

Cultivating Community: Coastal Collaborations for Equitable Climate Survival and Adaptation in Rockland, Maine

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May 12, 2021



Maine Happenings



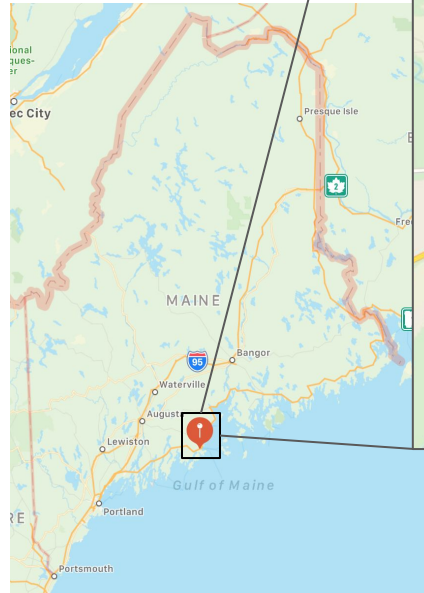
(Sarah Corkum 2020)



(Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions 2020)

Research Question

How can Rockland collaborate with fellow West Penobscot Bay communities to help its people and maritime industries survive and adapt to climate change effects in ways that are as equitable as possible?

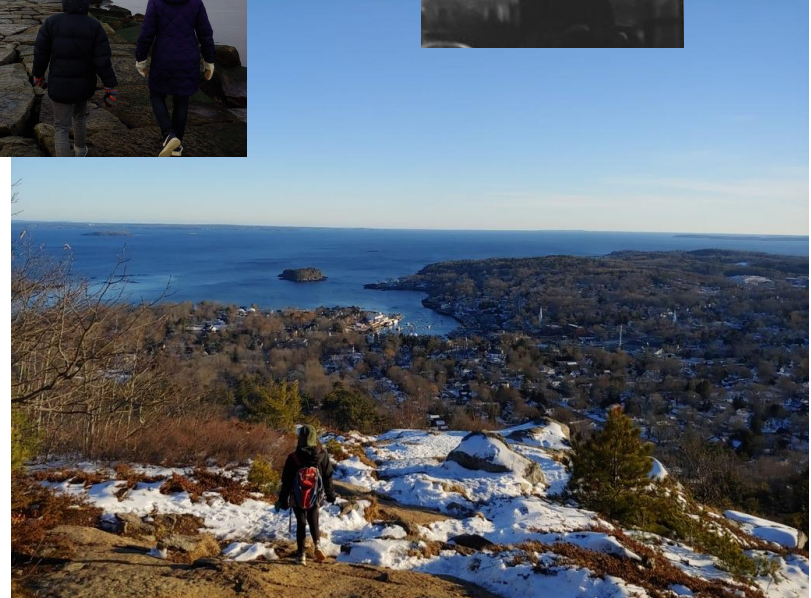


(Google 2020)

A Close-to-Home Case Study



(RSU 13 2021)



What Climate Justice Literature Tells Us

Industrialized nations have greater responsibility remedy effects because higher emissions

Climate change often disproportionately burdens certain groups

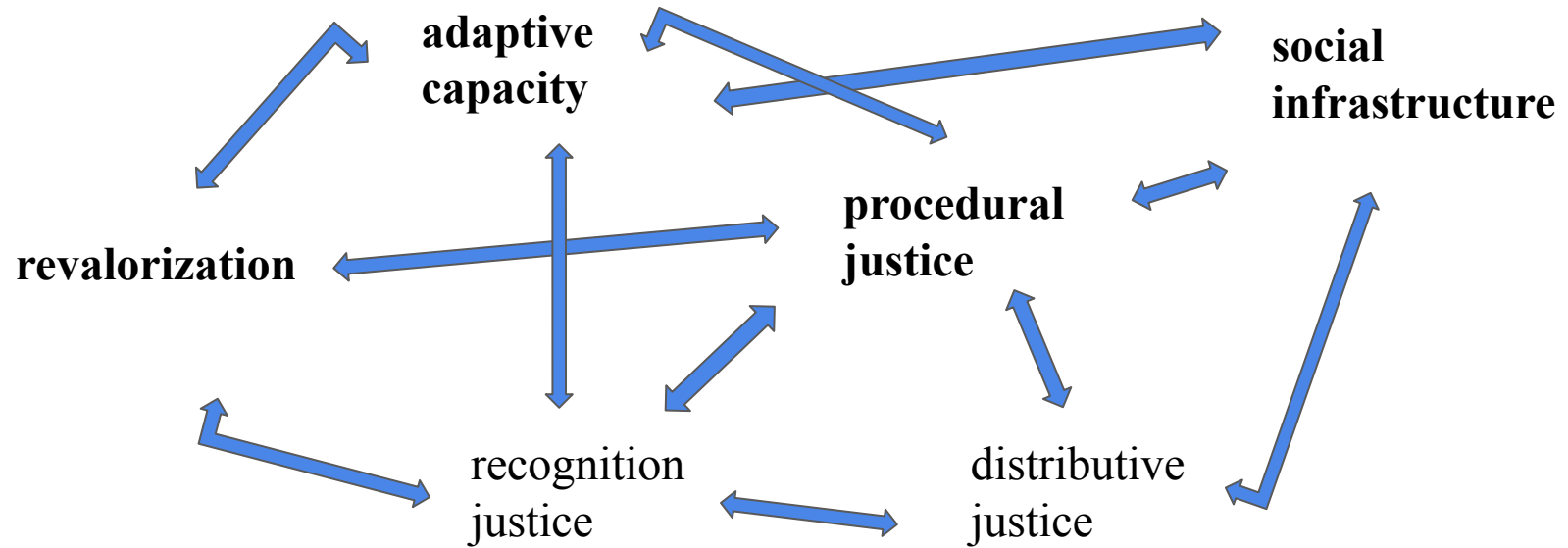
- Indigenous peoples
- Communities of color
- Low-wealth communities

Exacerbates successive axes of previous and ongoing inequality, decreasing capacity

Occurs across extensive spatial, temporal, cultural scales, reducing accountability

(Klinsky and Mavrogianni 2020, 413-14; Agarwal and Narain 1991, 39; Schapper 2018, 280; Islam and Winkel 2017, 2; Nixon 2011, 220)

Consider This: A Few Climate Justice Theories



(Fulkerson and Thomas 2019, 147; Adger et al. 2005, 1038; Sherrieb, Norris, and Galea 2010, 419; Fraser 2001, 40; Klinsky and Mavrogianni 2020, 419; Klinenberg 2018, 5; Young 1990, 22-23)

Methods and Materials

West Penobscot Bay community members

Midcoast organizations

- Island Institute
- Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
- Herring Gut Learning Center
- Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership
- Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Themes (called nodes)

Nodes				
	Name	Files	References	
[-]	Adaptive capacity		23	123
	Physical infrastructure		9	24
	Social infrastructure		23	87
[-]	Procedural justice		22	88
	Collaboration		13	21
	Communication		15	46
	Revalorization		18	59

Physical Infrastructure? Yes, AND Social Infrastructure



	A: Physical infrastructure ▼	B: Social infrastructure ▼	C: Revalorization ▼
1: Collaboration ▼	1	14	8
2: Communication ▼	1	30	15

35 most frequent root words

Communication and social infrastructure (30)

Communication and revalorization (15)

Collaboration and revalorization (8)

Physical infrastructure → social infrastructure

Maritime People and Industries: Food Security

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many weaknesses within the nation’s food system, but the most glaring to many in Maine was the fact that there are fish in the ocean, *fishermen* looking to work, and *hungry people* who are not able to get access to food” (Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association 2021).

Social Infrastructure: Education

“It's dozens, literally dozens and dozens of families pay to have their kids go to Camden and the *other public schools* seven miles down the street. That's insane to me, that you can get a school system of the families that are able, that are financially able, to be in that position. It's a bit of a shame.”

Regional Collaboration: Resources

“I think it would be a good idea if there was a way for there to be *joint communication and collaboration* in terms of seeking grant money, in terms of perhaps hiring people if that's what's required, spread out the resources amongst other neighboring communities so that we can have something that's a little more *unified* rather than segmented by each individual community.”

Community Suggestions for Community Climate Survival and Adaptation

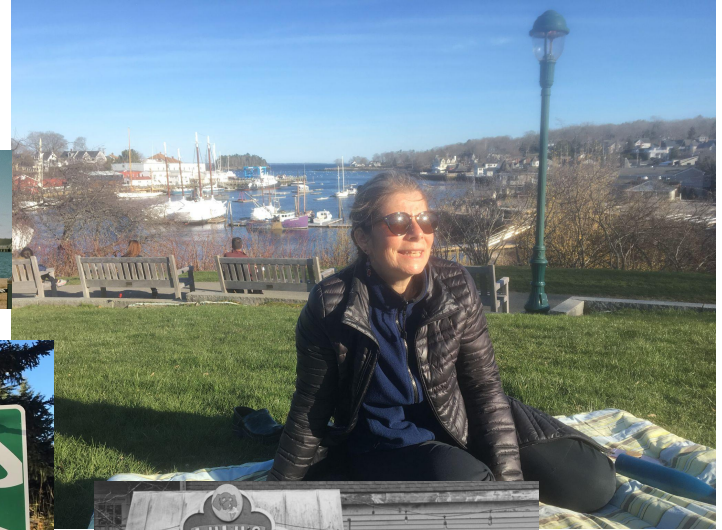
Celebrate Maritime People, Industries, and Histories	Bolster Social and Physical Infrastructure	Co-hire a Regional Coordinator and Grant Writer
Make decisions that are guided by maritime people and industry expertise	Create more property owner protections and affordable housing to address gentrification	Share knowledge and resources with regional communities, businesses, and organizations
Install harbor and downtown signs that honor Native Americans, coastal heritage, and maritime community contributions	Invest in students, teachers, and school programs to improve educational offerings and raise RSU 13 retention rates	Communicate clear information to public, diversify outreach strategies, and broaden community input
Prioritize year-round taxpayers and be wary of aggressive entities with big money	Provide technical support to expand broadband, especially to rural locations	Form committee or regional planning board to designate responsibility and leadership
Partner with local fisheries, farmers, restaurants, and distributors to support small businesses and help secure healthy food for community	Prohibit vehicles from driving near Harbor Trail to increase safety and build more public restrooms to boost functionality, access, and user-friendliness	Collaborate with businesses and organizations to better direct community members and visitors towards waterfront properties and services

Some Personal Resonances

RSU 13 and photo class

Harbor Trail

Neighboring towns for picnics



(Maine Trail Finder 2021)



But Are They Equitable?

Equity Primer for Reflecting on Possible Benefits and Burdens of Community Suggestions

A. Social impacts

1. Wealth – any significant changes that might affect wealth of target populations/participants?
2. Health – any positive or negative health effects?
3. Accessibility – any improvements or reductions in access to services?

B. Types of vulnerable populations

1. Financial vulnerabilities – How might this suggestion impact low-income populations?
2. Social/demographic vulnerabilities – How might this suggestion impact Maine Tribal citizens, Indigenous people, people of color, retired people, youth, people with limited English proficiency, people formerly incarcerated, LGBTQ+ people, recent immigrants, undocumented people, homeless people, people with disabilities, and/or people with ongoing health concerns?
3. Geographic vulnerabilities – How might this suggestion impact rural populations, those living in proximity to Rockland's waterfront, those dependent on natural resources, and/or those living seasonally in Rockland or elsewhere in the West Penobscot Bay region?

C. Participation and inclusion

1. Who? – Who/what groups/publics might be impacted by this suggestion?
2. Quality? – Does this suggestion provide opportunity for authentic and meaningful participation? When might groups/publics be engaged and how long might potential engagement endure?

(modified from Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions 2020)

Where Do We Go From Here?

Broaden ideas of community and climate adaptation



THANK YOU :)

Midcoast Maine participants and organizations

Maine Climate Change Adaptation Providers Network

Bowdoin College McKeen Center's Ladd Fund for Community-Engaged Learning

Dr. Eileen Sylvan Johnson

Dr. Phil Camill and Dr. Matthew Klinge

Dr. Shana Starobin and Dr. Shreyas Sreenath

Mom, supporters, and friends

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