

## Working Waterfront Resiliency Grants

Six applications from Harpswell totaling \$1,183,445 have received preliminary approval from the Maine Working Waterfront Resilience Program that they will receive funding. Maine DOT (Department of Transportation) will administer State funding for the selected projects in cooperative agreements with the municipalities where the projects are located. According to Maine DOT, “municipalities where these projects are located will be asked to help in the grant process... Municipal sponsorship will require the municipality to act as a pass-through for the funding to the applicant and confirm that invoiced work has been completed.”

Voters are being asked to authorize the Town of Harpswell to assist in the administration of the grants by serving as the fiscal agent to accept and disburse the funds for the approved projects in Harpswell. In order to be eligible for the grants, the entities had to have sustained damage to property, such as wharves and piers, during the winter 2024 storms. They also had to confirm that the property is used predominantly for supporting commercial fishing or aquaculture activities by a minimum of 10 licensed commercial fishermen or aquaculturists.

Voter approval of this article will allow the Town to accept and disburse resiliency grants to six Working Waterfront entities in Harpswell that have met the State’s threshold for providing significant community benefits such as maintaining and improving the local or regional economy and employment opportunities.