

PUBLIC NOTICE: APPROVAL OF ROUTINE PROGRAM CHANGES TO THE MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

This notice is issued to inform the general public, affected persons, local governments, and state and federal agencies of approval by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management (NOAA) of routine program changes to the Maine Coastal Program. Approved by NOAA in 1978 as provided by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the Maine Coastal Program (MCP) is based on state environmental statutes and associated state agency rules, which are sometimes referred to as its core laws and provide the MCP's enforceable policies and program administration-related authorities.

NOAA must approve changes to the Maine Coastal Program and its enforceable policies. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning (DACF) keeps the MCP up-to-date by periodically submitting for NOAA's review and approval amendments to the core laws. In January 2016, DACF submitted to NOAA for review and approval as enforceable policies and tools to improve administration and implementation of the Program a number of changes to chapter 10 of the rules administered by the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) which provide the land use districts and standards for Maine's unorganized and deorganized areas. These changes concern: exceptions to dimensional requirements for public recreation facilities; non-conforming uses and structures; revegetation standards for recreational lodging facilities; designation of areas of cultural or special significance; recreational gold prospecting; conformity to the state Natural Resources Protection Act; and technical changes to the LUPC's rules regarding subdivisions. Chapter 10, as amended by these changes, may be viewed on-line at: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/01/chaps01.htm>.

On February 29, 2016, NOAA issued its letter approving all of the above-noted LUPC rule changes as routine program changes to the Maine Coastal Program. A copy of NOAA's approval letter may be downloaded here - http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mcp/federal_consistency_review/index.htm#programchanges. As of March 2, 2016, these changes may be used, as applicable, as enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program.

For additional information about this notice, contact Aline Smith, Maine Coastal Program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning, 93 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333; (207) 287-2801.

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