

# Merrymeeting Bay

## A Self-Guided Nature Tour of Merrymeeting Bay

Terry Porter  
Midcoast Senior College  
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A Natural History Introduction to Merrymeeting Bay  
With Walks in Five Preserves that Touch the Bay



**Maine State Map**

0 20 40 60 80  
MILES  
Albers equal area projection

**POPULATED PLACES**

- 25,000 – 99,999 • Portland
- 24,999 and less • Millinocket
- State capital ★ Augusta

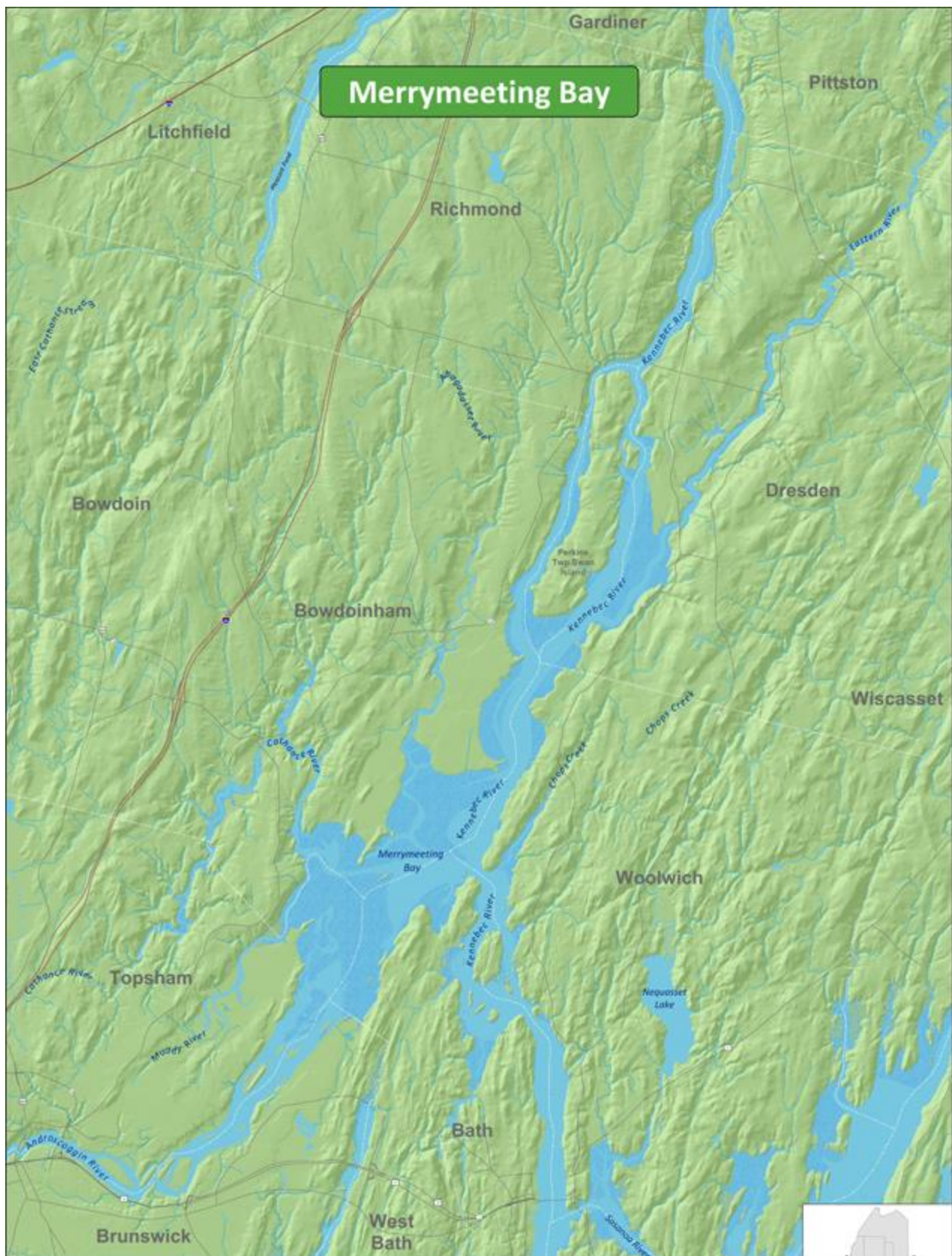
**PHYSICAL FEATURES**

- Streams
- Lakes
- Highest elevation in state (feet) +5267
- The lowest elevation in Maine is sea level (Atlantic Ocean).

**TRANSPORTATION**

- Interstate; limited access highway
- Other principal highway
- Railroad
- Ferry

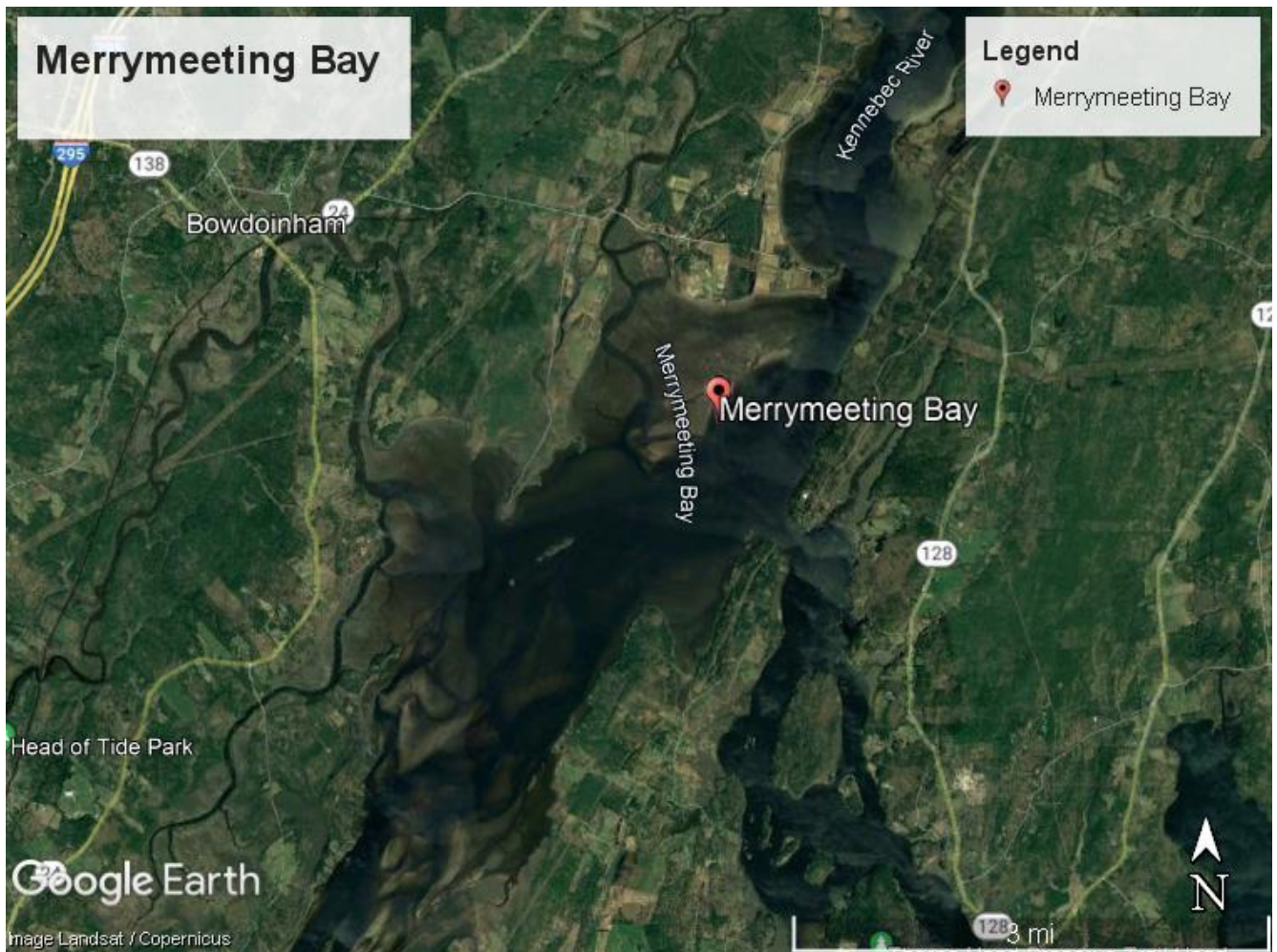




Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
Research, Advocacy, Land Conservation & Education  
[www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org](http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org)

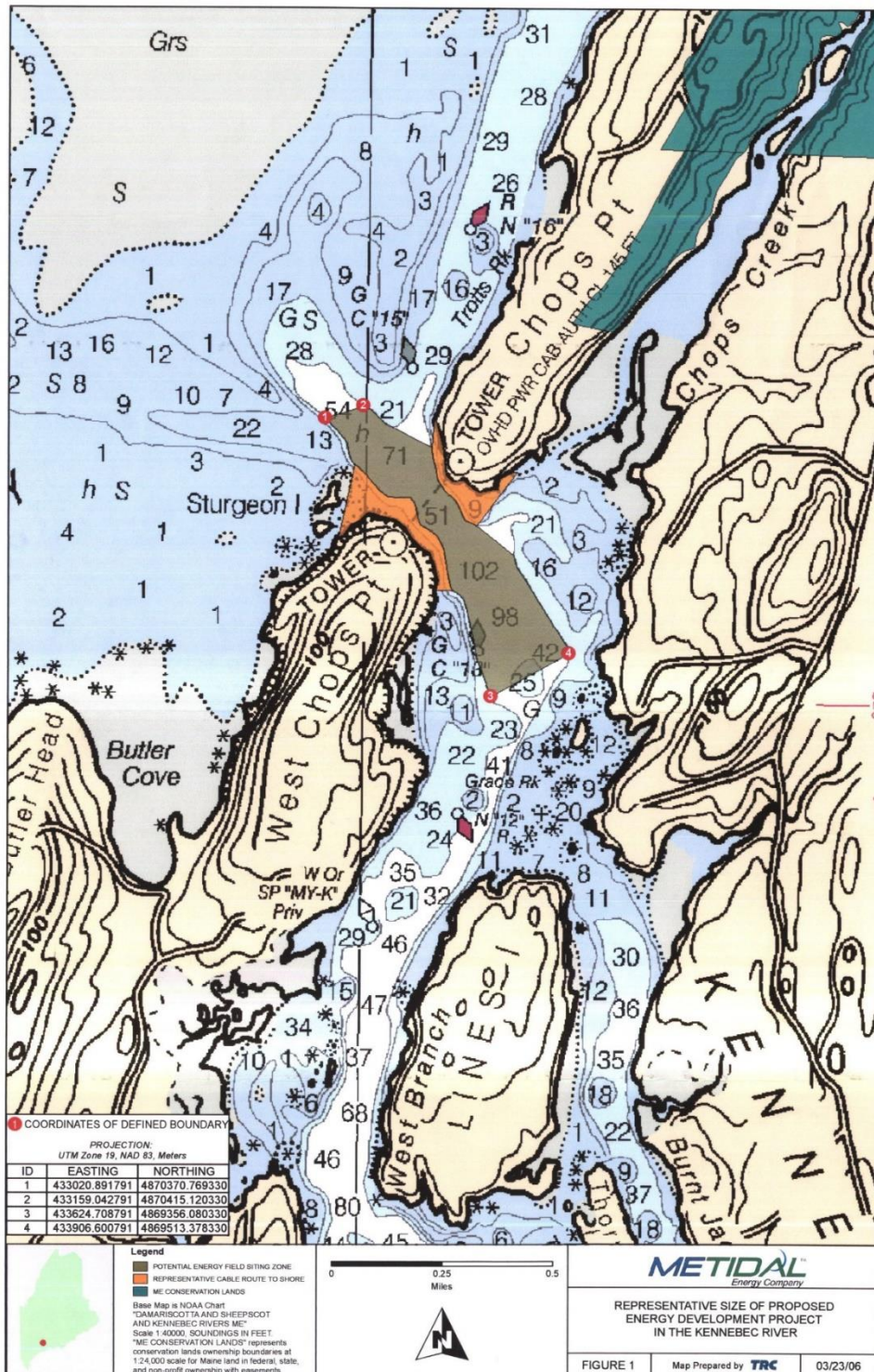


# Merrymeeting Bay Water Channels





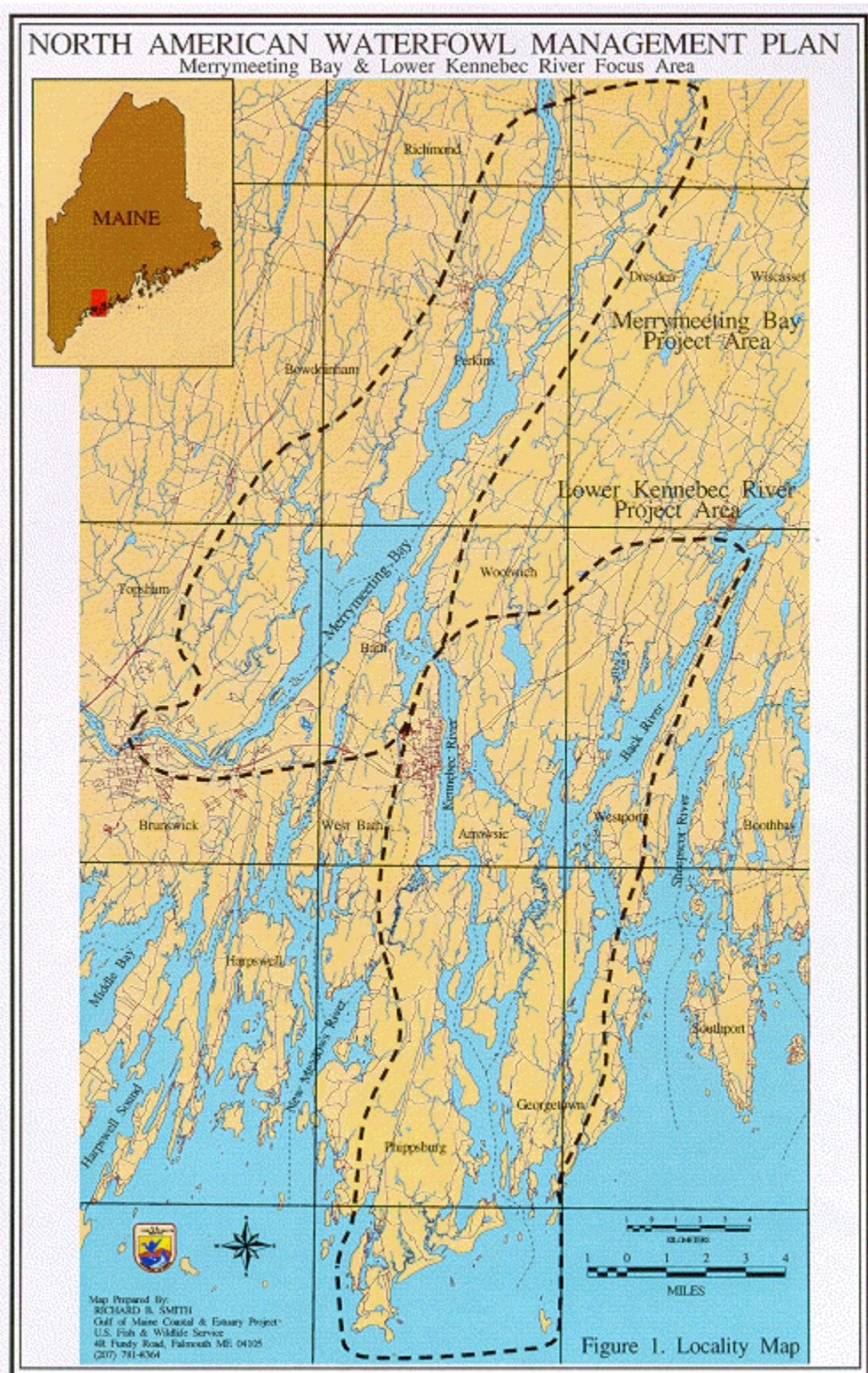
# The "Chops" Bay Outflow



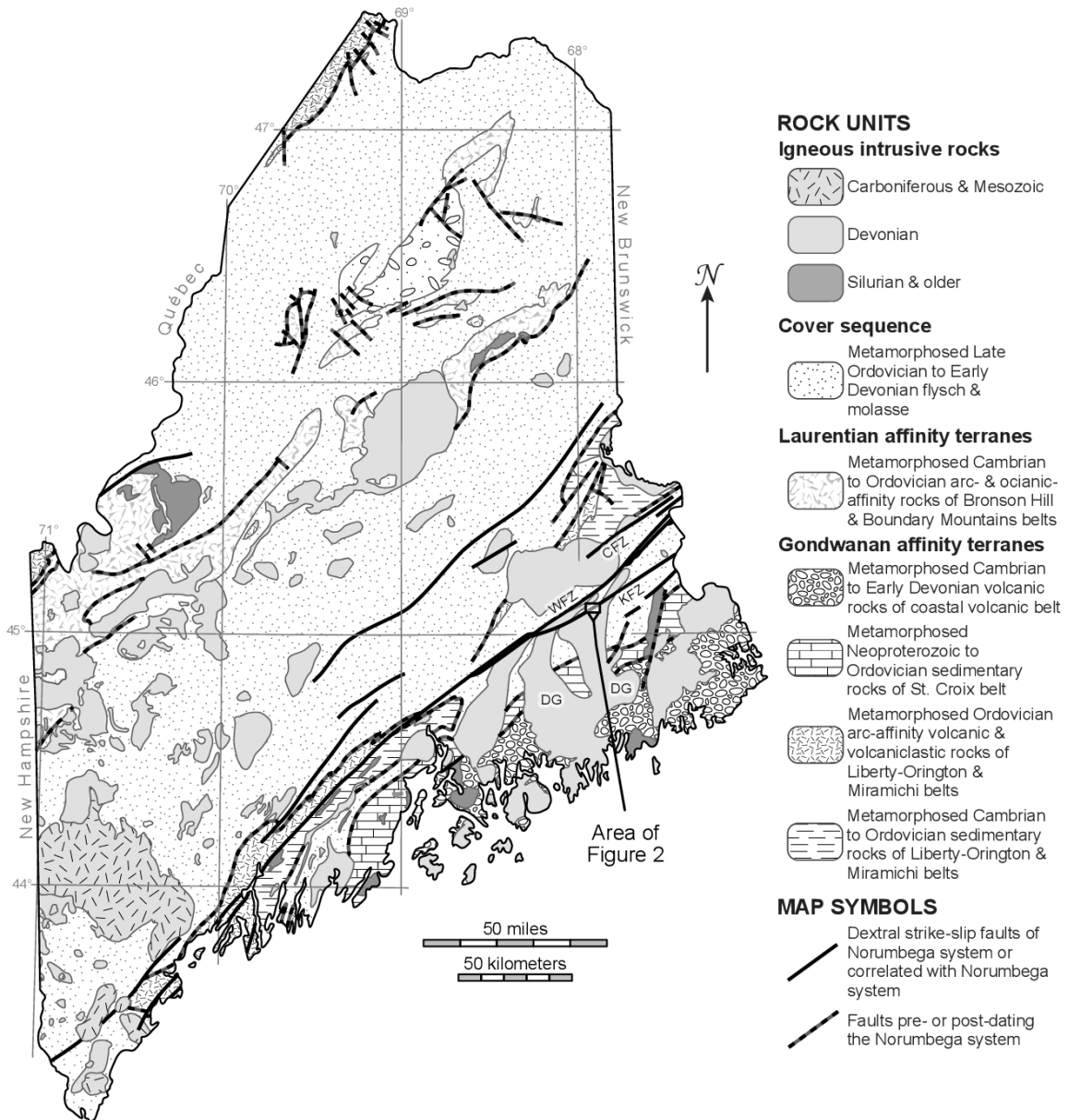
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# Getting Oriented



# Geology



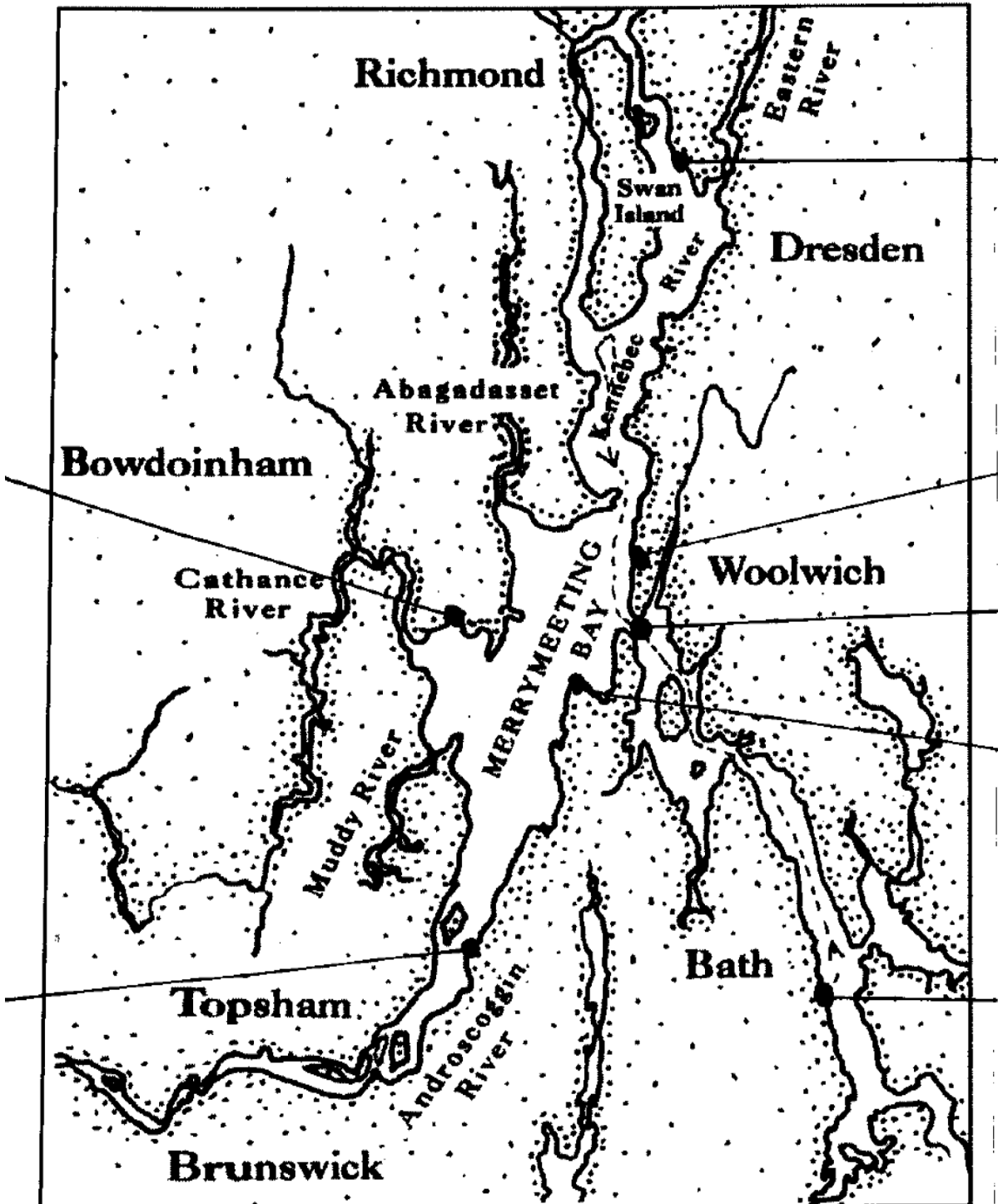


# Atlantic Seaboard Topographical Map

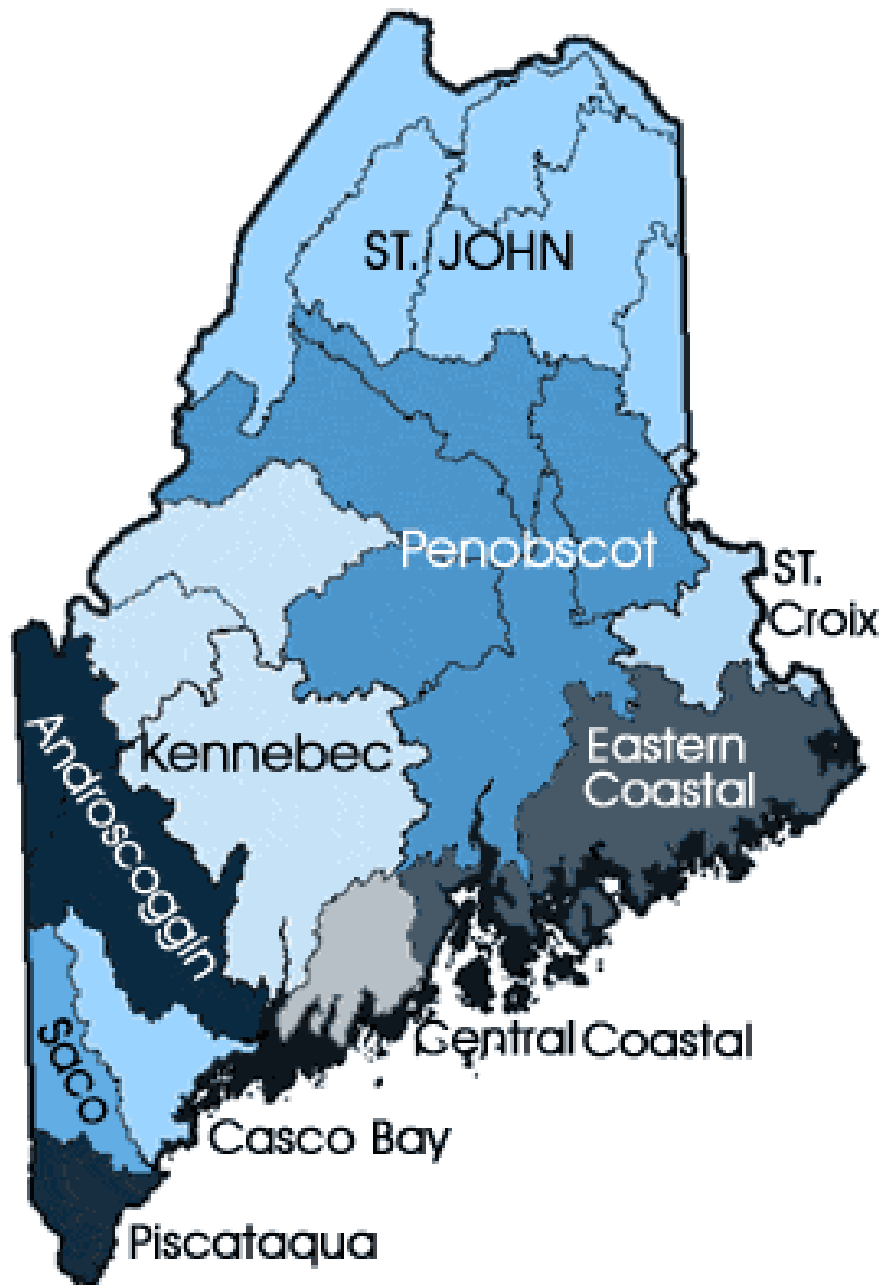




## Five Walks



## Hydrology: Maine Watersheds





# River Trail from Farmington to Merrymeeting Bay

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

## THE STATE OF MAINE HYDROLOGICAL MAP

WATERWAYS BASED ON  
STRAHLER STREAM ORDER



# Why is it called Merrymeeting Bay?

- The name "Merrymeeting Bay" comes from 17th-century English tradition. "[Merry meetings](#)" were a type of festive gathering, similar to May Fairs, where people played games, danced, and often engaged in less restrained behavior, which the Puritans in New England disapproved of.
- Native American names for Merrymeeting Bay include Quabacook, meaning "duck watering place," and Chisapeak, meaning "at the big part of the river," both used by the Abenaki people. The name [Pejepscot](#), which refers to the Androscoggin River, also encompasses the area.
- Frank Burroughs, who wrote a book titled "Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay," wrote that the name "might more plausibly have come from the springtime reunions of trappers and traders, native Americans and Euro-Americans, which would presumably have been as convivial as cheap rum and brandy could make them."





# Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

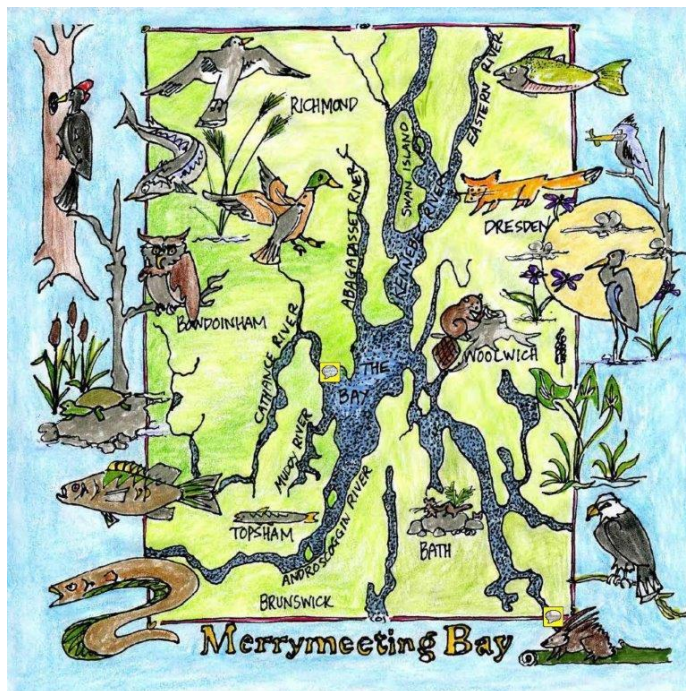


## Mission

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

- Advocacy
- Education

Small nonprofit, only \$20 to join



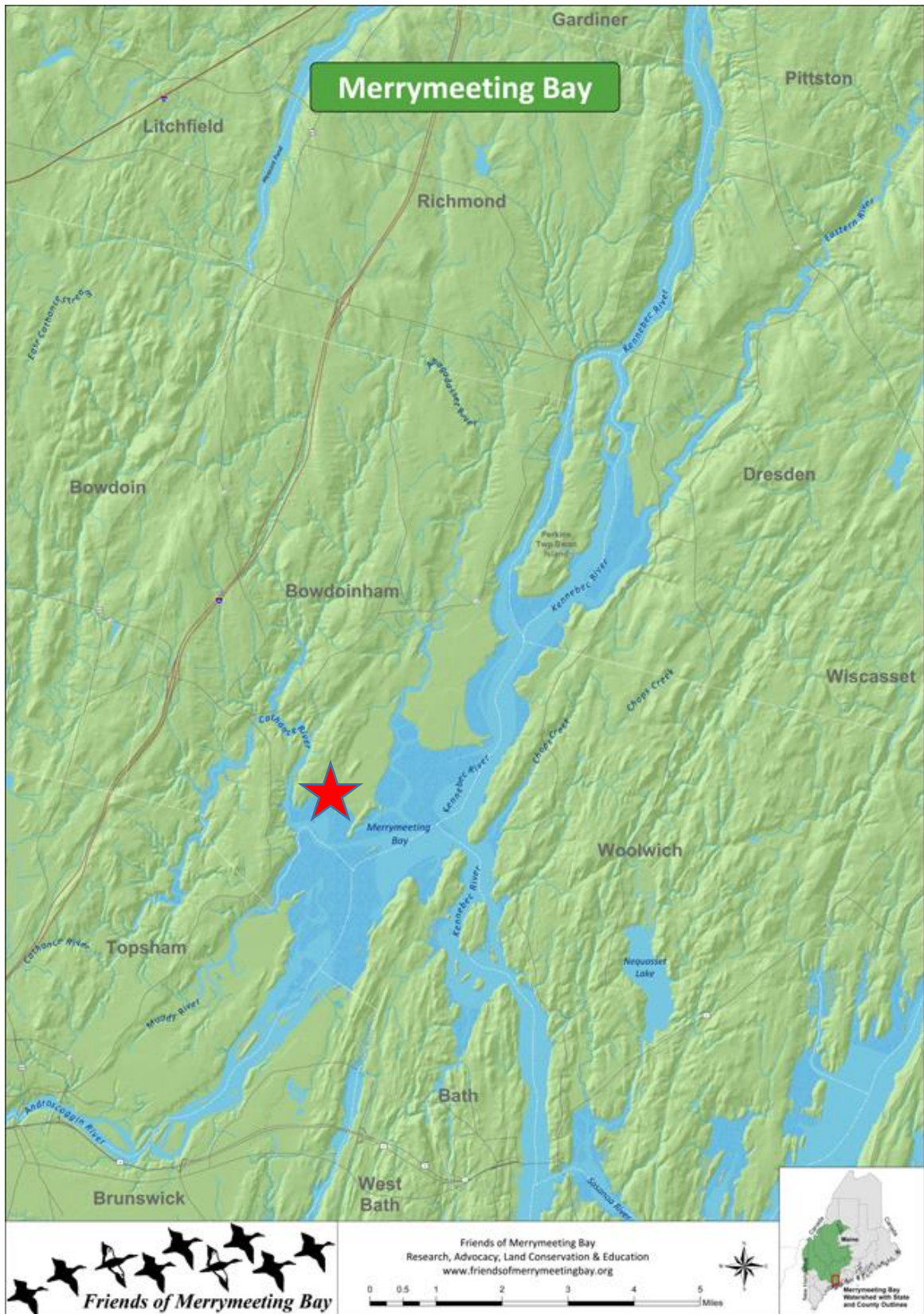
<http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org/>

Merrymeeting Bay Cruise  
[Maine Maritime Museum](#)  
Last of season: October 5, 3.30-6pm, \$55





# 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 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.



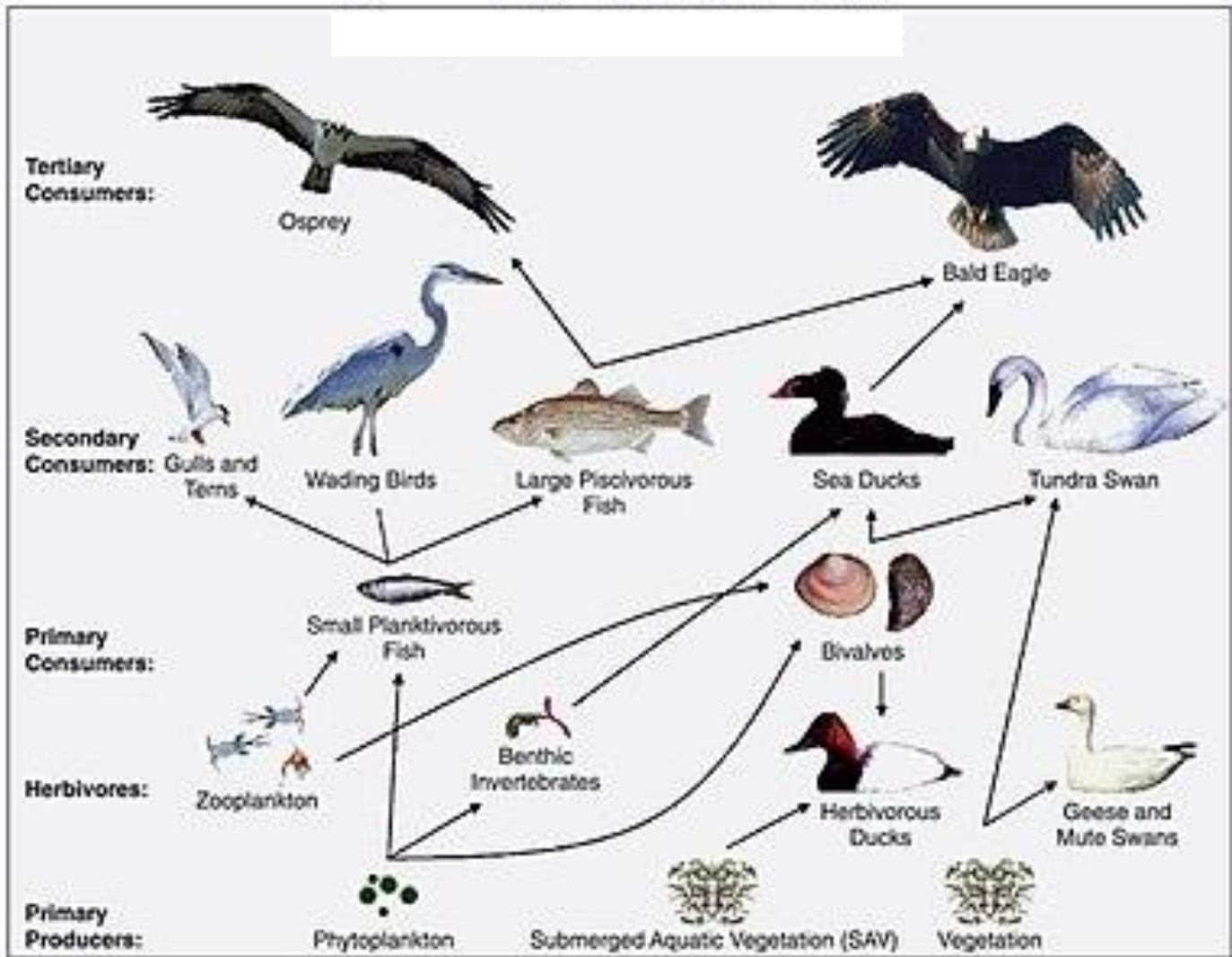
# Mudflats

Scientific Name: [Freshwater Tidal Marsh](#)



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

# Ecosystems: Food Webs





## Fertility of Mudflats



# 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.
- Make your own way (picnic? out to lunch afterward? for exercise? natural history emphasis? sketching, photography, journaling, etc.?)

- 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.