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Scientists and Professionals Tackle Marine Bio-Invasers in Maine Waters

Portland, ME – On Wednesday, May 5, the Casco Bay Estuary Project and Maine Sea Grant will host a public educational forum on marine invasive species as part of the University of Southern Maine's Gloria S. Duclos Convocation on Environmental Sustainability. The forum, *Maine's Marine Invasion: The Impact of Non-Native and Other Invasive Species on Maine's Coastal Ecosystems*, will bring scientists, managers and other marine professionals together with the public to consider how bio-invasers get into Maine waters, what species are here already, and ways to prevent new invasions. Experts will present the results of an August 2003 survey to identify marine invasive species in Casco Bay and ports south throughout New England. The forum will also feature presentations on organisms like the Asian shore crab and Dead Man's Fingers, as well as case studies from Maine and Massachusetts on efforts to manage marine invasions. This forum is intended to be a first step in developing a statewide strategy for addressing marine invasive species issues in Maine.

Speakers for the workshop include Robin Hadlock Seeley of Cornell University; Judith Pederson of MIT Sea Grant College Program; L. David Smith of Smith College; John Sowles of the Maine Department of Marine Resources; Robert Whitlatch of the University of Connecticut, and Jay Baker and Megan Tyrrell of Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management;

More information about the forum is available at www.seagrant.umaine.edu or www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu.

Sponsors of the *Maine's Marine Invasion* forum include the Casco Bay Estuary Project, Maine Sea Grant Program, and the University of Southern Maine Gloria S. Duclos Convocation

on Environmental Sustainability. Partners include the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Maine Coastal Program/Maine State Planning Office, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, MIT Sea Grant College Program, The Ocean Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Cornell University.

The Casco Bay Estuary Project supports cooperative efforts to protect and restore the health of the Casco Bay ecosystem, while insuring compatible human uses through effective management and stewardship. The CBEP is hosted and administered by the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine and the Marine Law Institute of the University of Maine School of Law.