

A SURVEY ABOUT THE DAMARISCOTTA RIVER AND JOHNS BAY

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY FOR?

This survey asks for your opinions regarding economic, environmental and cultural conditions affecting the Damariscotta River including Johns Bay. It is part of an ongoing effort to identify current and potential balances and imbalances being experienced by users of this public resource and to inform future planning by DRA and others. The goal is to ensure an approach that balances uses as demands increase and to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

WE NEED YOUR OPINION!

Your survey responses are important. The River is your resource and your opinion will guide the discussion by defining pressing issues, telling us how people in our communities use and care about the Damariscotta River and Johns Bay. What concerns and priorities do you have for the River's future? You do not need to reside in an adjacent town to participate. We encourage you to provide additional written comments in the section provided at the end of this survey.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

It will take **15-20** minutes to complete.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY ANSWERS?

Your responses and identity will remain confidential. Results produced from an analysis of all of the surveys will be shared through the local media, on the DRA web site and at a public meeting in 2008.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS SURVEY?

The Damariscotta River Association is conducting this survey, in collaboration with Maine Sea Grant and the Gulf of Maine Foundation is conducting this survey.

AREA BEING ADDRESSED BY THIS SURVEY:

For the purpose of this survey, the area covered runs from the Great Salt Bay out to Thrumcap Island, Inner Heron Island, Reeds Island, and all of Johns Bay. The towns adjacent to this area include Damariscotta, Newcastle, Nobleboro, Edgecomb, Walpole, Bristol, South Bristol, East Boothbay, and Pemaquid.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to fill out this survey.

THANK YOU!

Please return your completed survey to:

The Damariscotta River Association

P.O. Box 333

Damariscotta, Maine 04543



If you would like to learn more about this survey, please call (207) 563-1393 or e-mail Markdesmeules@draclt.org. We welcome anyone who would like to be more involved in this process, such as serving on the survey response review committee.

*** If you have already completed this survey, please do not fill out another one.

It is important that we get only one survey per person! ****

SECTION I: IMPORTANCE – PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER FROM THE CHOICES BELOW.

1. Do you think the Damariscotta River and John’s Bay are important to the area’s economic health?
yes no don’t know

2. Do you feel the Damariscotta River and John’s Bay are an important part of the region’s history and cultural heritage?
yes no don’t know

3. Do you get some of your family income from the Damariscotta River/John’s Bay products or assets (waterfront real estate, seafood, tourism, marine commerce, other)?
yes no don’t know

SECTION II: HOW ADEQUATE IS THE OVERALL PROTECTION OF THE DAMARISCOTTA RIVER AND JOHNS BAY, INCLUDING PUBLIC ACCESS?

4. Overall, do you think that there is enough public land set aside in the survey area to support wildlife and provide areas for hiking and other public land uses? (*Circle one choice*)
yes no don’t know

5. Is there enough public access to the water for those who wish to enjoy this coastal resource? (*Circle one choice*)
yes no don’t know

6. Is there enough commercial access to the water for those who make their living from the sea? (*Circle one choice*)
yes no don’t know

7. Do you feel that Shoreland Zoning is a reasonable tool for protecting our shoreline? (*Circle one choice*)
yes no don’t know

8. Is Shoreland Zoning adequately enforced?
yes no don’t know

SECTION III: WATER QUALITY

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
9. The health of our local economy is dependent upon clean water in the Damariscotta River and Johns Bay.						
10. Do you feel that our waters remain vulnerable to spills and carelessness disposal actions.						
11. Should there be a rapid response plan to address spills or other potentially harmful events?						

12. Is the environmental health of the Damariscotta River and John’s Bay (circle one choice)

Excellent good fair poor no opinion

13. How would you describe the current health of the Damariscotta River/John’s Bay overall? (Circle one choice)

Excellent good fair poor no opinion

14. Please explain why you give this rating in the space below.

SECTION IV: USE AND CAPACITY

15. Considering the current uses of The Damariscotta River and Johns Bay and its coastline, check those which you most agree with.

- a.) There are currently significant use conflicts
- b.) There are no significant use conflicts
- c.) A plan for the River and John’s Bay will help to minimize future conflict.
- d.) no opinion

If you selected (a) indicating there are currently conflicts, please indicate below the nature of these conflicts and indicate if you feel they are well managed or not well managed.

16. For each category below, do you think current levels in the Damariscotta River and Johns Bay are too high, too low, or about right? (Circle one answer for each category below and circle DR if this pertains to the Damariscotta River or JB if it pertains to Johns Bay or both.)

Development	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Tourism	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Recreational boating	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Recreational fishing, clamming, etc.	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Commercial fishing/harvesting	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Land conservation	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Aquaculture	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Historical preservation	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Regulations on fishing/aquaculture industries	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Pollution/environmental regulations	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB
Scientific research on Muscongus Bay	too low	about right	too high	don't know	DR	JB

SECTION V: PLANNING AHEAD

17. Which topics do you think are the most important to be addressed in the next five years?	Please Rate (1 = highest priority; 5=not a priority)					
Pollution (including what washes off the land such as: oil, fertilizers, trash, dirt, pesticides; <i>and</i> what comes from specific sources such as: sewage plants, manufacturing, marinas, farms, ships.)	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Commercial fishing and keeping it sustainable (e.g. lobsters, scallops, clams, urchins, worms, elvers, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Shellfish aquaculture	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Growth and land development	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Shoreline and waterfront access	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Establishing a plan to ensuring that issues relating to inshore public waters and demand for various uses are addressed fairly and responsibly.	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Habitat health (beaches, estuaries, mudflats, eelgrass beds, seabird islands, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Tourism and recreational uses	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion
Other (Please specify)	1	2	3	4	5	No opinion

What comments would you like to make regarding any of your answers in this survey?

Please provide the following information about who you are:

Full Time Resident summer resident visitor to the area commercial fisherman recreational user
Involved commercially in aquaculture

Please mail your completed survey to:

*The Damariscotta River Association
P.O. Box 333
Damariscotta, ME 04543*



THANK YOU!

