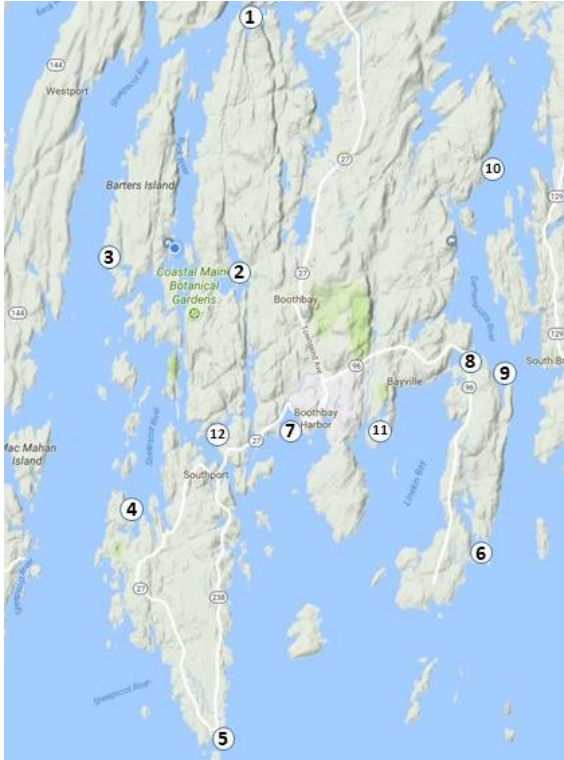


COASTAL WATER MONITORING SITES:



Water monitoring takes place biweekly at 12 sites across the Boothbay peninsula between the months of May through October. For more information on our water sampling sites and to view data we have collected so far, please visit www.bbrlt.org.

Recognizing the connection between land and water, Boothbay Region Land Trust (BRLT) sees a direct relationship between its mission of land conservation and coastal water quality.

Coastal waters are a significant natural resource for the Boothbay region and its wildlife, and understanding the impacts and interconnections of land and water informs land management, as well as conservation focus in our region.

The Boothbay region is known for its spectacular natural beauty, rocky shores, coastal islands, and river corridors. Since 1980, the Boothbay Region Land Trust has preserved the beauty of the Boothbay region by conserving land for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents and visitors.

Boothbay Region Land Trust relies on charitable donations to support its land conservation, public access, preserve maintenance & educational programs.

Please consider making a contribution!

Thank you for your support!



Boothbay Region Land Trust

PO Box 183 / 60 Samoset Road
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
(207) 633-4818 / brlt@bbrlt.org

bbrlt.org

Edwin J. Green COASTAL WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Information Guide



Boothbay Region Land Trust

A Non-Profit Land Conservation Organization

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Why monitor coastal waters?

By testing the water along our shores, we can monitor threats to the health of the ocean, such as oxygen depletion and rising seawater temperatures. Clean water is necessary for the survival of the economically important and ecologically sensitive species in the waters of the Boothbay region, and for the health of its inhabitants. A thorough understanding of the condition of the region's marine waters will allow the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, and Southport to assess with more confidence the actions they need to take to ensure public health and economic vitality in their communities.

Program History

In 2014, volunteer-supported organizations and researchers along the coast of Maine formed the Maine Coastal Observing Alliance (MCOA), in recognition of their common interests in understanding and promoting the ecological health of Maine's estuaries between Casco Bay and Penobscot Bay. BRLT joined forces in 2015 with MCOA to begin recording pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and turbidity at twelve sites around the Boothbay Region.



What does the data tell us?

A recent summary report on monitoring found that the estuaries in the Boothbay Region were generally in a healthy state, but that low pH and dissolved oxygen levels are a concern. Our data shows rising water temperatures that align with global warming trends. As BRLT and other organizations continue to submit data to MCOA, we will gain more insight into the quality of the water and the impact it has on the environment.



How does it work?

Citizen scientist volunteers are assigned a kit with equipment that measures temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and clarity. Data is recorded and submitted to BRLT after each sampling session.

Where does the data go?

The recorded results of water monitoring are shared with MCOA, the University of Maine, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and is publicly available on BRLT's website at bbrlt.org.

How can I get involved?

BRLT relies on a team of committed volunteers to maintain the coastal water monitoring efforts. There are a limited number of opportunities to participate in this program as a citizen scientist. This position requires a scheduled time commitment every other week between the months of May through October. BRLT provides volunteers with thorough training in sample collection and instrumentation use, as well as additional educational opportunities to better inform participants about the science behind the sampling. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact BRLT to learn more.



Everyone can help!

Protecting our coastal waters requires everyone's support. When you use water, conserve your use so that excess runoff and wastewater will not flow into the ocean. Reduce pollutants by choosing nontoxic chemicals for your home and yard. Find ways to reduce your consumption, recycle when possible, and dispose of waste properly so that it does not end up in the ocean.