

Marine Resources

Introduction:

Dresden has two rivers that split the Town almost in half. The Eastern and Kennebec Rivers are brackish to fresh, with numerous species of fish and wildlife. Some of the fish species are indigenous and some are invasive. There is also the Dresden Bog, a wildlife preserve that ties / empties into the Eastern River.

Analysis & Key Issues:

Fishery Resource and Water Quality

Water quality is watched and monitored on the Eastern and Kennebec Rivers and in the Dresden Bog. Water quality tests of the rivers are done by the State of Maine Department of (DMR). The Dresden Bog is maintained by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW).

Dresden has no industry and is a farming community. Pollution plans are in place by the Clean Water Act, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The Kennebec Restoration Project which is run by Maine DMR.

Maine DMR requests a harvest plan for Alewife and harvest reports to maintain sustainability in the Alewife Fishery. River Smelt and Elver Fisheries have also submitted harvest data and reports.

There are a number of invasive species, such as White Catfish and Carp, that should be targeted for harvest.

Coastal Land Use

There has been a reasonable balance of commercial and recreational use in Dresden for a number of years. This balance has tipped to more recreational use in the Summer time. The commercial fisheries are doing well in the Winter and Spring times, which has worked well for the past few decades.

Harbor Management:

There is a need to dredge or remove the Breakwater Works Project from the 1930's. This has caused severe silting in the Eastern River and does not allow the river to flush itself, thus leaving it muddy year-round.

The study done by ME DEP, "The Turbidity of the Eastern River", recommends the removal of the Breakwater. This will help with habitat restoration of the Eastern River.

Coastal Access:

There is adequate access for Dresden commercial fishermen. There is no aquaculture and there is access for recreational use. There are no projections for the future use. There is parking for marine services and opportunities for improved access have been provided through private initiative and should continue on that course, as it has worked since the founding of Dresden.

Conditions and Trends:

The current and future conditions and trends are addressed by the Dresden Land Use Ordinances. Site planning and inventory are on Dresden land use maps, which are updated frequently. These maps show all access points. There are no public ramps or facilities currently in Dresden. However, a site inventory of scenic access points along the shoreline are addressed, (see Dresden Shoreland Zoning Maps).

Policies:

Town of Dresden to maintain good land use policies to protect water quality, which is addressed in current land use ordinances and continue to work with Maine DEP and Maine DMR.

Dresden should put together a team to work with Army Corps of Engineers to remove the Breakwater and allow for a free flowing Eastern River, continue to maintain shoreland zone policies that are in the best interest of the Town of Dresden.

Strategies:

1. Work on removal of Breakwater at the end of Eastern River.

Time Frame: Start

Continue until removal* This will take some time.

2. Encourage Town Selectmen to keep looking for a site for a public boat ramp; if property becomes for sale, try to purchase it.

Time Frame: On-going

3. Encourage good stewardship among Land Owners, Trusts and Other Groups.

Time Frame: On-going

4. Work to get marinas and services on Rivers for benefit of all.

Time Frame: On-going