
- 1 fisheries restoration site
- 2 Native America sites
- Many working waterfronts and scenic overlooks with interpretive panels

Image: NOAA
Bar Harbor Town Pier
Frenchman Bay Overlook
Naskeag Point

TO SHOW WITH HONOR AND PRIDE
THE RESPECT WE HAVE FOR YOU
THE SEA AND THE MEN YOU HAVE
TAKEN FROM US.

MAY WE ALWAYS REMEMBER
THAT THE SEA THAT GIVES
ALSO TAKES AWAY.

DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PAUL D. WOOD
NASKEAG POINT
1999
Prospect Harbor
The last sardine cannery
Somesville Mill Pond: Alewives
Islesford Historical Museum

The Cod Fleet, Cranberry Island Harbor, late 1800s

Photo courtesy Bill Leavenworth, and Gulf of Maine Cod Project
Tidal Falls

Photo by Rob Brooks,
The Pleasant River ends its 44-mile journey here at Columbia Falls. The convergence of land, river, and sea creates a rich habitat for many animals, including fish such as alewives, Atlantic salmon, and American eels. Today the Wild Salmon Resource Center—formerly a hydroelectric plant that drew power from a dam across the falls—functions as a conservation fish hatchery and hub for watershed education.

The rainbow smelt is another fish that returns here from coastal waters to spawn. Local people have relied on smelt as a traditional food for centuries. In early spring, smelt are netted on the incoming tides and cleaned in the small camps along the shore. The Pleasant River estuary is one of the last places on the East Coast where a sustainable smelt fishery is still possible.

Rainbow smelt are slender, silvery fish about six to eight inches long, with dark backs and multi-colored, shimmering sides. They migrate into estuaries from the ocean each winter and spawn in the spring.

Labels marked boxes of smelt that were shipped throughout the region during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Explore and learn more! Visit DowneastFisheriesTrail.org
Penobscot East Resource Center
Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education
Cobscook Bay Resource Center

Photo top right: Chris Bartlett
Photo top left: Heidi Leighton
Map: CBRC
Frazer Point
Shackford Head State Park

Aquaculture’s place in a working harbor

The changing marine industries of Broad Cove

Broad Cove has a 200-year history of marine industry that continues today in varied forms.

The circular installations floating on the water surface are enclosures for raising Atlantic salmon. Fish leap and splash while nets across the top keep out eagles, osprey, gulls, and cormorants. Young salmon are placed in the pens when they are about six inches long, and take about two years to grow to market size. Atlantic salmon is one of Maine's most economically significant seafood industries.

Beyond the salmon farm, tugboats and barges take advantage of Estes Head, the deepest natural port on the US East Coast. Shipments have included pulp and paper, cattle, and even wind turbines.
Cobscook Bay State Park
Roosevelt Campobello International Park
Bar Harbor Town Park at Hadley Point
Gleason Cove Park
Abbe Museum
Waponahki Museum and Resource Center
Maine Coast Sardine Museum

© Maine Historical Society
McCurdy’s Smokehouse
From Penobscot Bay to Cobscoook Bay, the Downeast Fisheries Trail connects historic and active fisheries sites that illustrate the region’s maritime heritage. Marine resources sustain the culture and economy of Downeast Maine. The Downeast Fisheries Trail builds on these local resources to strengthen community life and the experience of visitors.

www.DowneastFisheriesTrail.org
“We cannot rival the sophistication of what folks have seen at our large metropolitan [areas], but we do have something special – our situation right in the middle of the ‘real thing’.”

Resident and historical society member, Stonington, Maine.