

# Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

## Graduate/Research Assistant Position

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*Winter / Spring 2012*

The [Casco Bay Estuary Partnership](#) (CBEP) is one of 28 National Estuary Programs across the nation. Our mission is to protect and restore the water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat of the Casco Bay ecosystem, while ensuring compatible human uses. CBEP is housed within the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

CBEP has an immediate opening for a graduate assistant working as a research assistant, approximately 10 hours per week between now and May 2012. The successful applicant will work initially in support of a project on financing of stormwater and CSO remediation programs in Portland.

The City of Portland is exploring the possibility of establishing a new mechanism for funding the City's stormwater management programs and remediation of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The funding mechanism would shift a portion of the costs of paying for these programs away from sewer fees and general tax revenues and towards a fee based on the stormwater generated on private lands. A key component of the public discussion of this fee will hinge on its magnitude, which depends on future cost of stormwater and sewer system upgrades. The City (through their consultants) has developed estimates of those costs, but public acceptance of such estimates will be enhanced if they are reviewed carefully by outside organizations. CBEP has committed to assist in such a review

Once that project is completed, the successful applicant will support other CBEP projects, depending on the graduate assistant's expertise and evolving organizational needs. Some potential projects include:

- (1) Over 120 sites in and around Casco Bay contain salt marshes crossed by roads, railroads or other structures. CBEP is developing tools to prioritize environmental restoration projects among those sites.
- (2) CBEP is leading an effort to identify land conservation priorities in the lower Presumpscot Watershed.
- (3) CBEP is developing a web site to facilitate communication among researchers working on water circulation in Casco Bay and potential users of information on water movement patterns.

Given the scope of these projects, CBEP is especially interested in hiring a Graduate Assistant with quantitative, financial or relevant scientific background. The rate of pay is \$15.00/hour.

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