

Section V. Implementation Plan

Section Overview

Throughout the planning process, community participants made clear their support for establishing a permanent framework to implement the resource management plan. This strongly felt recommendation was in recognition of the breadth of issues and actions involved in the long-term management of the Bay. Without a defined organizational structure, the various public and private interests which need to coordinate around shared goals and actions for the Bay would continue to operate separately, and potentially at cross purposes. The importance of setting forth a clearly defined implementation framework is also indicated in the guidelines for developing a resource management plan issued by EOE.

This section describes the proposed framework to implement the recommendations of the resource management plan. The proposed framework consists of an organizational structure, an action plan indicating priorities, and a resource plan reflecting the needs generated by the action plan. A number of optional approaches to implementation were evaluated for their applicability to an on-going four-town management effort. The proposed framework has been drawn from some of the successes in other communities, as well as the experience gained through the process of developing the resource management plan.

A clearly defined purpose guided the development of the implementation plan. It is to provide a framework that would enable the towns to work together to sustain the resources of Pleasant Bay. This purpose encompasses three important objectives:

- to ensure long-term inter-municipal cooperation,
- to make efficient use of existing resources, and
- to implement the recommendations of the plan to the maximum extent possible.

Meeting these objectives required that the implementation structure be permanent, and that it coordinate, and not compete with or duplicate, existing town regulatory and planning organizations. From this conceptual understanding, the implementation framework was further shaped by the necessary functions it would serve. These functions include:

- conducting research,
- harmonizing each towns' respective regulatory and planning functions with the plan's findings and recommendations,
- engaging citizens and private organizations through outreach, public education, and on-going community involvement activities,
- convening financial and technical resources needed to implement the plan,
- monitoring results, and

- coordinating with the towns on the on-going enforcement of all applicable policies and regulations in place to sustain resources.

The following chapters examine the components of the implementation framework. Chapter 14 describes the proposed organizational structure, Chapter 15 describes the action plan for implementing specific recommendations, and Chapter 16 discusses the resources needed to implement the plan in the immediate-, intermediate-, and long- term.