

Who Should Attend?

- Ambassadors from classes participating in *Seagrasses in Classes* (6-12th Grade)
- Former Young Environmental Leaders Program participants (6th –12th Grades) to serve as Mentors, as Student Department of Marine Resources members, on the Student Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, and on the on the Student Scientists Panel
- Teachers of participating students with chaperones or teacher aides as necessary
- Community Stakeholder Representatives

How to Register

Teachers may register student ambassadors, presenters, and mentors, and nominate students to serve on the student DMR and student JSCMR at the following url:

<https://mdibl.wufoo.com/forms/student-marine-science-symposium-2013/>

We Need Help

We need community members to represent stakeholder groups interested in sustainable seaweed resources. The groups we would like to have represented are listed below with questions that the students will have for each.

Climate Scientists: What factors influence seaweed resilience to climate change?

Seaweed Biologists: What do we know about seaweed biology and resilience of seaweed to disturbance?

Harvesters: What is a reasonable limit to set on harvesting seaweeds?

Land Owners: What are your concerns regarding seaweed harvesting in the waters near your property?

Department of Marine Resources: What do we currently understand about seaweed harvesting? How sustainable is it?

Those interested in representing one of these stakeholder groups can contact Jordan Bailey at jbailey@mdibl.org or (207) 610-4200.

Student Marine Science Symposium: *Coastal Marine Habitats and Climate Change* May 14, 2013



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Agenda

7:30 Arrival and poster set-up

8:30 Field Studies: *Rockweed and Bladderwrack Phenology* with Dr. Jessica Muhlin, Maine Maritime Academy

9:00 Late arrival and set-up

9:30 Presentations by scientists

10:15 Poster session

11:00 Student presentations with Q&A by student scientist panel

11:30 LUNCH

Seaweed Harvesting Management Plan
Mock Public Hearing

12:15 Students prepare statements with community stakeholder representatives

12:45 Hearing

1:20 Student DMR deliberations and evaluations

1:40 Student DMR presentation, committee vote, and closing celebration

2:00 Return to schools

The symposium is sponsored by the EPA and the Hattie A. and Fred C. Lynam Trust.

Another Coastal Habitat

Student participants in the *Seagrasses in Classes* program have been studying eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) this spring and will be sharing their work through a poster session and presentations, some involving the effects of climate change on eelgrass. The rest of the symposium will focus on another important marine habitat: the familiar seaweeds Rockweed (*Ascophyllum*) and Bladderwrack (*Fucus*).



At low tide, students will learn from a seaweed biologist about these seaweeds' reproductive cycles and seasonal changes and about ways phenology data are used to track effects of climate change.

Rockweed is an increasingly important marine resource which means different things to different people, from harvesters to land owners to biologists and climate scientists. Harvesters and biologists have been studying the effects of harvesting on growth and have helped to inform the regulations that are in place to maintain a sustainable biomass. But there are more questions that need to be considered in managing this resource.

A new bill has been proposed which would require the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) commissioner to develop a statewide approach to seaweed harvest management and to present this plan to the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources (JSCMR) before Jan. 14, 2014.

Mock Public Hearing

By playing out the scenario proposed in this bill, students will grapple with the economic and ecological aspects of the rockweed question that is now facing our state legislature and learn how to use the data available to make decisions.

In small groups, students will speak with community representatives of stakeholder groups about the provisions they would like to see in a rockweed management plan. Each group will prepare a statement to present to students representing the DMR. The student DMR will deliberate and then present an inclusive plan to students representing the JSCMR. If approved, the plan will later be sent to the Maine Department of Marine Resources for consideration in its development of a statewide management plan.



Students at the 2011 Eelgrass Summit meet with Town Planner, Anne Krieg.

The symposium will end with a closing celebration.

*Clipart courtesy FCIT <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>