

Merrymeeting Bay

A Self-Guided Nature Tour of Merrymeeting Bay

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Midcoast Senior College
September 19 – October 24, 2023

A natural history introduction to Merrymeeting Bay for individuals, adults with kids, homeschoolers, and groups.

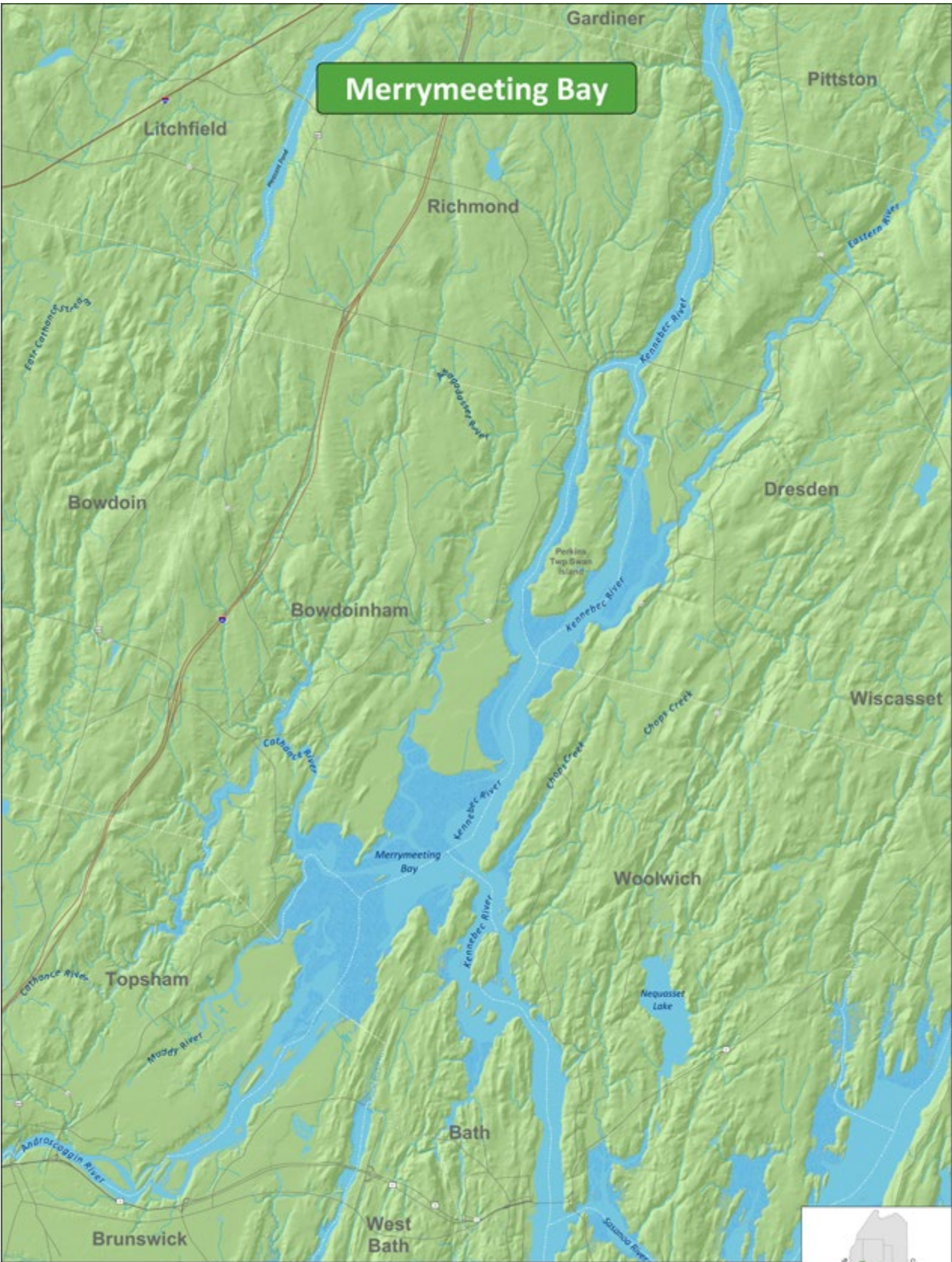
5 site guides to 5 natural preserves along the Bay.



Merrymeeting Bay in Maine



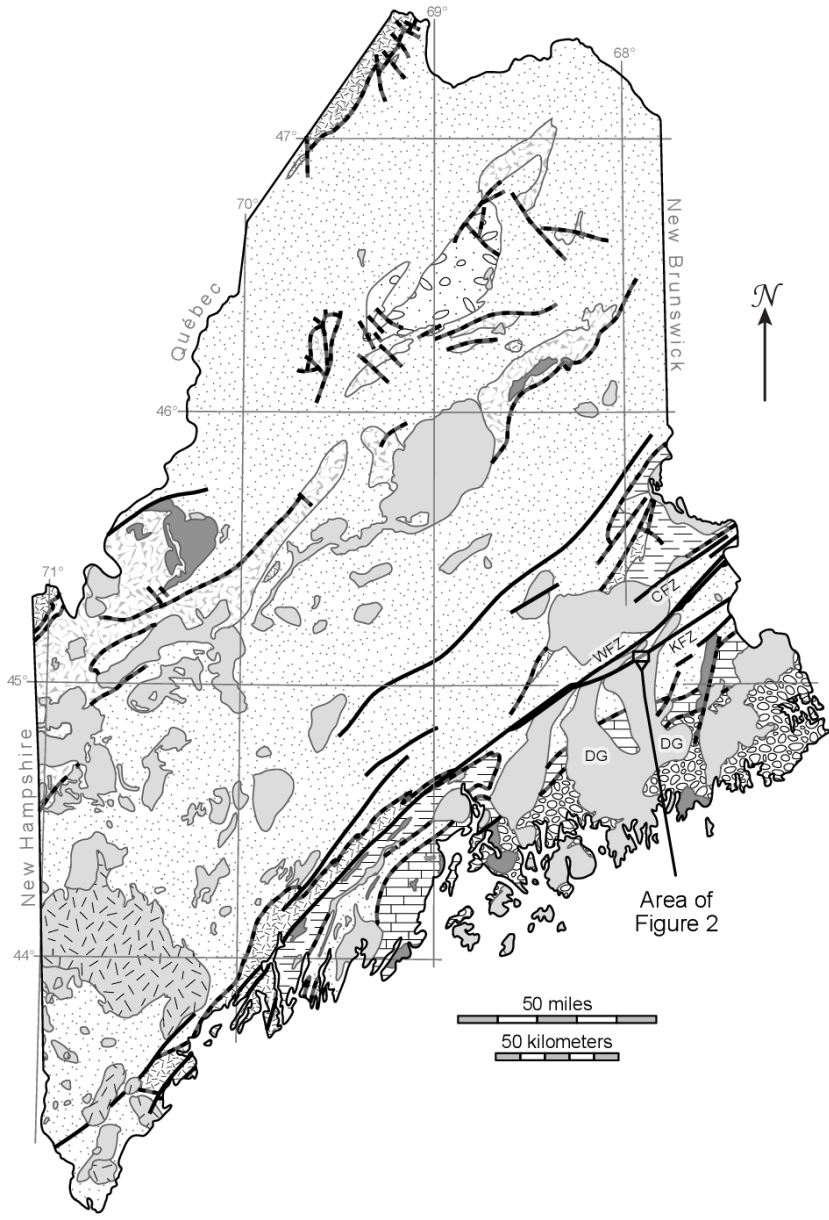
Merrymeeting Bay



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Research, Advocacy, Land Conservation & Education
www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org






Geology



ROCK UNITS


Igneous intrusive rocks

-  Carboniferous & Mesozoic
-  Devonian
-  Silurian & older





Cover sequence

-  Metamorphosed Late Ordovician to Early Devonian flysch & molasse



Laurentian affinity terranes

-  Metamorphosed Cambrian to Ordovician arc- & oceanic-affinity rocks of Bronson Hill & Boundary Mountains belts

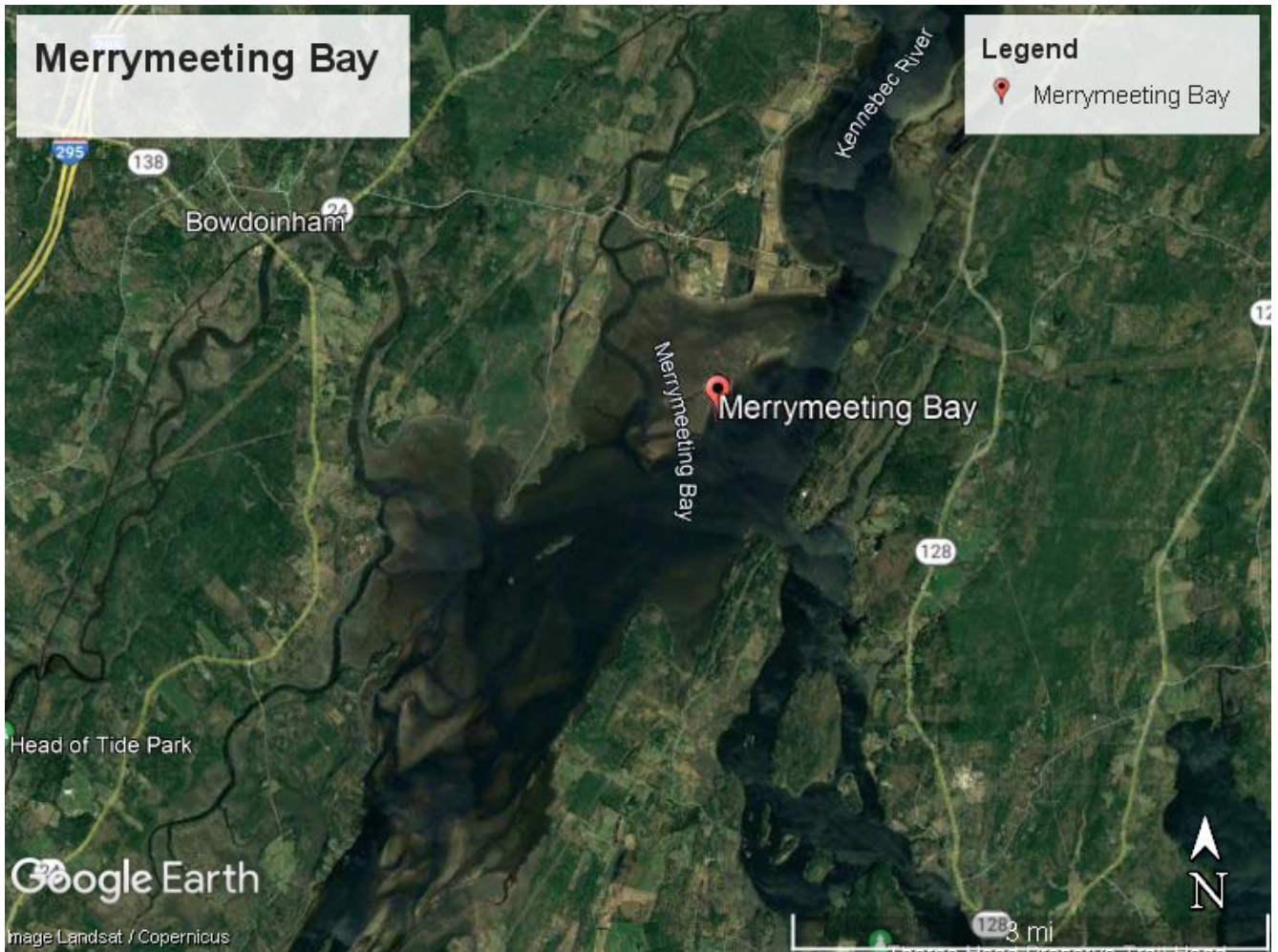
Gondwanan affinity terranes

-  Metamorphosed Cambrian to Early Devonian volcanic rocks of coastal volcanic belt
-  Metamorphosed Neoproterozoic to Ordovician sedimentary rocks of St. Croix belt
-  Metamorphosed Ordovician arc-affinity volcanic & volcaniclastic rocks of Liberty-Orington & Miramichi belts
-  Metamorphosed Cambrian to Ordovician sedimentary rocks of Liberty-Orington & Miramichi belts

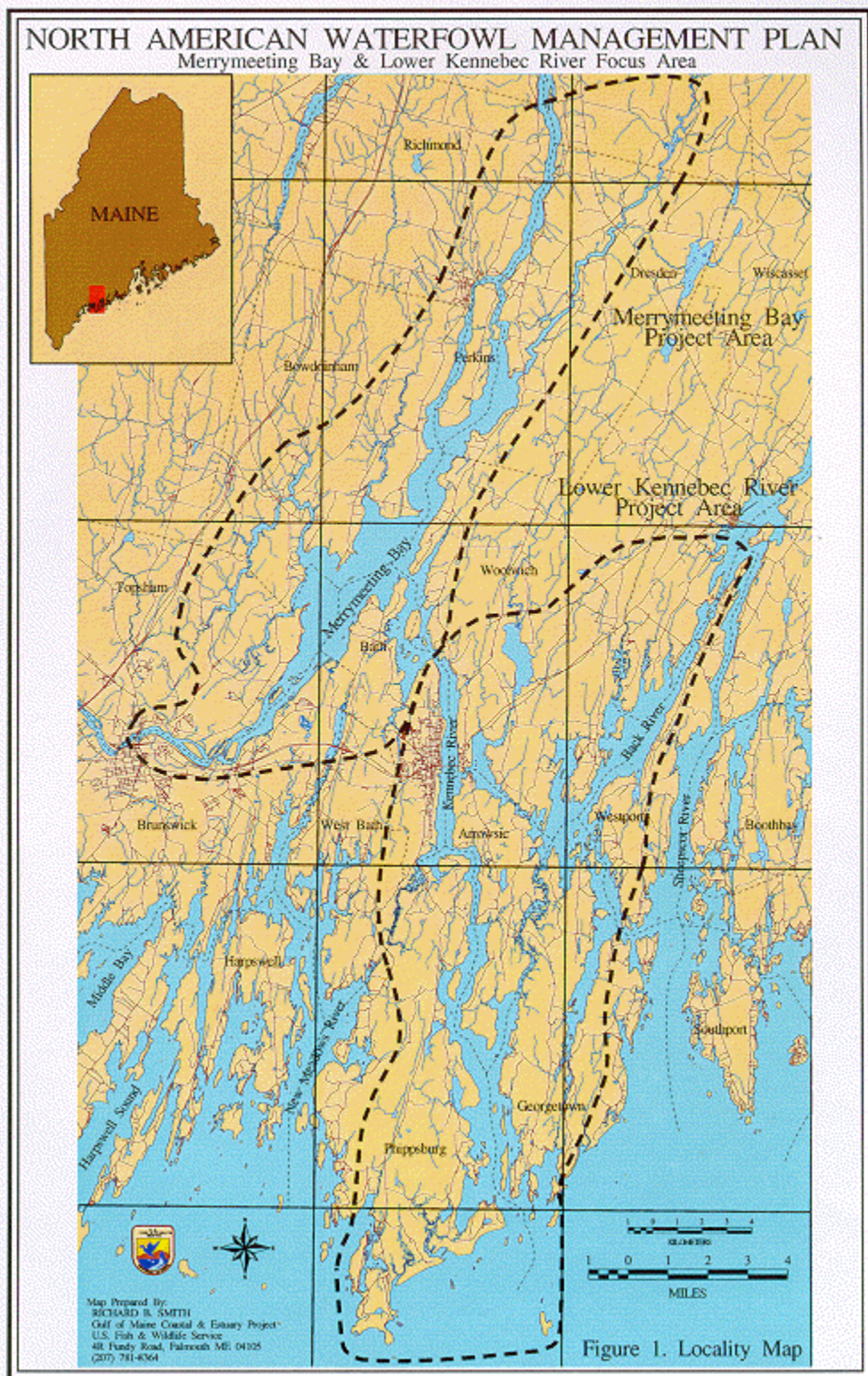
MAP SYMBOLS

-  Dextral strike-slip faults of Norumbega system or correlated with Norumbega system
-  Faults pre- or post-dating the Norumbega system

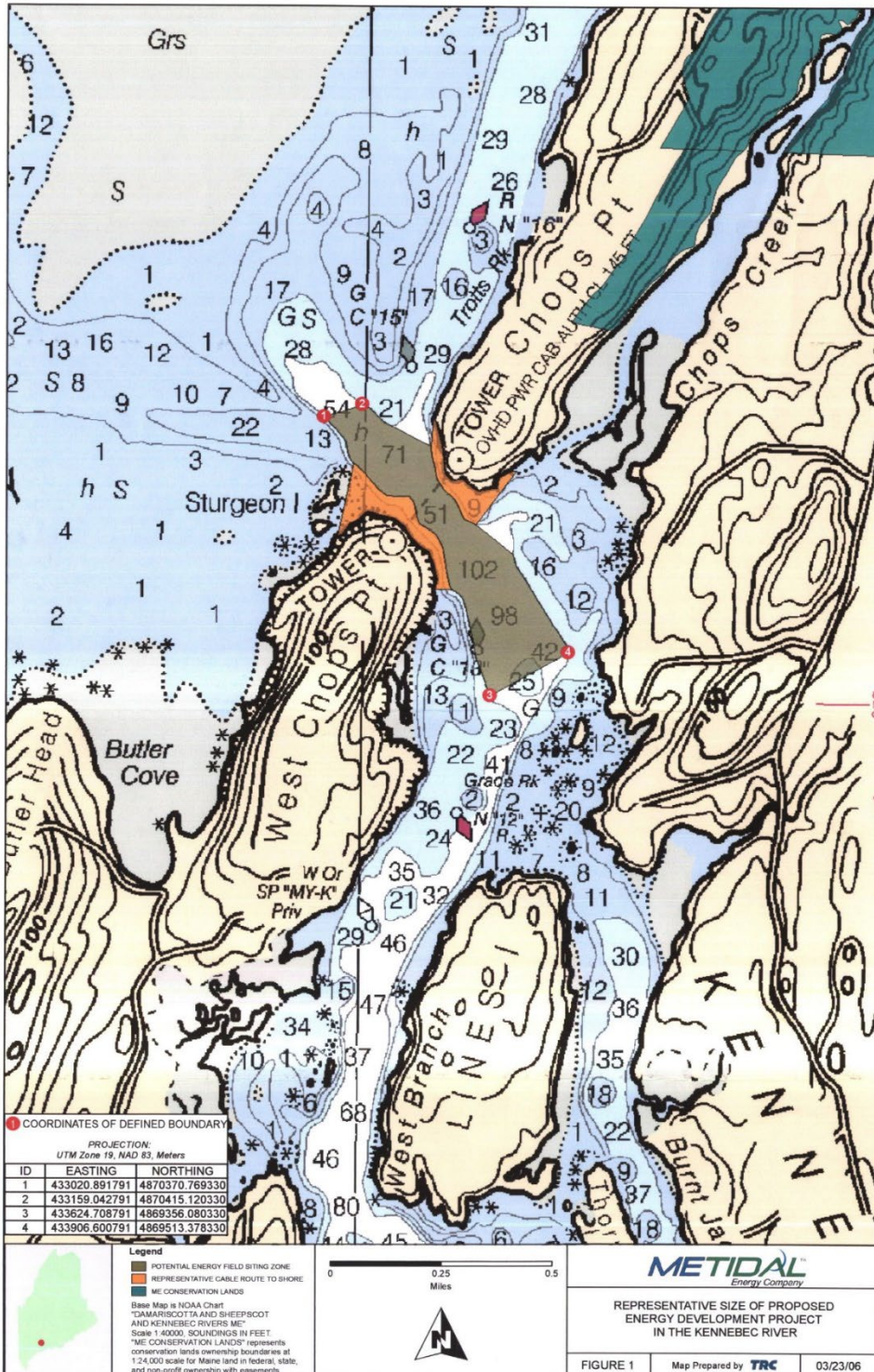
Merrymeeting Bay water channels



Activity: Getting Oriented

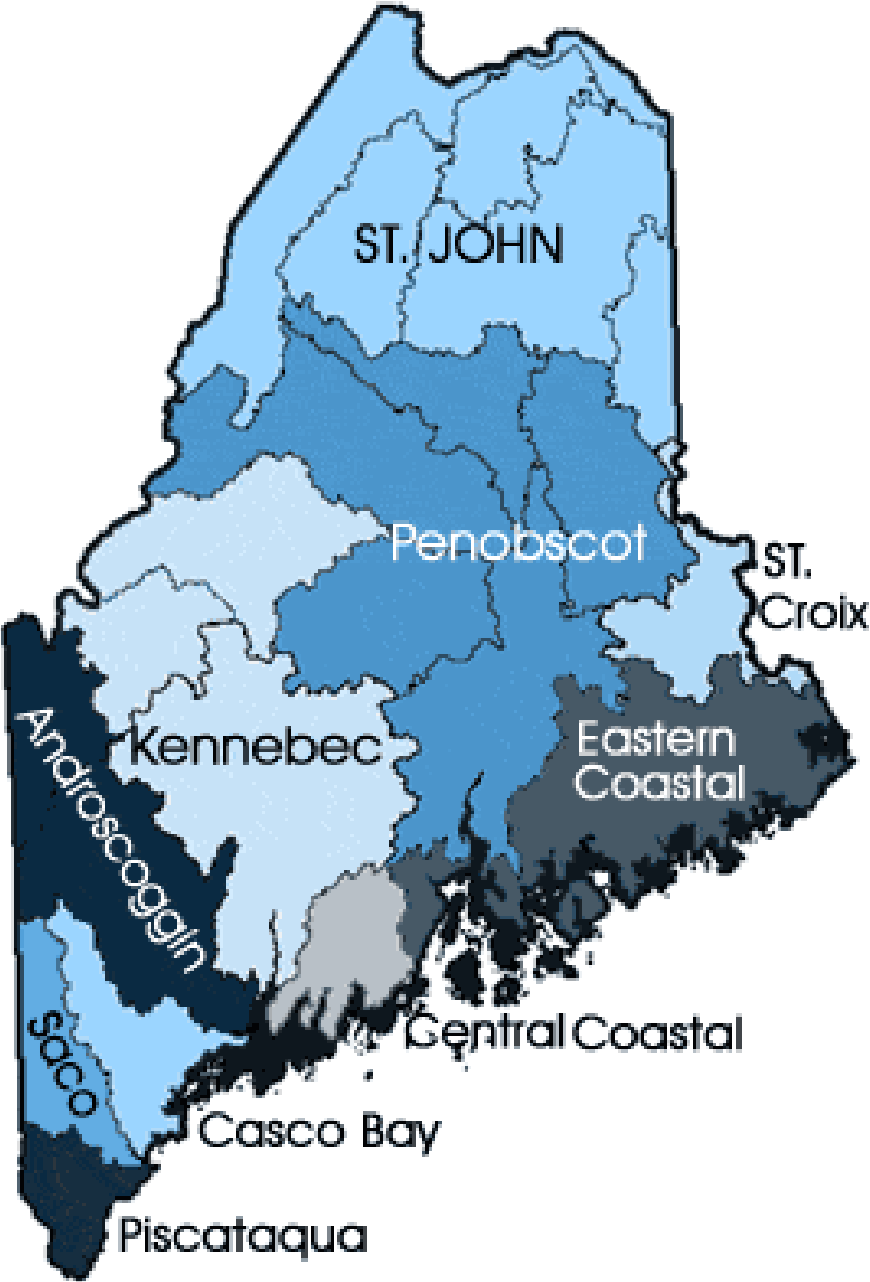


The "Chops" Bay Outflow



060410-031-01-001

Maine Watersheds Map



River Trail from Farmington to Merrymeeting Bay

<https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>

THE STATE OF MAINE HYDROLOGICAL MAP

WATERWAYS BASED ON
STRAHLER STREAM ORDER

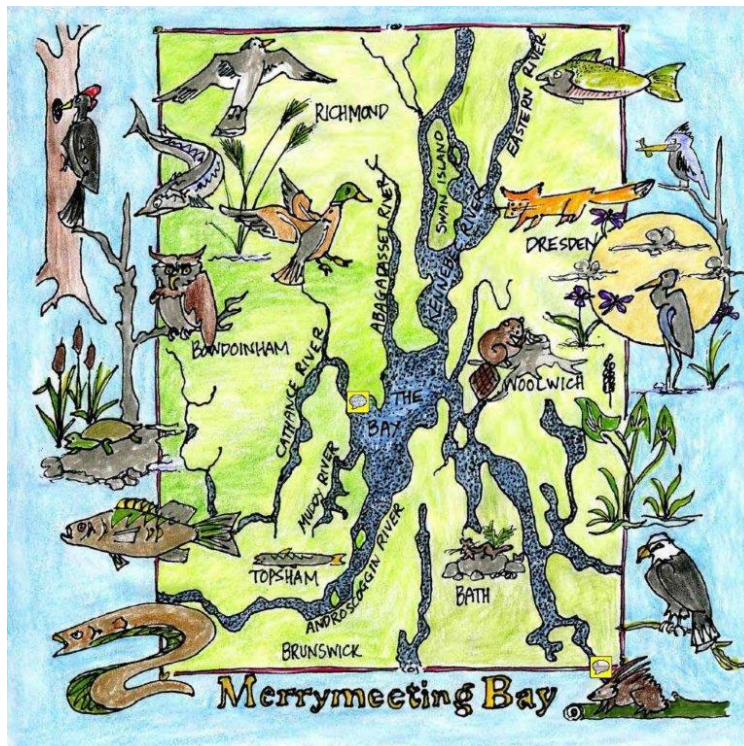


Friends of Merrymeeting Bay



Mission

To preserve, protect, and improve
the unique ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay



<http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org/>

Merrymeeting Bay
[Maine Maritime Museum](#) Cruise
Sundays 3.30-6.30 through Oct. 1



Site #1: Wildes Road MBWMA



Site #1 MBWMA Bowdoinham

Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area

[website](#)

Directions to Bowdoinham Wildlife Management Area from Bowdoinham Center: From the intersection of Routes 125 and 24 at the blinking light in Bowdoinham, proceed north on Route 24 (River Road) for half a mile and take the right turn onto Browns Point Road. After almost a mile turn right onto Wildes Road and follow the road to the end.

If the gate is across the road is closed, you may park in the sand turn around to your left. If the gate is open, you may drive down the path until you reach the second parking area. Be mindful however that the road is not maintained regularly and there may be walkers on the road. If you are able, we recommend parking at the gate.

Mudflats

Scientific Name: [Freshwater Tidal Marsh](#)

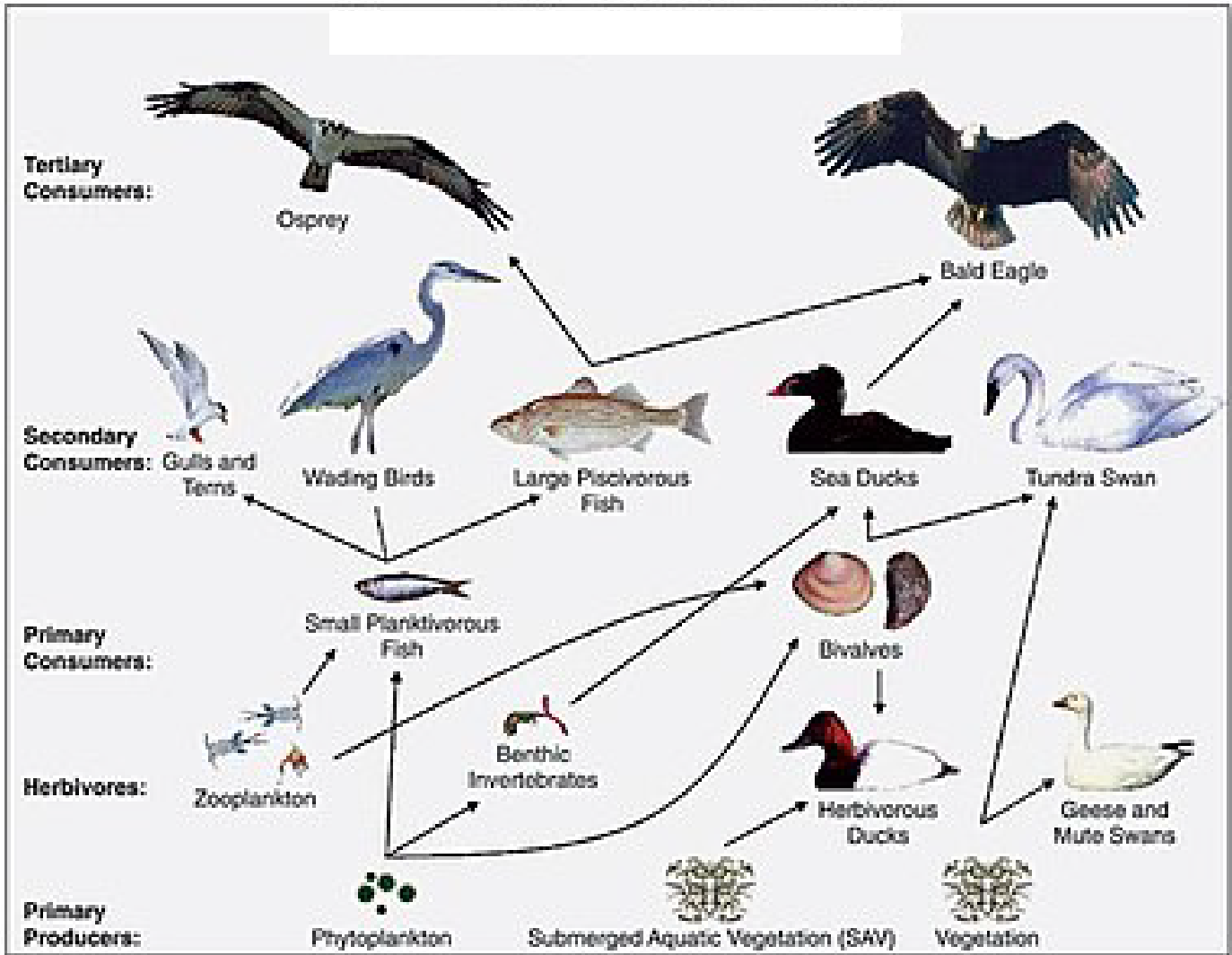


also see [Maine Natural Areas Program](#) website

Fertility of Mudflats



Food Webs



Wild Rice



[Native American wild rice video](#)

Going for a Nature Walk

- Take your time, but take the time!
- Sometimes getting out the door is the hardest part (bring a friend?)
- Make a regular time/day to visit a site each week
- “Get there then decide” rule.
- Nothing to achieve, no agenda, no expectations—find your own way (picnic? out to lunch afterward? for exercise? natural history emphasis? sketching, photography, journaling, etc.?)

- Be respectful of all instructions; carry in carry out; leave only footprints!
- Dress for the weather, bring an extra layer and water.
- Tell someone where you’re going or leave a note.
- Use all your senses—what do you see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel?
- Look for big views and little views and how they are connected.

Class Forum

- A place for class members to record/upload any and all responses to each week's walk.
- Photos, impressions, recordings, journalings all are welcome.
- Start your own post or respond to someone else's post.
- Totally optional and voluntary.
- I may post a quote or question as a way of getting started.
- Confidentiality – please don't quote anyone else or use their posting unless you get permission from them first.