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## **New Threats Identified in Casco Bay Plan Update**

The *Casco Bay Plan*, which has guided the work of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) and other organizations working to protect the Bay including Friends of Casco Bay, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, state agencies, municipalities and numerous others, is getting an overhaul. “After ten years, it was time to step back and take a look at our direction and the plan that guides us” said Karen Young, CBEP Director. “Nine years of implementation of the original *Plan* have resulted in a remarkable amount of progress toward restoration and protection of the bay; however, new issues and threats to the bay have emerged since the original *Plan* was developed” continued Young.

Three new issues have been proposed for inclusion in the updated Plan – marine invasive species, low impact development techniques to address pollution from stormwater runoff, and so-called ‘emerging contaminants’ which are pollutants such as caffeine and hormones that get into our waters through the use of personal care products, medications, and other manufactured items. Young notes that “These three issue areas are not new problems – they have been around for decades. The significance of these issues, however, is only recently becoming clear and there is new urgency to address them.”

Public Comments on the “DRAFT 2005 *Casco Bay Plan Update*” are invited and will be accepted until January 13, 2006. The Update document is available on the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership website, [www.cascobayestuary.org](http://www.cascobayestuary.org) or hard copies of both the original *Plan* and the Update may be requested by calling 207-228-8593 or [cbep@usm.maine.edu](mailto:cbep@usm.maine.edu).

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, part of the USM Muskie School, promotes public stewardship and effective management of the Casco Bay ecosystem as well as awarding grants to local environmental organizations.

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