

NEWS RELEASE

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Heds of the Estuaries Partnership Announced

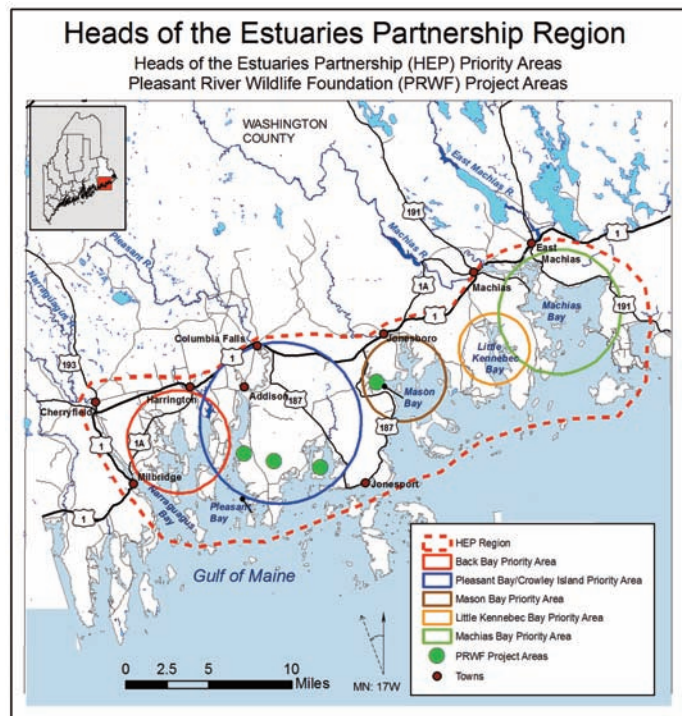
Addison, Maine: Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation announced today the formation of the Heads of the Estuaries Partnership (HEP), a partnership of local and regional land trusts and state and federal agencies working together to protect the important intertidal and adjacent fresh water habitats of southwestern Washington County, Maine. Partnership projects will put a particular emphasis on the needs of waterfowl, notably the American black duck, and of wading birds, shorebirds and woodcock.

To the extent compatible with wildlife habitat protection the Partnership will assure public access to undeveloped land and waters for traditional recreational uses and for clamming and worming.

Representatives from Great Auk Land Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation met today to discuss Partnership priorities. Within the HEP Region, which extends for 31 miles from the mouth of the Narraguagus River northeast to the mouth of the Machias River, five areas of particular importance to the goals of the Partnership were selected for intensive conservation efforts:

- Back Bay, Flat Bay and Harrington River
- Pleasant River salt marshes, Pleasant Bay and the Indian River/Crowley Island estuary
- Mason Bay and Chandler River
- Little Kennebec Bay
- Machias River and East Machias River estuaries, Machias Bay and Holmes Bay

Importantly, the three land trusts decided to submit a grant application to the Land for Maine's Future Program on behalf of the Heads of the Estuaries Partnership in April 2008. Properties on Long Cove, Crowley Island and



Ingersoll Point in Addison as well as properties in Mason Bay in Jonesboro have been selected as possible acquisitions to be funded from an LMF grant. PRWF will undertake the responsibility to write and submit the grant application.

The partners also decided to submit at least one substantial Federal grant application for U.S. Fish and Wildlife support under the National Coastal Wetlands grant program or under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Properties in the Back Bay and Mason Bay areas would be protected if federal funds are awarded. Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation would also be responsible for writing and submitting these applications.

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